

Literacy among Urban Populations.—Table 34 shows the literacy of persons residing in cities with populations of 30,000 and over in 1931. The final three columns give percentage figures for persons ten years of age and over, and a comparison with figures for 1921 shows that very definite changes have taken place in the literacy of urban populations. Toronto had, in 1921 as in 1931, a very low percentage of illiteracy — 1.68 p.c. in 1921 and 1.26 p.c. in 1931 — and the larger cities of Ontario, generally, made a comparatively good showing in 1921. Other large cities of Canada had in 1921 fairly high percentages of illiteracy, the figures being: Montreal, 3.60 p.c.; Winnipeg, 3.54 p.c.; Vancouver, 3.54 p.c.; Quebec, 3.27 p.c.; Ottawa 2.69 p.c.; and Hamilton, 2.12 p.c. Comparison of 1921 figures¹ with those for 1931 in Table 34 brings out the great improvement in the western cities. Marked betterment is evident throughout the list, but the exceptional progress in the west has put Three Rivers, Quebec, Montreal and Halifax in a relatively less favourable position as regards illiteracy. While Three Rivers has still the highest percentage of persons who can neither read nor write, the proportion has been reduced from 7.03 p.c. in 1921 to 3.45 p.c. in 1931.

The city of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, had the lowest percentage of illiteracy in 1931, viz., 0.71, London, Ontario, being next with 0.88 p.c. In the cities of Windsor, Ontario, and Regina, Saskatchewan, both of which had low percentages of illiterates in 1921 (1.53 p.c. and 1.44 p.c. respectively), slight increases to 1.78 p.c. and 1.68 p.c., respectively, are shown in 1931.

34.—Literacy of the Populations of 10 Years of Age and Over in Cities and Towns of 30,000 and Over, by Numbers and Percentages, 1931.

City or Town.	Total Population.	10 Years and Over.	Numbers 10 Years and Over.			Percentages 10 Years and Over.		
			Can Read and Write.	Can Read only.	Can neither Read nor Write.	Can Read and Write.	Can Read only.	Can neither Read nor Write.
			No.	No.	No.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Montreal.....	818,577	654,094	635,811	2,508	15,775	97.20	0.38	2.41
Toronto.....	631,207	535,327	527,465	1,089	6,763	98.63	0.21	1.26
Vancouver.....	246,593	212,413	208,754	296	3,363	98.28	0.14	1.58
Winnipeg.....	218,785	185,534	181,305	541	3,688	97.72	0.29	1.99
Hamilton.....	155,547	127,891	125,668	177	2,046	98.26	0.14	1.60
Quebec.....	130,594	100,203	97,161	502	2,540	96.96	0.50	2.53
Ottawa.....	126,872	104,588	102,257	246	2,085	97.77	0.24	1.99
Calgary.....	83,761	70,512	69,626	148	738	98.74	0.21	1.05
Edmonton.....	79,197	65,101	63,990	213	908	98.28	0.33	1.30
London.....	71,148	60,203	59,646	30	527	99.07	0.05	0.88
Windsor.....	63,108	50,623	49,606	118	899	97.99	0.23	1.78
Verdun.....	60,745	46,818	46,232	98	488	98.75	0.21	1.04
Halifax.....	59,275	47,725	46,468	137	1,120	97.37	0.29	2.35
Regina.....	53,209	43,161	42,319	116	726	98.05	0.27	1.68
Saint John.....	47,514	38,729	38,149	69	511	98.50	0.18	1.32
Saskatoon.....	43,291	35,514	35,212	49	253	99.15	0.14	0.71
Victoria.....	39,082	34,511	34,111	30	370	98.84	0.09	1.07
Three Rivers.....	35,450	26,079	25,052	125	901	96.07	0.48	3.45
Kitchener.....	30,793	24,954	24,618	39	297	98.65	0.16	1.19
Brantford.....	30,107	23,060	24,562	50	457	97.98	0.20	1.82

¹ See p. 133 of the 1924 Year Book.