

Development of Public Health Organizations

The development of public health organizations in the several provinces of Canada has in the past varied in both extent and character. This can readily be understood from a glance showing the different provincial health appropriations; while the efficiency of public health work in any province may also be fairly accurately estimated by the relative death rate per 1,000, so far as obtainable. Unfortunately, recent information on this point is not possible for all the provinces over a series of years, except so far as Departments of Vital Statistics exist in the several provinces, since the last attempt to obtain such figures is the census of Canada in 1901.

TABLE 5. BIRTHS AND DEATHS BY PROVINCES IN 1915

Province	Population	Total births	Rate per 1,000	Total deaths	Deaths per 1,000	Deaths under 1 year	Deaths per 1,000 births	Deaths 0-4 years	Percentage of deaths in estimated population for age period
Quebec	2,176,350	83,294	37.9	35,993	16.5	12,775	147	16,516	6.1
Ontario	2,767,150	67,012	24.2	11,291	12.0	6,838	102	8,612	2.6
Nova Scotia	496,000	12,450	25.1	8,05	16.0	1,555	125	2,150	1.7
Manitoba	531,096	17,812	30.1	5,379	10.1	1,888	105	2,371	2.6

Increased Man-power by Immigration

Apart from the knowledge that we gain from vital statistics, there is another very important factor which enters into the estimation not only of the existing, but of the potential, man-power of any community, namely, the amount of emigration, or the loss of population by removal from its native province. On the other hand, if the population of Canada by age periods in 1901 is compared with the population in the Western Provinces in 1916, it will be seen that a further factor affecting this man-power is due to the proportionately large number of persons in the age periods from 25 to 45 years contained in any given number of immigrants. It is evident that any exodus resulting in a permanent loss through emigration means that families and young men would leave Canada, just as similar families and young men come in as immigrants, with a proportion of children of 14 years and under of about 20 per cent of the total, as compared with 34 per cent within this age period in a normal population. That such a loss to Canada did actually take place is shown by the following figures: