

APPRENTICES.

In order to ascertain the movement in the number of apprentices in the principal trades of the Dominion, employers in those trades in which apprentices are employed were requested to furnish returns showing the number employed by them as at April in each of the past six years. The table given below has been compiled from the information thus obtained :—

Trade. (1)	Number of Apprentices employed in April,							Increase or Decrease. (9)
	1914. (See col. 8.) (2)	1915. (3)	1916. (4)	1917. (5)	1918. (6)	1919. (Actual.) (7)	1919. * (8)	
Carpentry and joinery	391	377	308	265	224	245	405	— 160
Bricklaying	16	14	9	8	9	13	17	— 4
Plastering	29	28	26	21	17	24	30	— 6
Plumbing and tinsmithing	421	397	339	315	276	317	437	— 120
Painting	94	90	79	70	61	81	97	— 16
Cycle and motor engineering	186	218	261	344	421	488	193	+ 295
Engineering (general)	838	773	755	815	808	901	869	+ 32
Electrical engineering	137	151	188	239	240	294	143	+ 151
Blacksmithing and coachbuilding	203	196	165	174	176	191	211	— 20
Cabinetmaking and upholstery	366	327	343	325	336	424	380	+ 44
Tailoring and clothing manufacture§	781	922	917	859	759	782	829	— 47
Bootmaking and repairs§	284	329	338	403	441	448	302	+ 146
Saddle and harness manufacturing	82	79	79	81	80	88	85	+ 3
Bread and small-goods manufacturing	64	66	74	87	102	129	66	+ 63
Printing and publishing§	382	374	359	359	375	397	406	— 9
Watch and jewellery manufacturing, &c.	72	69	73	76	78	102	75	+ 27
Dentistry (mechanical)	15	18	21	23	24	22	16	+ 6
Sail, tent, and cover making	6	5	8	7	5	10	7	+ 3
Boatbuilding and shipwrighting	61	53	48	35	40	48	63	— 15
Totals	4,425	4,456	4,390	4,506	4,472	5,004	4,631	+ 373

* This column shows what the figures would have been in 1919 if there had been an increase in the number of apprentices proportionate to the increase of population from 1914 to 1919.
§ Excluding Maoris the increase in the male population of 1919 over 1914 was 21,000, while the increase in females was 48,000. The increase per cent. was 3·7 for males, and for the whole population 6·2. In all trades except those marked § (in which both males and females are largely employed) 3·7 has been used in arriving at the figure given in column 8, while 6·2 has been used for the other trades.

The decreases in the several building trades are significant.
As the apprentice question has become an important one, it is proposed to collect similar information each year, and these particulars will be published annually.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

Several years ago a table was prepared by the Department showing, from the census returns of 1891 to 1906, the number of persons engaged in each occupation throughout the Dominion, from which could be ascertained the extent of the migration of the people from the country to the towns, and whether the population was engaged in as useful occupations in 1906 as in 1891. It will be remembered that the statistics of the population of the various boroughs, counties, and other local districts suggested that there has been a steady migration at a considerable rate from the country to the towns, and that while a few years ago the larger number of the Dominion's population was in the country, that position has since been reversed. The figures are : 1891—counties, 56 per cent. of the population ; boroughs, 43 per cent. 1916—counties, 46 per cent. of the population ; boroughs, 53 per cent. The information gathered from the above-mentioned table indicated, however, that there was in fact (at all events during that period) an increased proportion of the people engaged in farming and other productive pursuits. Probably the impression given by the statistics showing the increase in the population of the towns was partly caused by the fact that a tendency has existed from year to year to widen the area within the jurisdiction of boroughs and town districts, thereby showing an apparent movement of the people where no such movement has actually taken place.

An up-to-date table showing the present grouping of the people in the various occupations and the movement that has taken place from 1906 to date would no doubt be of great interest at the present time in view of the urgent need for increased production of various commodities of the Dominion, but as the last census taken was in 1916, when a large number of men were as the war, it will be necessary to postpone the compilation of such table until 1921, after the next census is taken.

FACTORIES ACT.

Year.	Factories.	Movement.	Factory Workers.	Movement.
1913-14 (before the war)	13,469	94 (increase)	87,517	919 (increase).
1914-15	13,937	468 "	88,812	1,295 "
1915-16 (since the war began) ..	13,214	723 (decrease)	83,011	5,801 (decrease).
1916-17	12,455	759 "	78,188	4,823 "
1917-18	12,485	30 (increase)	79,653	1,465 (increase).
1918-19	12,444	41 (decrease)	82,783	3,130 "
1919-20	13,490	1,046 (increase)	85,591	2,808 "