

Male Labour in 1931.—Of the male population in the nine provinces 10 years of age and over in 1931 (4,252,537) 3,261,570 or 76.6 p.c. were gainfully occupied, as compared with 2,683,019 or 77.5 p.c. in 1921, 2,358,813 or 79.5 p.c. in 1911, 74.2 p.c. in 1901 and 76.6 p.c. in 1891. Thus the latest census shows a decrease in the proportion of males gainfully occupied, a decrease probably due partly to a later age at school leaving, partly to a change in the age distribution of the male population 10 years of age and over, a larger percentage of the total being at relatively advanced ages, and a smaller percentage in the younger groups. For example, 5.5 p.c. of the males of Canada were over 65 years of age in 1931 as compared with 4.7 p.c. in 1921.

Female Labour in 1931.—Of the female population of 10 years and over in the nine provinces, numbering altogether 3,906,522 in 1931, 666,021 or 17.1 p.c. were then gainfully occupied, as compared with 490,150 or 15.3 p.c. in 1921, 364,821 or 14.3 p.c. in 1911, 12.0 p.c. in 1901 and 11.1 p.c. in 1891. Thus the tendency for women to go increasingly into gainful occupations, which has been noticeable since 1891, continues.

Occupational Classification.—The classification of occupations was based upon the principle of the material worked on, the process performed and type of service rendered, while degree of skill was also taken into account. The detailed classification, which is given in full detail by provinces in Bulletin XXXI, Census of 1931, provides readily for a combination of occupations into more comprehensive occupational groups.

It was considered to be more useful to group all the building trades together under Construction rather than to assign some to other groups. For example, the occupation "carpenters" might have been included under Wood Products and "plumbers, gasfitters, steamfitters" under Metal Products. The arrangement endeavours to provide as convenient a grouping of occupations as possible without seriously departing from the principle of assigning certain occupations to specific groups. Clerical occupations which can hardly be included under one occupational division more than another are shown in a separate group. The occupation "labourer" is not included in any of the groups except the primary ones—"agricultural", "mining", and "logging". In the "logging" group the labourers have been included in "lumbermen". "Labourers" in all but the primary industries were classified in a residuary occupation "labourers and unskilled workers (not agricultural, mining or logging)". No attempt was made to classify them occupationally because it was felt that the labourer in an automobile factory, for example, is not necessarily following a metal-working occupation or a labourer in a store, a commercial one.

1.—Persons, Ten Years of Age and Over, Engaged in Gainful Occupations in Canada, by Sex and Occupation, 1931.

| Occupation. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Agricultural¹ | 1,107,669 | 24,202 | 1,131,871 |
| Farmers, stock-raisers, gardeners, etc..... | 624,988 | 19,184 | 644,172 |
| Farm labourers..... | 478,554 | 4,959 | 483,513 |
| Fishing, Hunting and Trapping | 47,419 | 498 | 47,917 |
| Fishermen..... | 33,624 | 138 | 33,762 |
| Hunters, trappers, guides..... | 13,795 | 360 | 14,155 |
| Logging¹ | 43,983 | - | 43,983 |
| Lumbermen..... | 37,536 | - | 37,536 |
| Mining, Quarrying, etc | 58,574 | 6 | 58,580 |
| Coal mining ¹ | 27,749 | 1 | 27,750 |
| Miners..... | 17,519 | - | 17,519 |
| Other mining, quarrying, etc. ¹ | 30,825 | 5 | 30,830 |
| Miners, quarriers, drillers..... | 15,254 | - | 15,254 |

For footnotes see end of table p. 801.