

44.—Ability to Read and Write of the Population 5 Years of Age and Over, by Provinces, for each Census Year, 1901-31—concluded.

Province.	Total Population.	Five Years of Age and Over.	Numbers, 5 Years and Over.			Percentages, 5 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.	No.	No.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Alberta—								
1901	73,022	62,554	42,731	707	19,116	68.31	1.13	30.56
1911	374,295	325,916	283,513	1,198	41,205	86.99	0.37	12.64
1921	588,454	509,896	453,572	3,259	53,065	88.95	0.64	10.41
1931	731,605	653,233	603,401	3,228	46,604	92.37	0.49	7.13
British Columbia—								
1901	178,657	163,336	121,782	973	40,581	74.56	0.60	24.84
1911	392,480	356,603	314,183	1,013	41,407	88.11	0.28	11.61
1921	524,582	474,787	427,374	2,552	44,861	90.01	0.54	9.45
1931	694,263	642,284	600,413	2,046	39,825	93.48	0.32	6.20
Yukon—								
1901	27,219	26,864	17,374	54	9,436	64.67	0.20	35.13
1911	8,512	8,006	6,843	76	1,087	85.47	0.95	13.58
1921	4,157	3,880	2,732	8	1,140	70.41	0.21	29.38
1931	4,230	3,869	2,811	32	1,026	72.65	0.83	26.52
Northwest Territories—								
1901	20,129	18,699	3,233	174	15,292	17.29	0.93	81.78
1911	6,507	5,672	857	7	4,808	15.11	0.12	84.77
1921	7,988	7,471	749	6	6,716	10.03	0.08	89.89
1931	9,723	8,399	2,929	118	5,352	34.87	1.40	63.72
Canada—								
1901	5,371,315	4,728,631	3,918,915	129,584	680,132	82.88	2.74	14.38
1911	7,206,643	6,319,160	5,622,844	32,863	663,453	88.98	0.52	10.50
1921	8,787,949	7,730,400	6,957,168	58,242	714,990	90.00	0.75	9.25
1931	10,376,786	9,302,371	8,582,985	51,709	667,677	92.27	0.56	7.18

Literacy of Population over Ten Years of Age, by Age-Groups and Sex.—

Experience has shown that statistics of literacy among children under ten years of age are practically meaningless. A truer test of progress has been made by taking the statistics for the population of ten years of age and over, but, unfortunately, this comparison cannot be made for earlier censuses than that of 1921. Table 45 shows literacy, by sex and province, of persons ten years of age and over in 1931, and the percentage of illiterates in this significant section of the population was 3.79 p.c. in 1931, as compared with 5.10 p.c. in 1921. It will be noticed that illiteracy is very definitely greater among males than among females. In 1931, 4.32 p.c. of the male population and 3.21 p.c. of the female population were recorded as unable to read or write, as compared with 5.73 p.c. and 4.43 p.c. respectively for 1921. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, alone among the provinces, show a higher percentage of female illiteracy; this condition existed also in 1921, although the corresponding percentages for both males and females were then substantially greater, being: Manitoba, males 6.48, females 7.78; Saskatchewan, males 5.00, females 7.08; Alberta, males 4.62, females 5.92.

The figures show that New Brunswick is in the most unfavourable position, though there has been an improvement since 1921. No less than 6.91 p.c. of the population of that province—8.75 p.c. of the males and 4.97 p.c. of the females—could neither read nor write in 1931. For 1921 the figures were: total illiterate, 7.61 p.c.; males 9.24; females 5.90. On the other hand the province of Quebec, which in 1921 recorded the high percentage of 6.19 (7.84 males and 4.54 females) as illiterate, had reduced this proportion to 4.76 (6.21 males and 3.29 females) by 1931.