

APPENDIX III

Occupations of the Canadian People, Census of 1941*

Definition of Gainful Occupation.—A gainful occupation is defined in the Census as one “by which the person who pursues it earns money or in which he assists in the production of marketable goods” Persons unemployed at the census date were asked to report the occupation in which last employed. Those who indicated that they had been unemployed for some lengthy period were further asked whether they were still seeking employment, before being considered as gainfully occupied. Persons who reported that they were no longer following their former occupation because of old age or physical disability, and did not expect to return to it, were enumerated as “retired”. As for young persons, only those not attending school and employed regularly in some gainful occupation were included among the gainfully occupied. Children of working age, that is, 14 years of age or over, assisting parents in the work of the farm or in some family business in a “no pay” capacity were reported as having a gainful occupation, but daughters helping in the domestic work of the home without pay were not included.

It should be mentioned that where a person customarily followed more than one occupation the enumerator recorded the occupation at which the person was employed *most of the time* during the year or from which he received the greater part of his annual earnings.

Final figures for Canada, excluding Yukon and the Northwest Territories, show that 3,676,563 males and 833,972 females, 14 years or over, or a total of 4,510,535 persons, including members of the Armed Forces, were gainfully occupied at the time of the 1941 Census. Males represented 81.5 p.c. and females 18.5 p.c. of the total gainfully occupied. The population of the nine provinces consisted of 5,890,683 males and 5,599,030 females or a total of 11,489,713 persons. The total gainfully occupied, therefore, accounted for 39.26 p.c. of the total population, gainfully occupied males representing 62.41 p.c. of the total male population and gainfully occupied females 14.89 p.c. of the total female population. Nearly 84 p.c. of the males and about 20 p.c. of the females, 14 years of age or over, were gainfully occupied at the 1941 Census. Figures quoted in the following tables are exclusive of the Armed Forces, except where specifically mentioned.

Relative Growth of Males and Females in Gainful Occupations, 1921 to 1941.—Table 1 shows that the percentage of the male population at working ages, i.e., 14 years or over, in gainful occupations has been declining since the 1921 Census, while for females the percentage has been on the increase. The table also shows that if males on Active Service at the census date are excluded from the total gainfully occupied males the percentage that gainfully occupied males bears to the total male population, 14 years or over, is thus reduced from 83.8 p.c. to 76.7 p.c.

* Prepared under the direction of the Chief, Demography Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, by A. H. LeNeveu, M.A., Officer in Charge of Occupational Statistics.