

CHAPTER XIX.—LABOUR AND WAGES.*

PART I.—LABOUR.

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

The total population in gainful occupations is recorded at the census. 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". Statistics of the numerical and percentage distribution of the wage-earning section of the gainfully occupied, by industrial and occupational groups, were published at pp. 741-742 of the 1938 edition of the Year Book, and a table at p. 732 of the 1937 edition showed the numerical and percentage distribution of wage-earners, by age groups, as at the Census of 1931.

Subsection 1.—Occupational Trends in Canada, 1891-1931.

A "gainful occupation", as defined by the Census of Canada, is one by which the person pursuing it earns money or a money equivalent or in which he assists in the production of marketable goods. Wives or children assisting heads in the conduct of family enterprises are considered to be gainfully occupied if regularly employed even though they may receive no fixed money payment. For example, a farmer's son, not attending school, who is fully employed on the family farm is recorded in the census as gainfully occupied though he may be working in a "no pay" capacity on the farm. On the other hand, members of the family of working age not actively employed at farm work are not included among the gainfully occupied. Persons retired from gainful occupations, the disabled who are permanently unemployable, or inmates of institutions are not counted as engaged in gainful occupations.

Unemployed persons are counted among the gainfully occupied population in the census, persons out of work on the census date being asked to report the occupation in which usually employed or the occupation in which last regularly employed.

In Table I the gainfully occupied are classified by occupation groups, showing the percentage importance of each group by census years over the period 1891 to 1931, for Canada and the provinces.

The occupation group totals in this table account for every person following any one of the types of occupation coming under the specified groups listed here, irrespective of the industry in which the person might be employed. For example, all persons directly engaged in the making or repairing of commodities, e.g., bakers, tailors, machinists, printers, etc., are classified under "Manufacturing" in this table whether employed in the manufacturing industry or not. Similarly, all persons following such a transport occupation as truck driver are listed under "Transportation", whether employed by a trucking concern or factory, store, etc. Clerical workers constitute a separate group as do labourers in all but the primary industries. The labourer on a farm is usually a farm labourer and in a mine, a

* The sections and subsections of this chapter, with the exceptions of Sections 1, 3, 7, and 9 (Subsections 3, 4, 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 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.