

Of course the preceding statements are not to be taken to mean that every year will show a decline in the death rate as compared with the preceding year. There will always be years of specially high mortality, for instance 1918, when the death rate in Ontario, the most populous of the provinces of Canada, was 15.3 per 1,000, owing to the influenza-pneumonia epidemic, as against 12.0 in 1917 and 11.9 in 1919. Over a period, however, these idiosyncrasies of individual years are reduced to negligibility, and it remains true that from decade to decade there is, under normal conditions, a decline in the crude death rates of the countries of the white man's world.

As for Canada, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short to establish a definite downward trend, the rate of 12.4 per 1,000 for that year, in the eight provinces then included in the registration area, was substantially higher than in any subsequent year. From 1926 Quebec, which has a higher death rate than any other province, has been included in the registration area and its influence is reflected in the totals for Canada shown in Table 20. A decided improvement is shown in the deaths and death rate of Quebec for the years 1930 and 1931, but the proportionate improvement in all the other provinces is also pronounced and in some cases even greater than that in Quebec.

Subsection 1.—General Mortality.

Total deaths and crude death rates in recent years are given in Table 20 for Canada, by provinces. There was a smaller absolute number of deaths in 1931 than in any other year since the record became available for all the nine provinces.

20.—Deaths and Death Rates, by Provinces, 1926-31, with Averages 1921-25 and 1926-30.

A.—TOTAL DEATHS.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada. ¹
Average 1921-25.....	1,085	6,519	5,093	1	34,252	5,348	5,859	4,953	4,812	1
Average 1926-30.....	969	6,362	5,019	36,645	36,650	5,507	6,256	5,530	5,986	108,924
1926.....	896	6,356	5,002	37,251	35,909	5,335	6,060	5,159	5,474	107,454
1927.....	913	6,378	4,902	36,175	34,775	5,309	6,081	5,059	5,750	105,292
1928.....	952	6,202	4,972	36,632	37,128	5,396	6,166	5,692	5,910	109,057
1929.....	1,122	6,660	5,230	37,221	38,123	5,808	6,715	6,239	6,397	113,515
1930.....	961	6,206	4,991	35,945	37,313	5,685	6,309	5,496	6,409	109,306
1931.....	912	5,968	4,644	34,487	35,705	5,319	6,066	5,302	6,114	104,517

B.—CRUDE DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Year.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada. ²
Average 1921-25.....	12.5	12.6	13.1	1	11.3	8.6	7.5	8.3	8.7	1
Average 1926-30.....	11.0	12.4	12.5	13.5	11.2	8.3	7.3	8.4	9.3	11.1
1926.....	10.3	12.4	12.6	14.3	11.3	8.3	7.4	8.5	9.0	11.4
1927.....	10.5	12.4	12.3	13.6	10.8	8.2	7.2	8.0	9.2	10.9
1928.....	10.8	12.0	12.4	13.5	11.3	8.1	7.2	8.7	9.2	11.1
1929.....	12.8	12.9	12.9	13.4	11.4	8.6	7.6	9.1	9.7	11.3
1930.....	10.9	12.1	12.3	12.7	11.0	8.3	7.0	7.8	9.6	10.7
1931.....	10.4	11.6	11.4	12.0	10.4	7.6	6.6	7.2	8.8	10.1

¹ Quebec was not included in the registration area prior to 1926.

² Exclusive of the Territories.