

mine-working labourer, but the labourer in a steel mill is not necessarily a metal worker or engaged in some 'process' occupation, nor is the labourer on a steam railway always a transport worker.

The most significant feature of the trend of occupations in Canada during the period 1891 to 1931, as shown by Table 1, is the decline shown in the relative importance of agricultural pursuits. In 1891 over one-half of all males in gainful occupations were employed in agriculture, while in 1931 the proportion had fallen to just over one-third. This decline has been much more pronounced in the eastern provinces than in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

In most of the provinces the percentage of the gainfully occupied in other primary pursuits has not changed materially over this 40-year period. In British Columbia, however, the proportion of total males in fishing and logging occupations has dropped from 12.9 p.c. to 8.5 p.c. over the period while the percentage importance of mining occupations has declined from 10.4 p.c. to 3.9 p.c. Incidentally, the actual number in mining occupations in this province fell from over 14,000 at the beginning of the century to just over 10,000 in 1931.

The relative importance of manufacturing occupations in providing employment for male workers did not change materially in any of the provinces during the period under review, although, as would be expected, such village manufacturers as millers, coopers, harness-makers, and blacksmiths show declining trends. In Ontario and British Columbia the growth of manufacturing occupations has been somewhat more rapid than for all occupations combined. Among females there has been a very noticeable decline in the relative importance of manufacturing occupations over this period, the decrease in the numbers of dressmakers and milliners contributing largely to this result. The numerical increase in the number of females in these occupations has been considerable, but it has been overshadowed by the remarkable expansion in the numbers in clerical occupations and the services.

The number of males in construction occupations increased by over 100 p.c. in the 40-year period ended in 1931 which corresponds closely with the rate of increase shown for the total gainfully occupied males over the same period. Brick and stone masons, however, increased by only 9.1 p.c., but electricians, in particular, plumbers, and painters all recorded rapid growth. It is interesting to observe that the importance of construction occupations in the Prairie Provinces reached its height in 1911, the culmination of a period of outstanding development in the West.

There were over four times as many males in transport occupations in 1931 as in 1891, the percentage of all males in this group rising from 4.3 p.c. in 1891 to 8.3 p.c. in 1931. The increase in the number in railway transportation was quite rapid up until 1921, while from 1921 to 1931 road transport occupations showed exceptional growth. The phenomenal increase in the number of females in this group of occupations has been due almost entirely to the spectacular growth in the number of telephone operators during the past 30 or 40 years. Since 1921 the increase in the number of females in this occupation has not been appreciable.

The number of persons in trade and finance occupations has also increased at a more rapid rate than in all occupations combined, though the rate of growth since 1911 has been less pronounced in most provinces.

There were three times as many males in professional occupations in 1931 as in 1891 and almost five times as many females as in the earlier year, the proportion of all males and females in these occupations rising from 2.4 p.c. to 3.2 p.c. for males