

25.—Rural and Urban Farms, Farm Populations and Average Numbers of Persons per Farm, by Provinces, 1931.

Province.	Farms June 1, 1931.			Population June 1, 1931, living on—			Persons per Farm.		
	Total.	Rural.	Urban.	All Farms.	Rural Farms.	Urban Farms.	All.	Rural.	Urban.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	12,865	12,696	169	55,478	54,963	515	4·31	4·32	3·04
Nova Scotia.....	39,444	38,629	815	177,690	173,965	3,725	4·50	4·50	4·57
New Brunswick.....	34,025	33,646	379	180,214	178,494	1,720	5·29	5·30	4·53
Quebec.....	135,957	129,863	6,094	777,384	744,417	32,967	5·72	5·74	5·41
Ontario.....	192,174	188,134	4,040	800,960	785,550	15,410	4·16	4·17	3·81
Manitoba.....	54,199	53,777	422	256,305	254,302	2,003	4·72	4·72	4·74
Saskatchewan.....	136,472	135,826	646	564,012	561,407	2,605	4·13	4·13	4·03
Alberta.....	97,408	96,439	969	375,097	370,899	4,198	3·95	3·84	4·33
British Columbia.....	26,079	25,557	522	102,367	100,244	2,123	3·50	3·92	4·06
Canada.....	728,623	714,567	14,056	3,289,507	3,224,241	65,266	4·51	4·51	4·64

Details regarding farm workers and those farms employing hired labour, the period of employment and cost of labour were dealt with at p. 299 of the 1934-35 Year Book. The reader should also refer to the item "wage earners" (in agriculture) in the index of the present volume for further information on these topics.

Section 11.—Literacy.

Literacy in Canada has shown most encouraging progress since the opening of the twentieth century.

In 1901, 14·38 p.c. of the population of five years of age and over could neither read nor write; the corresponding percentage for 1911 was 10·50; for 1921, 9·25; and for 1931 it was only 7·18. (See table on p. 157 of the 1934-35 Year Book.)

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 26 shows literacy, by provinces, 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. 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. Literacy by sex is shown at p. 159 of the 1934-35 Year Book. 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.