

Regarding the standard million of England and Wales the Registrar General says: "As the population of this country in 1901 included relatively few infants and old people it forms a standard exceptionally favourable to low mortality" The relative fewness of old people in the population is presumably due to the great increase in English population during the 19th century; the relative fewness of infants, to the marked reduction of the birth rate between the 1870's and the end of the century.

The process above described has been applied to the population of the eight provinces, the former registration area of Canada, for the years 1921-31 and to the population of Quebec for the years 1926-31 in Table 23. Of the rates there given, those for 1921 and 1922 have been calculated directly, the proportion of the population in each sex and age group according to the census of 1921 being assumed to hold true for 1922 also; similarly the rates for 1930 and 1931 have been calculated directly from the proportions shown in each sex and age group at the census of 1931. For the intervening years 1923-29, for which estimates of total population but not of population by age groups were available, the following method was adopted. The proportions which the adjusted rates of 1921 and 1922 (correct to three decimal places) bore to the crude were averaged, similarly those of 1930 and 1931, and the change was assumed to have taken place in an arithmetical progression during the intervening seven years. Quebec not having been in the registration area in the year 1921, an adjusted rate was not available for that year or for 1922, but an adjusted rate for 1926 was calculated on the assumption that the sex and age distribution of 1921 remained unchanged. As the proportion of the adjusted rate to the crude depends primarily on this sex and age distribution, the proportion thus obtained for Quebec in 1926 was used instead of the missing averages for 1921 and 1922. The same course was followed for the total of the nine provinces.

In all of the eight provinces for which 1921 figures are given the proportion of the adjusted rate to the crude was higher in 1921 than in 1931; in other words, the age distribution had become more unfavourable in the later year. In the Maritime Provinces and Ontario the process of "standardizing" or "adjusting" the death rate results in a reduced rate. This is particularly true of Prince Edward Island, which has the largest proportion of aged persons of all Canadian provinces. In the western provinces, on the other hand, the adjusted rates are higher than the crude. So much is this so, that in the case of Saskatchewan, while the crude rate in 1931 was only 6.6, as compared with 10.4 in Prince Edward Island, the adjusted rate was actually slightly higher than that of the island province.

23.—Crude and Adjusted Death Rates in Canada, by Provinces, 1921-31.

Province.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
P.E. Island—											
Crude.....	13.6	12.5	13.2	11.1	11.6	10.3	10.5	10.8	12.8	10.9	10.4
Adjusted.....	10.3	9.3	9.9	8.2	8.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	9.2	7.9	7.4
Nova Scotia—											
Crude.....	12.3	12.8	13.3	12.8	11.7	12.4	12.4	12.0	12.9	12.0	11.6
Adjusted.....	10.3	10.6	11.0	10.5	9.6	10.1	10.1	9.7	10.4	9.7	9.3