

93. It may be laid down as a general rule that persons between fifteen and sixty-five years of age, are able to contribute more or less to their own maintenance, and in many cases to support themselves altogether, while those under fifteen and over sixty-five are supported by others; and it follows, that that country is likely to be the most physically effective that has the largest proportion of persons at the middle period of life.

94. The following table shows the proportion in the different Provinces of persons at the sustaining as compared with those at the dependent periods in 1881.

RELATIVE Strength of the Population of the Dominion of Canada.

Provinces.	Numbers in every 10,000 persons living.		
	At Supporting Ages, 15 to 65 years.	At Dependent Ages.	
		Under 15 years.	65 years and upwards.
Prince Edward Island .....	5,760	3,840	400
Nova Scotia .....	5,757	3,787	456
New Brunswick .....	5,746	3,860	394
Quebec .....	5,588	4,022	390
Ontario .....	5,854	3,803	343
Manitoba.....	5,934	3,932	134
British Columbia .....	6,661	3,145	194
The Territories .....	5,569	4,277	154
Canada .....	5,859	3,833	308

95. British Columbia had the largest proportion at the middle period of life, and also had the fewest children. If we except The Territories, Quebec had the largest number of children and the smallest number at the middle period. Ontario had the third largest number at the middle period, and showed a smaller proportion of old people than any of the older Provinces. The proportion of old people in Nova Scotia was very large.