

Births, which numbered approximately 600,000 in 1913, dropped to 315,000 in 1916, and 343,000 in 1917, while the deaths increased, but not in comparable proportions; so that the total decrease in population was due to the great diminution in births, and not to any great increase in deaths.

The statistics cover 77 departments, excluding 11 invaded departments and not including 1,400,000 persons killed in the war.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS. FEBRUARY 3RD, 1919.

The first steps toward the organization of a social hygiene programme for Canada were taken, when representatives of a number of the provinces met in Ottawa at the call of the Acting Premier, Sir Thomas White, to discuss legislation for the control of venereal diseases.

This important conference was brought together at the suggestion of the military authorities. Each province was invited to send its chief Health Officer.

While some of these were unable to be in attendance, those provinces which could not send representatives sent telegrams expressing their regret, as well as their cordial sympathy with the objects of the conference. Those present were:—Dr. Elzear Pelletier, Sec. Superior Board of Health, Que.; Dr. A. H. Desloges, Gen. Med. Supt. of the Insane, Que.; Dr. Arthur Simard, Pres. Superior Board of Health, Que.; Dr. M. M. Seymour, Commr. of Health, Sask.; Mr. Vincent Massey, who acted as Secretary to the Conference; Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization; Maj.-Gen. J. T. Fotheringham, D.G.M.S.; Dr. P. H. Bryce, Chief Medical Officer, Dept. of Immigration, Ottawa; Dr. Gordon Bell, Provincial Health Officer, Manitoba; Dr. Geo. G. Melvin, Chief Medical Officer of Health, New Brunswick; Capt. Gordon Bates, Toronto; Hon. Wm. F. Roberts, Minister of Health, New Brunswick; J. W. S. McCullough, Lt.-Colonel, C.A.M.C., Chief Officer of Health, Ontario; Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, Ontario; Wm. Hutchinson, Major, C.A.M.C., Montreal; Dr. J. A. Hutchinson, President Canadian Public Health Association, Montreal.

The chair was taken in the morning by the Hon. J. A. Calder, and in the afternoon by Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary of Ontario. At the morning session, the Conference was addressed by Major-General J. T. Fotheringham, D.G.M.S., Major Wm. Hutchinson, C.A.M.C., and Captain Gordon Bates, C.A.M.C., Toronto.