

CHAPTER XIX.—LABOUR AND WAGES.*

PART I.—LABOUR.

Section 1.—Occupations of the Wage-Earning Population.

At the census, the total population in gainful occupations is recorded. In Section 15 of Chapter IV, pp. 128-146 of the 1937 Year Book, the gainfully occupied in 1931 were dealt with rather extensively under the heading "Occupations of the Canadian People". This Section is limited to the treatment of occupations of wage-earners. The gainfully occupied population is composed of four classes of persons: (1) employers, (2) own accounts, (3) wage-earners, (4) unpaid family workers. The third class, *i.e.*, the wage-earners, comprises that portion of the gainfully occupied which in the course of its employment receives either wage or salary payment. In Canada the wage-earners numbered 2,570,097 at the 1931 Census, representing 65.44 p.c. of the total population in gainful occupations. The number of male wage-earners was 2,022,260 or 78.68 p.c. of the total of both sexes combined, and the number of female wage-earners was 547,837 or 21.32 p.c. of the total.

The only complete record of the industrial distribution of the gainfully occupied population is obtained at the decennial censuses. The usefulness of such decennial compilations, however, is considerably enhanced if the trend during intercensal years can be approximately ascertained. In this respect statistics of employment regularly collected by the Bureau of Statistics covering employees in the major fields of industry, with the exception of agriculture, fishing and some of the services, are valuable. Although difficulties of classification exist, there is reason to feel that the employment data provide the basis for projecting the figures of Table 2 for intercensal comparisons. More information on this subject will be found under the heading "Employment as Reported by Employers" on p. 768.

Table 1 shows the numerical and percentage distribution of the wage-earners by provinces in 1931.

*The sections and subsections of this chapter, with the exceptions of Sections 1, 3, 7, and 9 (Subsections 3, and 5) and Section 10, all of Part I, and Section 4 of Part II, have been revised by, or under the direction of W. M. Dickson, Deputy Minister, Department of Labour, Ottawa; the summary of Labour Legislation given in Section 12 has been specially prepared by Miss M. Mackintosh, M.A., Chief, Library and Research, of the Department. The information in Section 3, Part I, has been obtained through the courtesy of the Provincial Departments of Labour or Bureaus of Labour, and that in Section 7, Part I, has been revised by the chairmen of the respective provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards. Section 10 has been revised under the direction of Dr. W. C. Clark, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance, Ottawa. The remaining sections have been prepared and revised in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

1.—Numerical and Percentage Distribution of Wage-Earners, by Provinces, 1931.

Province.	Numbers.			Percentages.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Prince Edward Island.....	12,344	9,159	3,185	0.48	0.45	0.58
Nova Scotia.....	117,781	95,244	22,537	4.58	4.71	4.11
New Brunswick.....	84,232	66,310	17,922	3.28	3.28	3.27
Quebec.....	696,339	535,203	161,136	27.09	26.47	29.41
Ontario.....	965,607	752,851	212,756	37.57	37.23	38.84
Manitoba.....	170,739	132,883	37,856	6.64	6.57	6.91
Saskatchewan.....	145,568	116,157	29,411	5.66	5.74	5.37
Alberta.....	142,421	116,005	26,416	5.54	5.74	4.82
British Columbia.....	235,066	198,448	36,618	9.15	9.81	6.68
Totals.....	2,570,097	2,022,260	547,837	100.00	100.00	100.00