

allowance for this, your Commissioners are of opinion that there is distinctly discernible in the Dominion a tendency on the part of the people to shift from the essentially rural districts to the urban, and that this difference between the natural increase of population and the actual increase in rural districts (that is, the loss due to migration) may become a serious factor in determining the general efficiency of our people.

That the movement may have considerable influence on the cost of living, should it assume large proportions, is suggested by a comparison of the percentage of the total number of breadwinners engaged at different times in the chief food-producing rural industries.

Through the courtesy of Mr. M. Fraser, Government Statistician, your Commissioners are able to present the following interesting tables:—

TABLE 53.—COMPARISON OF BREADWINNERS IN THE CHIEF FOOD-PRODUCING RURAL INDUSTRIES WITH THE BREADWINNERS IN THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE DOMINION.

Class.	1901.	1906.	1911.*
Total all classes	340,230	399,085	454,118
Agricultural and pastoral (including dairying)— number	85,022	92,565	104,123
Percentage of total breadwinners	24.99	23.19	22.93
Agricultural and pastoral (including dairying, fish and rabbit catching)—number	86,658	94,434	105,959
Percentage of total breadwinners	25.47	23.66	23.33

* 1911 figures are approximate.

Year.	Class.	Employers.	* Own Account.	Wage- earners.	Wage- earners not in Employ- ment.	Relatives assisting, or indefinite.	Total.
1901	Agriculture	13,055	15,480	20,815	736	12,960	63,046
	Pastoral	1,910	1,410	7,867	185	697	12,069
	Dairy-farming	1,546	3,156	1,067	5	3,307	9,081
	Dairy-factory working	25	4	786	9	2	826
	Fish and rabbit catching	77	691	805	28	35	1,636
	Totals, 1901	16,613	20,741	31,340	963	17,001	86,658
1906	Agriculture	15,389	14,721	21,937	741	12,177	64,965
	Pastoral	2,512	1,428	9,021	185	1,880	15,026
	Dairy-farming	2,405	4,767	1,430	14	2,789	11,405
	Dairy-factory working	28	9	1,119	8	5	1,169
	Fish and rabbit catching	71	749	984	32	33	1,869
	Totals, 1906	20,405	21,674	34,491	980	16,884	94,434
*1911	Agriculture	9,027	12,185	19,028	668	7,986	48,894
	Pastoral	5,666	5,197	12,994	229	3,246	27,332
	Dairy-farming	4,538	9,909	4,845	51	7,005	26,348
	Dairy-factory working	46	19	1,456	16	12	1,549
	Fish and rabbit catching	60	882	811	22	61	1,836
	Totals, 1911	19,337	28,192	39,134	986	18,310	105,959
Comparison of totals:—							
1901		16,613	20,741	31,340	963	17,001	86,658
1906		20,405	21,674	34,491	980	16,884	94,434
1911		19,337	28,192	39,134	986	18,310	105,959

* 1911 figures are approximate.