

# Conservation of Man-Power in Canada

BY

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**T**HAT there is an urgent demand for the conservation of man-power in Canada, at a time when we are suffering from the loss of so many of the defenders as well as wage-earners of the country, does not need demonstration; but, as will be seen in the following statistical and economical study of the character and distribution of the present population of Canada, a more exact idea of what constitutes the basis of man-power, from the public health standpoint, should become generally understood. We commonly recognize two chief means of increasing the man-power of a country; viz., that of the natural increase through births and that of immigration; but, as we shall see in the figures in subsequent tables, the conservation of child life, or, in other words, the saving of lives in infancy as well as saving in later years, is of equal importance with that of the number of children born.

## Distribution of Population

In a country of such enormous area as Canada, the distribution of population plays an important part, not alone in the question of man-power, but likewise in the means for its conservation. The following table illustrates the sparse distribution of this population, estimated by provinces:

TABLE 1.—AREA OF CANADA AND POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE

|                      | Area,<br>square<br>miles | Acres   | Population<br>per<br>square mile |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Canada               | 1,729,665                | 695,600 | 1.93                             |
| Alberta              | 255,285                  | 102,100 | 1.47                             |
| British Columbia     | 355,855                  |         | 1.09                             |
| Manitoba             | 73,731                   | 40      | 6.18                             |
| New Brunswick        | 27,985                   | 30      | 12.61                            |
| Nova Scotia          | 21,427                   | 240     | 22.98                            |
| Ontario              | 260,862                  | 101,600 | 9.67                             |
| Prince Edward Island | 2,184                    | 997,760 | 42.91                            |
| Quebec               | 351,873                  | 140,720 | 5.69                             |
| Saskatchewan         | 251,700                  | 161,500 | 1.95                             |
| Yukon                | 207,076                  | 13,640  |                                  |

The distribution of population per square mile in the several provinces, as seen in the table, teaches us so much regarding the public health problems involved that, to this end, it was necessary