

Literacy among Urban Populations.—In a table on page 133 of the 1924 Year Book, statistics were given of the literacy of the population 10 years of age and over in cities and towns of 10,000 and over, as in 1921. Here it was noted that the largest cities of Canada, which receive a large number of immigrants, make by no means the best showing in regard to literacy. The lowest percentage of illiteracy in Canada is found in Westmount and Outremont—0.34 p.c. and 0.57 p.c. respectively. These, however, can hardly be considered as independent communities, but rather as suburbs of Montreal. Apart from these, Stratford with 0.77 p.c., Galt with 0.80 p.c., and St. Thomas with 0.84 p.c. of illiteracy, stand highest among the self-contained urban communities of the country.

12.—School Attendance.¹

The census statistics of school attendance for the population between the ages of 5 and 19 years of age are presented for 1901, 1911 and 1921 in Tables 41 and 42 for Canada as a whole. In comparing the statistics of school attendance for the census of 1921 with those of 1911 and 1901, it must be taken into account that in 1921 the record of school attendance covered the nine months ended May 31, 1921, while in 1911 the period of school attendance had reference to the calendar year 1910; in the 1901 census it had reference to the census year ended March 31, 1901; moreover, the records for 1901 were compiled and published only for the age-groups 5 to 9 and 10 to 19 years.

In the 1921 census, the population 5 to 19 years of age numbered 2,763,728, or 31.5 p.c. of the total population of stated ages (8,767,206), as compared with 2,163,937 or 30.2 p.c. in a population of 7,169,960 of stated ages in 1911 and 1,748,741 or 32.8 p.c. in a population of 5,322,238 of stated ages in 1901.

In 1901, 52.13 p.c. of the population 5 to 19 years of age (1,748,741) attended school for some period; in 1911 there was a slight improvement, the percentage rising to 52.88 p.c. of the population of this age (2,163,937), while in 1921 the proportion of the population (2,763,728) in this age-group attending school rose to 61.32 p.c., being a gain of 8.44 p.c. as compared with the previous census. It is also worthy of note that the percentage of school attendance of males 5 to 19, which showed a falling off from 1901 to 1911, increased from 52.15 p.c. in 1901 to 60.79 p.c. of the total in 1921. The proportion of the female population 5 to 19 reported attending school for any period rose from 51.99 p.c. of the total female population in this age-group in 1901 to 53.63 p.c. in 1911 and to 61.86 p.c. in 1921.

41.—School Attendance of the Total Population² 5 to 19 Years of Age Inclusive, for all Canada, in 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Schedule.	Both sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	1901.	1911.	1921.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1901.	1911.	1921.
5-9 years—Total..	615,899	783,252	1,048,761	311,134	395,045	528,700	304,765	388,207	520,061
At school.....	367,903	459,682	686,616	187,045	232,581	345,496	180,858	227,101	341,120
Not at school....	247,996	323,570	362,145	124,089	162,464	183,204	123,907	161,106	178,941
10-19 years—Total	1,132,842	1,380,685	1,714,967	575,949	706,155	864,579	556,893	674,530	850,388
At school.....	843,758	684,599	1,008,178	276,601	341,745	501,520	267,157	342,854	506,658
Not at school....	589,084	696,086	706,789	299,348	364,410	363,059	289,736	331,676	343,730
5-19 years—Total	1,748,741	2,163,937	2,763,728	887,083	1,101,200	1,393,279	861,658	1,062,737	1,370,449
At school.....	911,661	1,144,281	1,694,794	463,646	574,326	847,016	448,015	569,955	847,778
1-3 months....	51,986	42,514	72,544	27,946	21,904	36,598	24,040	20,610	35,948
4-6 ".....	114,861	131,343	132,419	60,333	68,468	68,078	54,528	62,875	65,341
7-9 ".....	744,814	970,424	1,488,831	375,367	483,954	742,342	369,447	486,470	746,489
Not at school....	837,080	1,019,656	1,069,934	423,437	526,874	546,263	413,643	492,782	522,671

¹For more detailed information, see pp. 691-743 of Vol. II of the Census of 1921, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. ²Including population 5-19 years of age of Yukon and Northwest Territories.