

Wage-Earners, Earnings and Weeks of Employment.—In Table 7 are shown for the 15 largest cities statistics of male wage-earners, average earnings and average number of weeks worked in the census year ended May 31, 1921, in the nine leading industrial groups dealt with below.

Manufactures.—Approximately 70 p.c. of the total male wage-earners reported in manufacturing in cities of 30,000 population and over, were resident in the three cities of Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, where 28.0 p.c., 29.8 p.c., and 47.7 p.c., respectively, of the total male employees were engaged in this industry. The proportion was highest in Hamilton and lowest in Regina and Halifax, where manufacturing employees constituted only 10.9 p.c. and 11.4 p.c. respectively of the total male wage-earners.

The highest average earnings per week worked were in Regina, Windsor and Winnipeg, but the numbers there employed were comparatively small. Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal mean wages held sixth, tenth and twelfth places, respectively, among the 15 centres, so that in general there appears a tendency for the scale of earned incomes to be in inverse ratio to the number employed; this is probably partly due to the great number of labourers and semi-skilled operatives employed in large-scale operations. Furthermore, in addition to a comparatively low wage per week worked, the number of weeks of employment was less in the three chief manufacturing centres than in many other cities. In Windsor, however, where the average earnings were high, there was less employment than in 12 of the 15 cities, only Victoria and Vancouver reporting a smaller average in 1921.

Construction.—Workers in this industry generally appeared in a more constant ratio to total wage-earners than was found in other divisions. Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, with the greatest absolute number of such employees, showed proportions of 11.9 p.c., 9.4 p.c., 9.0 p.c. and 9.5 p.c., respectively, to the city totals. The exceptionally high percentage of 19.8 in Halifax was probably a result of the rebuilding program following the explosion of December, 1917, while it is also noteworthy that over a third of the total employees reported in construction in that city were engaged in shipbuilding.

In Quebec alone was the mean wage higher than in manufacturing, in which employment was generally more regular, the difference between these two industries in number of weeks worked varying from two in Montreal to almost six in Regina, in favour of factory operatives. The highest weekly earnings were in Windsor, but there the 1,398 men in this industry reported, on the average, only 39.4 weeks' work in the census year, or little more than three-fourths of the year.

Transportation.—In this group also, the number employed was greatest in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, in the order named; in view of Montreal's position as a leading port and railroad centre, it is noteworthy that the proportion of workers engaged in transportation was highest in Winnipeg—17.2 p.c. of the total male wage-earners. The ratio was also large in Halifax, Saint John, Calgary and Edmonton. The greatest average earnings were in Winnipeg and Regina, while those centres in which water transportation and 'longshore work were important factors, generally showed comparatively low wages; these, however, do not appear to be so closely associated with unusually irregular employment as might have been expected. The number of weeks worked was fairly high throughout the transportation group, in most cases exceeding the averages in manufactures and construction.