

place in the nature of the work performed in many occupations with the introduction of machine processes in production. Hence, such a comparison can best be made only for broad occupational groups such as are shown in Table 4. In this table the group totals for years prior to 1931 and for 1941 have been rearranged to place them on a comparable basis with the 1931 classification, the 1911 figures perhaps being less comparable than those for other years. The main change in the 1931 grouping was the addition of the "accountants" class to the clerical group from the professional service group. In the headnote to Table 4, an explanation is given of the nature of the occupational grouping.

The outstanding feature of this table, so far as males are concerned, is the decline shown in the relative importance of agricultural occupations since 1901. In 1901 just over 45 p.c. of all males in gainful occupations were engaged in agricultural occupations as compared with 31.7 p.c. in 1941. There has been some increase in the proportionate importance of other primary occupations since 1921. Manufacturing occupations have also increased in relative importance, especially over the period 1931 to 1941. The table further shows that there has been a steady growth in the numbers of males engaged in the transportation, trade and service occupations. The proportion of males reported as labourers (other than agricultural, fishing, logging or mining labourers) varies considerably from census to census. This may be partly due to differences in the quality of enumeration of occupations at different censuses but is perhaps chiefly due to the tendency for recent immigrants prior to each census, to be more largely reported as labourers than the gainfully occupied generally. At the 1931 Census 24.6 p.c. of the gainfully occupied immigrants who came to Canada between 1926 and 1931 were returned as labourers by enumerators. There was very little immigration over the ten years prior to the 1941 Census.

With reference to the decrease in the relative importance of women in manufacturing occupations in 1941 as compared with census periods prior to 1931, the following statement at p. 133 of the 1937 Canada Year Book may be repeated:—

"A large part of the decline in the relative importance of manufacturing occupations in providing gainful employment for women has been due to the decrease in the number of dress-makers, milliners, and tailoresses since 1911. The combined total of dress-makers, milliners, and tailoresses was 45,287 in 1911 and in 1931 only 14,649. Allowing for changes in the method of classification in the two years, there still remains a substantially larger number in these occupations in 1911 which does not appear to have been fully counter-balanced by the increase between 1911 and 1931 in the number of female operatives in clothing factories."

Since 1921 the proportion of females in commercial occupations and in the professions has declined, while the proportion in clerical occupations has remained about the same. The personal service occupations continue to employ a large proportion of all women in gainful occupations and have shown a tendency to increase in relative importance since 1921. Phenomenal growth in the number of hairdressers and waitresses has contributed to this expansion in the number of women in personal service occupations over the 20-year period since the 1921 Census.