

of western Canada where settlement is more recent. But, in contrast to New Zealand where such records are destroyed, eventually they will be available to historians across Canada.

The writing of urban history as an aspect of regional history has been accompanied by the development of city archives. In Montreal notary records have been used to examine the nature of small business in the city. In the Vancouver City Archives fire insurance maps have yielded a great deal of information about patterns of growth in the early years of the city's development. In each case the intent is to get down to a detailed, local level.

As well as looking at different geographical areas, Canadian historians have also studied other social groups besides politicians. Doing social history has meant writing about people who are less articulate: who do not always leave letters, diaries and memoirs. Their lives must be understood through other sources. The history of the working class, and particularly the development of cultural as opposed to labour history, has meant moving beyond the political papers of organized labour to the use of records that describe working conditions on the shop floor, working class organizations, clubs, sporting activities, and family life. The debate over the question of whether industrialisation led to an improved standard of living for workers and their families has produced detailed statistical work on wages and prices. Other historians have approached the problem in less obvious ways. One, for example, has used birth weights to measure changes in the standard of living, an approach which requires good runs of records from maternity hospitals.

Feminist historians have looked at women in the workplace, and in the domestic sphere. Personal diaries may speak of daily life, the business of running a home, and life cycle experiences, but women who worked in the home often left few written records. The problem can be partially solved for the recent past through oral history. Non-documentary, material sources have also been used to describe changing domestic patterns under, for example, the impact of labour-saving devices. Or folk art, the iconography of quilting for instance, may provide insights into women's interests and concerns.

Writing the history of Canada's native people is a comparatively recent development, and it might be said that Canada has little to teach New Zealand in this area. Indian history in Canada has focussed on the early contact and fur trading period. It has been based on old sources such as the massive records of the Hudson's Bay Company which, among other things, have made possible an examination of fur trade economics through the computer analysis of company account books. The technique of ethnohistory, combining archaeological, ethnological, and documentary sources, has produced new insights. And, here again, oral history is being used extensively.

In a small space one can only provide a few examples, but even these suggest some generalizations. Historians have moved away from a total reliance on impressionistic, documentary sources and this development has important implications for archivists. Statistical analysis, or 'number crunching' as it is affectionately called, has become a common technique and it demands the preservation of a whole range of new documents. Oral history has raised as yet unsolved methodological issues for historians, particularly the question of scholars creating their own documents, but many archives have established oral history divisions devoted to the acquisition and preservation of audio