

granted that the proportion of male and female inhabitants which existed in 1911 still remains the same, with a certain allowance made for the absence of men on active service, the estimated female population of the enlarged Montreal in 1918 would be about 408,350.*

Montreal is the largest city in Canada, and in many ways, owing to its natural situation the most important. It is one of the chief points through which pass the great railroads of the country, the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk and the Canadian National systems. Here the first two railways make their headquarters.

Montreal is the financial centre of Canada and the commercial metropolis, containing the head offices of many of the largest Canadian banks. It is also the headquarters of the leading insurance companies, and the great financial and commercial houses.

There are no less than 1,400 industries in Montreal. These comprise immense shops where locomotives and railway cars are built, structural iron and steel works, sugar refineries, paper mills, and factories where electrical appliances, rubber goods, machinery, tobacco, boots and shoes, and textiles are made.

Early in 1915 many of the construction works, large and small, became munition plants. As the demand for fuses and shells increased, new plants came into being and were designed and erected especially for the purpose of munition production. Thousands of men and women were employed for the first time in this occupation and presented a unique field for the investigation of changed industrial conditions as brought about by the war.

*Method of reckoning the female inhabitants for 1918: The number of men who had gone overseas was added to the estimated population of 1918. This gave the population at it would have been in normal times. Knowing the proportion of male and female inhabitants existing in 1911, it was possible to estimate the number of female inhabitants in 1918.