

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—*The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.*

Section 1.—Collection of Vital Statistics

The history of the collection of vital statistics in Canada is covered broadly at pp. 185-188 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

A review of the collection of vital statistics in Newfoundland prior to union with Canada is presented at pp. 197-198 of the 1950 Year Book. The principal vital statistics for Newfoundland before union are given in Section 10 of this Chapter pending incorporation with the statistics for the other provinces.

Classification of Vital Statistics.—Until 1944 vital statistics were all classified by place of occurrence. In that year, however, the classification of births and deaths by residence was begun, births being classified by the residence of the mother. A number of special tabulations by residence have been made for a few years prior to 1944; in Tables 1 to 4 and in Tables 11, 12, 13, 23, 24 and 35 the figures are shown for the five-year average 1941-45. Marriages, on the other hand, are classified by place of occurrence.

Section 2.—Summary of Vital Statistics

Tables 1 to 6 give a summary of the vital statistics of Canada and the provinces for the years 1941 to 1948.

In comparing the birth death and marriage rates of the provinces, it is useful to bear in mind that part of the differences observed may be due to differences in the sex and age distribution of their populations. Similarly, changes in these rates may be due partly to changes in this distribution. These remarks also apply to international comparisons of birth, death and marriage rates. Over the past 15 years, the death rate in British Columbia has been rising, while in Ontario it has been more or less stable, with the result that, though 15 years ago the death rate in Ontario was considerably higher than in British Columbia, at present their rates

* Revised in the Health and Welfare Division, Vital Statistics Section, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.