

Illiteracy of Population over 10 years of age by Age-Groups and by Sexes.—The proportion of the population 10 years of age and over totally illiterate—that is, unable to read and write in any language—was in 1921 5·10 p.c. as shown in Table 37. This population included Indians, exclusive of whom the percentage was 4·49. If we include Indians the percentage of illiteracy among persons 10 to 14 years was 2·0; among persons 15 to 20 years it was 2·7; among those 21 to 34 years it was 3·9; among those 35 to 64 years it was 6·5; and for those 65 years and over it was 13·1. Further, 55,112 or about one-sixth of all illiterates of specified ages were 65 years and over, while two-thirds were 35 years and over, although the population over 35 years formed only about 40 p.c. of the population of stated ages. The important point, however, is that illiteracy is reduced by about one-third in the case of each successive younger group below 65.

The above rate of progress shown in the case of the younger groups ought to mean that the practical extinction of illiteracy in Canada is in sight. How far the situation is in hand may be seen from the fact that the percentage of illiterates first quoted (5·10) does not by any means represent the general level of the Canadian population. The high percentage of illiteracy—and by “high” is meant anything above the average 5·10—is confined to certain areas containing only 30 p.c. of the Canadian population. Fifty p.c. of the illiterate persons in Canada reside in areas containing only 18 p.c. of the population, while 11 p.c. of the illiterates are residents of areas containing only 1 p.c. of the population.

37.—Illiteracy among the Population 10 Years of Age and over, classified as Canadian-born, British-born or Foreign-born, by Age Groups, 1921.

Nativity and age groups.	Total.	Can read and write.		Can read only.		Cannot read nor write.	
	No.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Totals	6,632,072	6,298,704	94·26	42,349	·64	341,019	5·10
10-14 years.....	913,149	893,923	97·88	887	·10	18,339	2·01
15-20 years.....	948,379	919,069	96·90	2,780	·29	26,528	2·70
21 and over.....	4,820,546	4,485,712	93·05	38,682	·80	296,152	6·14
21-34 years.....	1,904,057	1,819,569	95·56	9,619	·50	74,869	3·93
35-64 years.....	2,476,105	2,295,295	92·60	19,814	·80	160,996	6·52
65 and over.....	419,107	354,790	84·65	9,205	2·19	55,112	13·14
Age not stated.....	21,277	16,058	75·47	44	·02	5,175	24·22
Canadian-born	4,799,370	4,540,488	94·60	28,671	·60	230,208	4·80
10-14 years.....	800,725	783,010	97·79	795	·10	16,920	2·11
15-20 years.....	759,114	735,448	96·88	2,127	·28	21,539	2·84
21 and over.....	3,239,531	3,022,030	93·29	25,752	·79	191,749	5·92
21-34 years.....	1,284,216	1,238,560	96·45	5,166	·40	40,490	3·15
35-64 years.....	1,623,468	1,509,131	92·96	13,072	·80	101,265	6·24
65 and over.....	311,932	259,423	83·16	7,477	2·40	45,032	14·44
Age not stated.....	19,915	14,916	74·90	37	·18	4,962	24·92
British-born¹	1,032,453	1,021,423	98·93	3,222	·31	7,808	·76
10-14 years.....	53,634	53,475	99·70	20	·04	139	·26
15-20 years.....	95,438	94,988	99·53	162	·17	288	·30
21 and over.....	883,381	872,960	98·82	3,040	·34	7,381	·84
21-34 years.....	314,792	312,900	99·40	674	·21	1,218	·39
35-64 years.....	494,372	489,355	98·98	1,375	·28	3,642	·74
65 and over.....	73,750	70,273	95·29	989	1·34	2,488	3·37
Age not stated.....	467	432	92·50	2	·43	33	7·07
Foreign-born	850,249	736,793	86·66	10,453	1·23	103,003	12·11
10-14 years.....	58,790	57,438	97·70	72	·12	1,280	2·18
15-20 years.....	93,825	88,633	94·47	491	·52	4,701	5·01
21 and over.....	697,634	590,722	84·67	9,890	1·42	97,022	13·91
21-34 years.....	305,049	268,109	87·89	3,779	1·24	33,161	10·87
35-64 years.....	358,265	296,809	82·85	5,367	1·50	56,089	15·65
65 and over.....	33,425	25,094	75·08	739	2·21	7,592	22·71
Age not stated.....	895	710	79·33	5	·56	180	20·11

¹ This term includes those born in the British Empire outside of Canada.