

subject to direction or control in their work; (3) In the case of employers, the name of the principal product; in the case of employees, where employed; in the case of workers on their own account, the nature of the work.

During the forty years which elapsed between 1881 (when the details regarding occupations were first collected in something like their present form) and 1921, the list of gainful occupations has been greatly lengthened, in consequence of the subdivision of existing occupations and the rise of new occupations as the result of the progress of science and industry. The division of labour in such older occupations as the making of clothes and boots and shoes has combined with the introduction of such newer occupations as the making of automobiles and electrical equipment to render the results of different censuses of occupations quite incomparable. It is therefore an exceedingly difficult thing to classify the gainfully occupied population of different censuses under classes of even the most general character. Nevertheless, there is an increasing demand for just this information, which is needed to throw light upon the changing importance of different occupations and the specialization of functions among our people in the last half century—a very important matter to the student of our economic history. It has therefore been deemed advisable to arrange the gainfully employed population of the later censuses as nearly as possible according to the general grouping used at the census of 1881. While the results must be regarded as of a very approximate character, yet it is felt that they will be useful to students of recent Canadian economic history. It should, however, be remembered in particular that in 1881 the general labourers were incorrectly placed in the building trades. In spite of this discrepancy, it is felt that tables which bring together the available occupational data regarding the gainfully employed population for a period of 40 years should be included in the Year Book. These tables represent the best that can now be done in securing comprehensive statistics on the historical trend of occupational distribution since Confederation. The figures do not include the populations of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The Proportion of the Gainfully Employed to the Total Population 10 Years Old and Over, as a Whole and by Industries.—The gainfully employed population of the country has in the past been generally compared with the total population of 10 years old and over, as is done in Table 46 for 1881 and subsequent censuses. Yet in view of the decrease of child labour and the lengthening of school life, it is becoming a question whether the basis of comparison should not be changed to include only the population of higher ages. According to the census of 1921, only 7,729 or 2.1 p.c. of the boys from 10 to 13 years of age and 1,092 or 0.3 p.c. of the girls of the same ages were returned as gainfully employed, the boys mainly in agriculture and the girls in service. Comparatively small as these numbers are, it will be generally felt that they are too large. Gainful employment does not now generally commence before 14 or 15 or even 16 years of age, so that a table which compares the gainfully employed population with the total population of 10 years old or over may be misleading, unless read in connection with Table 49, which gives the percentages gainfully employed in 1921 by age and sex groups.

Another consideration which must be borne in mind in consulting Table 46 is the relation between the gainfully employed in the two sexes. In 1911, owing to the enormous immigration of the preceding decade, the excess of male over female population reached its maximum, raising the percentage of gainfully employed to total population to a maximum also. In 1921, as a consequence of lessened immigration and of the destruction of male life by the war, and also as a result of