

employ others therein. The "wage earners" are much the largest of the three groups, and, as defined by the census, include each and every person "who works for salary or wages, whether he be the general manager of a bank, railway or manufacturing establishment or a day labourer"

At the census of June 1, 1931, a comprehensive investigation was made of the problem of "unemployment" among the wage earners of Canada. In the first place, every wage earner in the country was asked whether or not he was at work on the date of the census, Monday, June 1, 1931, and those who answered in the negative were further asked the reason for not being at work on the above date, the reasons to be stated under such headings as "no job", "temporary lay-off", "strike or lock-out", "illness", "accident", etc. This investigation was made in order to get a clear and sharply defined conspectus of the employment situation at a particular point of time.

In the second place, every wage earner in the country was asked to state how many weeks he had been out of work during the twelve months preceding the date of the census—that is, how many weeks he had been out of work between June 1, 1930 and June 1, 1931, together with the number of weeks out of work for each of the specified causes, "no job", "temporary lay-off", "illness", "accident", "strike or lockout", "other causes". A comprehensive analysis of the information secured under this second heading, classified by occupation, birthplace, citizenship, etc., is in progress.

Wage Earners at Work and not at Work on June 1, 1931.—The grand total number of persons in the Dominion coming within the census definition of "wage earners" was 2,564,879 at the date of the census. Of this total, 2,093,211 or 81.39 p.c. were actually at work on that date, while 471,668 or 18.61 p.c. were not then at work. In other words, out of every 10,000 wage earners in the Dominion 8,139 were at work and 1,861 were not at work on June 1, 1931. Of those not at work, 392,809 stated the reason as "no job". In the consideration of this figure it has to be remembered that even in times of great industrial activity there are always many thousands of workers "between jobs", while many thousands more are casual labourers, who may have "no jobs" to-day but may be employed to-morrow. This figure of 392,809, being 15.32 p.c. of all the wage earners of the Dominion, or 1,532 out of every 10,000, may be regarded as giving the number of "the unemployed", in the ordinary meaning of the term, as at the date of the census. Approximately five out of every six who were not at work on June 1, 1931, gave the reason as "no job".

The other reasons advanced by wage earners for not having been at work on June 1, 1931, were of less importance. The considerable total of 42,443 reported that they were not at work owing to "temporary lay-off". This number, however, was only 1.66 p.c. of the wage earners of the Dominion or one out of every sixty. Further, these wage earners had a job to go back to, so that their position was quite different from that of those reporting "no job". "Strike or lockout" was