

IV.—EDUCATION.

This section includes a brief summary of the census statistics of illiteracy and school attendance, a description by provinces of the salient features of the existing Canadian systems of education and a presentation by provinces in tabular form of the principal annual education statistics of Canada from the beginning of the present century.

CENSUS STATISTICS OF ILLITERACY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Illiteracy.—Defining illiteracy as inability to read and write, the census returns of 1911 show that out of the total population in Canada of five years and over, viz., 6,319,160, the number of illiterates was 663,453, or 11.02 p.c. If the age be fixed at six years and over, the total number is 6,154,511; and of these all but 521,842, or 8.48 p.c., were returned as being able to read. The percentage of illiteracy is highest amongst the foreign-born and lowest amongst the British-born population. Exact comparisons of illiteracy in Canada with other countries is not possible, because, first, definitions of illiteracy vary, and, secondly, the age-period to which the illiteracy applies is in most cases different from that of Canada. Census tables giving details of the literacy of the population of Canada in 1911 were included in the Year Book of 1913, pages 89 to 94.

School Attendance.—The total number of persons between the school ages of five and twenty at the date of the Census of 1911 was 2,306,558. Of this number 1,147,838, or 49.76 p.c., attended school for some period during 1910, and the remaining 1,158,720, or 50.24 p.c., did not attend school during that year. Table 1 shows the numbers and Table 2 the percentage attending school in 1910, classified by age-periods and by sex for Canada and for each of the provinces. In this table, however, the school population aged five to twenty of the Yukon (1,160) and the Northwest Territories (5,739) are not included.

1.—Numbers Attending School by Sex- and Age-Periods, 1910.

Provinces.	Males 5-20.		Females 5-20.		Males 5 years.		Females 5 years.	
	Total.	At School.	Total.	At School.	Total.	At School.	Total.	At School.
P. E. Island.	16,913	9,009	16,210	8,570	996	94	959	115
Nova Scotia.	84,455	44,029	82,647	45,144	5,798	907	5,761	915
New Brunswick. .	62,749	31,184	60,270	31,288	4,192	273	4,282	297
Quebec.	359,108	182,884	358,484	183,450	26,839	5,031	27,234	5,131
Ontario.	389,200	201,640	376,157	198,417	25,171	3,739	24,765	3,768
Manitoba.	74,665	33,982	71,475	33,777	5,528	415	5,560	414
Saskatchewan. .	78,260	30,314	68,928	29,156	6,106	508	5,947	499
Alberta.	58,843	22,394	51,795	21,270	4,362	275	4,281	299
British Columbia	48,332	20,278	41,168	19,828	3,241	182	3,046	133
Total	1,172,525	575,714	1,127,134	570,900	82,233	11,424	81,835	11,571