

## Section 4.—Dwellings and Family Households.<sup>1</sup>

In 1921 the number of occupied dwellings in Canada, exclusive of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, for which statistics are not available, was 1,764,129, and the number of families 1,897,227, as compared with 1,408,689 dwellings and 1,482,980 families in the same area in 1911, and 1,018,015 dwellings and 1,058,386 families in 1901.

The average number of persons per dwelling in 1921, as respects the 8,775,853 persons in the nine provinces, was 4.97, as against 5.11 in 1911, 5.23 in 1901, 5.53 in 1891, 5.76 in 1881 and 6.08 in 1871; this would imply that the Canadian people are not less adequately housed than in the past. The average number of persons per family was 4.63 in 1921, as against 4.85 in 1911, 5.03 in 1901, 5.26 in 1891, 5.33 in 1881, and 5.60 in 1871, indicating a continuous decline since 1871 in the average number of persons constituting a household. For details see Table 13 on p. 100 of the 1929 Year Book.

In 1921 the urban families numbered 958,371 in 843,588 dwellings, or 1.14 families per dwelling. The number of persons per dwelling was 5.16 and the number of persons per family 4.54.

In the rural districts the number of families was 938,856 in 920,541 dwellings, or 1.02 families per dwelling. The number of persons per family was 4.71 and the number of persons per dwelling 4.81. For more detailed information, see Vol. III of the Census of 1921.

**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 of the 1927-28 Year Book.

<sup>1</sup> DWELLINGS.—A dwelling for census purposes is a place in which one or more persons regularly sleep. It need not be a house in the usual sense of the word, but may be a hotel, boarding house, institution, or the like. A boat, a tent, a railway car, or a room in a factory or office building, although occupied by only one person, is counted as a dwelling house. On the other hand, an entire apartment house, containing many families, constitutes only one dwelling.

FAMILIES.—The term "family" as used in the census, signifies a group of persons, whether related by blood or not, who live together as one household, usually sharing the same table. One person living alone is counted as a family. Thus, a clerk in a store who regularly sleeps there is returned as a family and the store as his dwelling. On the other hand, all the occupants and employees of a hotel or lodging house, if that is their regular abode, and all the inmates of an institution, whether a hospital, poor house, insane asylum, prison, school of learning, home for the aged, etc., are treated as constituting a single family.