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Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men.

Mahatma Gandhi

Apprenticeship and Statistics

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The Apprenticeship Assistance Act, of the Province of Quebec, assented to May 24, 1945, sets forth an apprenticeship formula which appears by far superior to the average. Its merit, no doubt, stems from the fact that its origin lies in the tripartite cooperation of capital, labour and the state. This plan, leaving the direction of apprenticeship to industry under the supervision of the state, has already proved its worth.

Indeed, in less than two years more than fifteen apprenticeship commissions were established in all corners of the Province. Apprenticeship schools were opened and the training of apprentices was begun.

In the region of Montreal alone, the Building Trades Apprenticeship Commission has trained over 3,500 apprentices and journeymen since the opening of its center. The table below illustrates in a concrete manner the activities of this center.

We may well remark that the system of apprenticeship of the Province has already borne fruit and we have reason to rejoice. However, it is possible to render it still more productive by perfecting it. One of the drawbacks to the healthy development of our system today is the lack of statistics and essential data.

In order to direct the training of our apprentices in a reasonable fashion, we must first become acquainted with the manpower needs of industry from the statistical point of view; secondly, we must keep in sight the number of apprentices we are training in our centers.

With the aid of this basic information, it will be much easier to develop a training program for apprentices according to a system based on the actual needs of industry and on an exact knowledge of the productive capacity of our apprenticeship centers.

It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that all those concerned with the question of apprenticeship freely furnish their active cooperation in this field. It is of first importance that employers and union leaders, as well as the members of apprenticeship commissions and parity committees concerned, make it their duty to supply the different bureaus of statistics with these data so vital to the cause of apprenticeship. In so doing, all will substantially aid to perfect it.

Apprentices and Journeymen through the Building Trades Apprenticeship Center of Montreal as of September 1, 1950.

Trade	Number of apprentices who began regular day-time course (1)	Number of apprentices who completed regular day-time course (2)	Percentage of apprentices who completed	Number of apprentices currently attending courses	Number of apprentices who followed evening courses or part-time day courses (3)	Number of apprentices or journeymen who have benefited from these courses (4)
Brick-work	356	257	72.1%	23	194	474
Plastering	166	105	63.8%	14	70	189
Carpentry	330	204	61.8%	26	661	891
Painting	132	65	49.2%	11	400	476
Tile-work	30	18	60.0%	—	13	31
Terrazzo-work	11	8	72.7%	3	3	14
Marble-work	10	5	50.0%	2	5	12
Heating	184	119	64.6%	27	580	726
Tin-work	108	77	71.2%	5	184	266
Electric-work	191	157	82.1%	26	234	417
Soldering	—	—	—	—	82	82
Boiler-making	—	—	—	—	16	16
Grand total	1,518	1,015	66.8%	197	2,442	3,594

1—This number does not include students presently attending courses.

2—This number includes students who have completed a daytime period of six months.

3—This number includes students who attended evening courses, part-time day courses, and those who spent a certain length of time in day-courses but discontinued.

4—This number includes all those who benefited, to any extent whatever, from courses given at the Center.