

Male Labour in 1921.—Of the male population in the nine provinces 10 years old and over of 3,461,723 in 1921, 2,683,019 or 77.5 p.c. were gainfully employed, as compared with 2,358,813 or 79.5 p.c. in 1911, 74.2 p.c. in 1901 and 76.6 p.c. in 1891. Thus the latest census shows a decrease in the proportion of males gainfully employed, a decrease probably due partly to a later age at school leaving, partly to a change in the age distribution of the male population 10 years old and over, a larger percentage of the total being at relatively advanced ages and a smaller percentage in the younger groups. For example, 10.17 p.c. of the male population of Canada were in the age-group 20-24 in 1911, as compared with 7.77 p.c. in 1921; again, 3.35 p.c. were between 65 and 74 in 1921, as compared with 3.04 p.c. in 1911.

Female Labour in 1921.—Of the female population of 10 years and over in the nine provinces, numbering altogether 3,210,198 in 1921, 490,150 or 15.2 p.c. were gainfully employed in 1921, as compared with 364,821 or 14.3 p.c. in 1911, 12.0 p.c. in 1901 and 11.1 p.c. in 1891. Thus the tendency for women to go increasingly into gainful occupations, which has been operative since 1891, continues to operate, though the increase in percentage between 1911 and 1921 is not so great as between 1901 and 1911, in spite of the effects of the Great War in stimulating the employment of women.

Occupational Distribution in 1921.—The occupational distribution of the gainfully employed population of Canada in 1921 is shown by occupational groups and by sex in Table 1, with comparative figures for 1911. Agriculture is indicated to be still the chief occupation of the people, employing 32.82 p.c. of the total gainfully employed in 1921, as compared with 34.28 p.c. in 1911; however, the percentage of males engaged in agriculture declined only from 38.91 in 1911 to 38.16 in 1921. Other extractive industries, employing male labour almost exclusively, showed relatively large declines, logging employing only 1.26 p.c. of the 1921 population as compared with 1.58 p.c. of the 1911 population, while fishing and trapping employed only 0.92 p.c. as against 1.28 p.c. and mining and quarrying only 1.61 p.c. as against 2.31 p.c. The labour force employed in manufactures also declined from 17.73 p.c. of the total in 1911 to 17.22 p.c. in 1921, and that in construction from 5.98 p.c. to 5.84 p.c.

While the percentage of the gainfully employed concerned with the production of what the economist describes as "form" utilities declined between 1911 and 1921, that concerned with the creation of other utilities increased. Thus the percentage engaged in transportation activities (the creation of "place" utilities) increased from 7.99 p.c. in 1911 to 8.45 p.c. in 1921, and those in trade (the creation of "possession" utilities) from 9.01 p.c. to 9.78 p.c., while those employed in finance increased from 1.40 to 1.93 p.c. As regards service, while those engaged in domestic service declined from 7.88 p.c. to 6.28 p.c., those engaged in the professions increased from 3.84 p.c. to 5.72 p.c. Those engaged in public administration showed a more moderate increase than might have been expected in view of the conditions of the time, from 2.81 p.c. to 2.98 p.c. in the decade.

As the census of 1921 was taken on the same date as the census of 1911, the conclusions stated above were not affected by seasonal changes of occupation. The classification of occupations was, however, somewhat different in the two years, and the revision of the statistics of earlier censuses (summarized at pp. 659-663 of the 1924 edition of the Year Book), so as to make them comparable with those now published, has not yet been completed. In the interpretation of these statistics, it should not be forgotten that 1921 was hardly a normal year.