

# CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS\*

## CONSPECTUS

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A short historical outline of the early collection of vital statistics in Canada is given at pp. 104-105 of the 1940 edition of the Year Book. Co-operation of the provinces in the collection of comparable statistics was finally effected as a consequence of the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, under the Statistics Act of 1918. From 1921 to 1925 vital statistics were compiled by the Bureau on a comparable basis for all provinces with the exception of Quebec. Quebec has been included in the registration area only as from Jan. 1, 1926, from which date her statistics are on a comparable basis with those of the other provinces.

The main tables of Sections 1-4 that follow cover statistics for all the provinces. Section 5 deals with those for Yukon and the Northwest Territories and reasons for this separation are given at that place.

Two important considerations should be borne in mind by the student who uses either the tables that follow or the detailed reports issued by the Bureau of Statistics for comparative purposes. First, in spite of the improvements of the past decade, registration generally, and the registration of births in particular, is not as yet universally carried out. Secondly, the very considerable differences in the age and sex distribution of the population in different provinces make comparisons of crude birth rates and crude death rates, as among the provinces, unfair and misleading. All rates in this chapter have been calculated on the basis of the estimates of population given at p. 98.

## Nuptiality and Fertility in Canada—A Study Based on Canadian Marriage Statistics†

### Introduction

The marital condition of the population is interesting from a number of different aspects. To the psychologist the conjugal condition of his subject is of primary importance. The economist is familiar with the fact that short-term changes in marriage rates often reflect economic conditions so closely that they have been regarded as a trade barometer. The social planner is interested in the household as a unit and in the changes in the number of households over a period of time. Of even greater importance, in view of the prospects of a declining population in many parts of the western world, is the relation between marriage frequency and declining fertility. The development of this last-named relationship as it affects Canadian population is especially stressed in this article.

\* The material in this chapter, with the exception of the Special Article, has been revised by J. T. Marshall, Chief of the Vital Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A list of the publications of this Branch will be found in Chapter XXVIII, Sect. 1, under "Population".

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