

In the Prairie Provinces, however, illiteracy among females is higher than among males—a fact due probably to the large percentage of persons from the European continent among the population.

Literacy by Nativity of Population.—The literacy by nativity of the population 10 years of age and over in 1921 is shown by provinces for Canadian-born, British-born and foreign-born in a table on p. 131 of the 1924 Year Book, these figures showing that the foreign-born are much the most illiterate group of the population, with illiteracy of 12.11 p.c., as compared with 4.80 p.c. for Canadian-born and 0.76 p.c. for British-born. In considering this table it should be remembered that the term "Canadian-born" includes the Indian population.

Perhaps the most interesting and significant feature of the achievement of the schools of Canada is illustrated by the difference between the proportion of illiterates among foreign-born immigrants and among the children of these immigrants. Here it is necessary to differentiate between such foreign-born immigrants as Americans and certain Europeans, who enjoyed excellent educational advantages in their own country, and the immigrants who belong to illiterate countries. Of the latter, a group of 367,838 foreign-born persons over the age of 10, belonging to seventeen of the less literate races, showed an illiteracy of 24.8 p.c. The children of these immigrants who were born in the Empire, i.e., practically all in Canada, to the number of 133,010, showed an illiteracy of only 5.1 p.c., or exactly the same percentage as shown by the general Canadian population.

The element of the Canadian-born population showing the lowest percentage of illiteracy is that with one parent Canadian, the other British. This element existed in 1921 to the number of 375,068 persons over the age of 10 years, and shows an illiteracy of 1.08 p.c., as compared with 1.25 p.c. in the case of the next lowest, the persons both of whose parents were British-born.

Literacy of Adult Population.—There were in the nine provinces in 1921, exclusive of Indians, 4,760,815 persons 21 years of age and over, of whom 261,579 or 5.49 p.c. were unable to "read and write." The highest percentage of illiteracy (8.57 p.c.) for this class of the population was in New Brunswick, followed by Quebec with 7.97 p.c. and Manitoba with 7.70 p.c. illiterate. Table 37 summarizes by provinces the number and percentage of illiterates in the population 21 years of age and over in 1921. In comparing these figures with those for the voting population, allowance should be made for the inclusion here of a considerable number of illiterate alien nationals.

37.—Numbers and Percentages of Illiterates in the Adult Population of the Nine Provinces, 1921 (Indians excluded).

Provinces.	Total.			Illiterate.					
	Both Sexes.	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.		Female.	
				No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island.....	49,493	24,908	24,585	1,836	3.71	1,067	4.28	769	3.31
Nova Scotia.....	294,121	145,231	138,890	17,618	6.20	9,758	6.72	7,860	5.66
New Brunswick.....	201,458	103,244	98,214	17,259	8.57	10,647	10.31	6,612	6.73
Quebec.....	1,170,491	587,226	583,265	93,322	7.97	59,386	10.11	33,936	5.82
Ontario.....	1,734,310	876,341	857,969	56,325	3.25	35,120	4.01	21,205	2.47
Manitoba.....	315,265	171,348	143,917	24,281	7.70	11,887	6.94	12,394	8.61
Saskatchewan.....	376,307	219,215	157,092	22,919	6.09	10,991	5.01	11,928	7.59
Alberta.....	310,539	182,176	128,363	13,723	4.42	7,110	3.90	6,613	5.15
British Columbia.....	315,831	189,471	129,360	14,296	4.48	10,636	5.61	3,660	2.83
Total.....	4,760,815	2,493,169	2,261,655	261,579	5.49	156,602	6.27	104,977	4.64