

Material of Construction of Dwellings.—Statistics regarding the material of construction of Canadian dwellings, as given in a table on p. 114 of the 1927-28 Year Book, show that the enormous quantity of wood available in Canada has made wooden houses the predominant type of dwelling, though their percentage to the total has declined from 80.16 in 1891 to 72.92 in 1921. Their number, however, has increased from 686,614 in 1891 to 1,286,396 in 1921. Brick houses have increased from 131,421 in 1891 to 383,032 in 1921, or from 15.34 to 21.71 p.c., while stone houses have declined from 3.01 p.c. to 1.83 p.c. of the total during the thirty-year period. Concrete houses increased from 4,518 in 1911 to 11,163 in 1921 or from 0.32 to 0.63 p.c.

Tenure of Homes.—Of the 1,764,129 dwellings enumerated at the census of 1921, 35,095 were apartment houses, and 76,471 were rows or terraces. Thus these 1,764,129 dwellings provided 2,001,512 homes, 977,776 of which were rural and 1,023,736 urban. Of the former, 767,581, or 78.5 p.c., were occupied by owners; of the latter, 471,569, or 46.06 p.c., were occupied by owners. For details, see table on p. 115, 1927-28 Year Book.

Section 5.—Age Distribution.¹

The same causes which in the past have rendered the sex distribution of population in Canada somewhat unusual have also affected its age distribution. In the first stages of the settlement of a new colony, men in the prime of life constitute the bulk of the population, and women and children are conspicuous by their absence, so that there is a disproportionately large male population between the ages of 20 and 50, together with a low birth rate. Later on in the settlement of a new country where there is land and food for all and where the early disproportion of the sexes has been overcome, there is a very high rate of natural increase and an extraordinarily large proportion of children among the population. Thus in 1871 (see Table 14) no fewer than 287 out of every 1,000 of the population of Canada were children under 10 years of age, and over half the total population (526.76 out of every 1,000) were under 20 years of age. But with the growing urbanization of population, the average age at marriage increased and children came to be regarded as a liability rather than an asset. Thus in 1911, out of every 1,000 of the population, only 231.83 were under 10 years of age and 423.42 under 20 years of age. In 1921, however, 239.68 per 1,000 of the population were under 10 years of age and 434.82 per 1,000 under 20 years, the increase since 1911 being probably attributable to the decline in the proportion of adult immigrants to the total population.

Again, the change in the age distribution of the population of Canada since 1871 may be illustrated as follows:—taking the Canadian who in 1921 was at the median age (*i.e.*, had exactly as many of the population younger than he as were older than he), we find that, as nearly as can be estimated, this Canadian in 1921 was 23.94 years of age. Taking the males alone, their median age in 1921 was 24.73 years, while the median age for females was 23.17 years. Now, taking the population of the four original provinces as taken at the census of 1871, and securing its median age as nearly as can be estimated, we find that that age was for the total population 18.80 years, for the male population 18.78 years and for the female population 18.82 years. Thus the Canadian of median age, with exactly as many people younger as there are older, was 5.14 years older in 1921 than in 1871—a fact mainly attributable to the smaller proportion of children in the popu-

¹For more detailed information on age distribution, see pp. I-III of Vol. II of the Census of 1921, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.