

# CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS\*

## CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS	181	SECTION 5. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES...	215
SECTION 2. BIRTHS.....	184	Subsection 1. Marriages.....	215
SECTION 3. DEATHS.....	195	Subsection 2. Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces).....	219
Subsection 1. General Mortality.....	195	SECTION 6. VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.	220
Subsection 2. Infant Mortality.....	204	SECTION 7. CANADIAN LIFE TABLES.....	220
Subsection 3. Maternal Mortality.....	210	SECTION 8. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES....	222
SECTION 4. NATURAL INCREASE.....	212		

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

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.

Unless otherwise specified, figures for Newfoundland, which entered Canadian Confederation on Mar. 31, 1949, have been incorporated where available in all tables for 1949 and 1950; where shown separately for the years prior to 1949, data have been taken from the Annual Reports of the Registrar General of Newfoundland. Available data for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are shown separately in Section 6, p. 220.

Numbers and rates of births and deaths are classified by place of residence and those for marriages by place of occurrence.

### Section 1.—Summary of Vital Statistics

Tables 1 to 6 give a summary of the vital statistics of the provinces of Canada for the years 1941 to 1950.

In comparing the birth, death and marriage rates of the provinces, it is important 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. For example, over the past 15 to 20 years, the crude death rate in British Columbia has been rising, while in Ontario it has been declining gradually with the result that, though 15 years ago the death rate in Ontario was considerably higher than in British Columbia, at present the situation is reversed. This does not mean, however, that the mortality rates at each age have risen in British Columbia. On the contrary,

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