

45.—Numbers of the Population of 10 years old and over able to speak French, by Racial Origins, 1921—concluded.

Racial origins.	English and French only.	French only.	Mother tongue and French.	Mother tongue and English and French	Total able to speak French.
Negro.....	405	24	-	10	439
Norwegian.....	272	27	7	522	828
Polish.....	210	24	50	1,150	1,434
Rumanian.....	43	8	19	378	448
Russian.....	164	15	46	936	1,161
Serbo-Croatian.....	7	3	-	66	76
Swedish.....	266	11	10	517	804
Swiss.....	1,081	136	55	763	2,035
Syrian.....	123	34	261	1,606	2,024
Ukrainian.....	36	2	25	758	831
Unspecified.....	1,793	453	2	13	2,261
Various.....	150	33	42	346	571
Total.....	1,070,752	877,514	4,838	43,970	1,997,074

Section 14.—Occupations of the People.

The occupations of the people of a country are at any given time mainly determined by its natural resources and the stage which has been reached in their development. The outstanding characteristics of Canada are its enormous extent, its immense natural resources and the comparatively slight development of these, only the southern portions of the country being as yet at all exploited. The developed areas fall into four economic units with quite distinct physical characteristics:—first, the Maritime Provinces, where lands, forests, mines and fisheries are the chief natural resources; secondly, Ontario and Quebec, with lands, forests, mines and abundant water-power for manufacturing purposes; thirdly, the Prairie Provinces, where the land is the chief natural resource except in Alberta, which contains immense coal deposits; lastly, British Columbia, with fisheries, forests and mines, where agriculture plays a comparatively minor part. Though, when the country as a whole is considered, the immense fertile areas of arable land must be considered as its chief natural resource, in different parts of its vast expanse other resources predominate, and give the key to the chief occupations of the people.

In Canada, as in other new countries, the labouring population (using the term in its widest sense) bears a larger proportion to the total than is the case in older civilizations where there exists more realized wealth. In addition to our native-born workers, great numbers of young males and smaller numbers of females, who have nothing to sell but their personal services, immigrate from older countries to Canada to find here a better market for their labour. Thus both the sex distribution and the age distribution of the population of Canada is rendered somewhat abnormal, an unusually large percentage of that population being of working age and of the male sex—that is, of the sex which is most generally gainfully employed.¹

Information regarding the occupation of gainfully employed persons in Canada was obtained at the census of 1921 under the following heads:—(1) "Chief occupation or trade", defined as being the description which would most accurately indicate the particular kind of work done by which a living was earned; (2) Whether "employer", "employee", or "working on own account", these latter including "persons who are gainfully employed but who are neither employers nor employees", i.e., independent workers who receive neither salary nor wages nor are

1. On the sex distribution of the population, see pp. 95-97; on the age distribution, see pp. 101-102.