

The Census of 1891 gave a population of 4,279,634 persons five years old and over. Of these 3,176,667 could read and write and 207,126 could read only. There were, therefore, 3,383,793 persons in the population of 4,833,239 who could read. That is 69·3 per cent of the whole population recorded in 1891, and 79·1 per cent of the population of five years and over.

It may be assumed, then, that the increase in literacy in the ten years is 6·5 per cent. In every group of 100 persons five years old and over in 1901 there were 6·5 persons able to read more than there were in a similar group in 1891. That is, there were in every group of 100 persons of all ages about 30 persons who could not read and, therefore, could not write, and in ten years this sub group has been reduced to 24·6 per cent.

The following table gives statistics of illiteracy in Canada in 1891 and 1901 :—

	Census Year.	Illiterates.	Per cent of Total Population.
Canada	1891	1,449,446	29·99
"	1901	1,322,816	24·63
British Columbia	1891	34,198	34·83
"	1901	55,902	31·29
Manitoba	1891	43,282	28·38
"	1901	67,833	26·58
New Brunswick	1891	98,438	30·64
"	1901	87,442	26·41
Nova Scotia	1891	119,675	26·57
"	1901	110,425	24·03
Ontario	1891	454,253	21·48
"	1901	395,690	18·13
Prince Edward Island	1891	27,126	24·87
"	1901	21,296	20·62
Quebec	1891	609,925	40·98
"	1901	487,591	29·02
North-west Territories	1891	62,549	63·20
"	1901	96,638	45·66

The smallest number in a group of 100 is in Ontario, 18·12 illiterates in the 100. Of these 10·27 consist of persons under five years old.

In 1891, 21·48 in every 100 were illiterates; of these 11·34 were under five years old, leaving a net of 7·85 persons five years and over in 1901 and 10·14 in 1891.

The Province of Quebec shows a great decrease in the number of illiterates. In 1891 the Province had 40·98 persons in every group of 100 who could not read; in 1901 there were 29·57 persons in each 100 group. In 1891 those under five years formed 14·71, and in 1901 14·41 of the number of illiterates. This leaves a net of 26·27 in 1891 and of 15·16 in 1901 of illiterates over five years in each group of 100.