Section 6.—Canadian Life Tables

Four official series of life tables for Canada and the provinces and regions have been published to date, based on deaths in the three-year period around each of the Censuses of 1931, 1941, 1951 and 1956. In addition, tables have been computed for Canada as a whole for the years 1945 and 1947 but, since these are based on *estimated* populations by sex and age and the deaths recorded in those years, they are not considered as reliable as those for the census years. The life table values for 1956 are given in abbreviated form in Table **25.**

Life tables give some measure of the health and general conditions of survival of an 'artificial' population in a conventional, standard form. A hypothetical number (100,000) of births of each sex is assumed as a starting point. The life tables show how, on the basis of the mortality rates at each age in the given years, these 100,000 of each sex are reduced in number by death. For example, during the year 1956, of 100,000 males born, 3,472 died in their first year so that 96,528 survived to one year of age; 241 died in their second year so that 96,287 survived to two years of age, and so on. At 100 years of age only 87 of the original 100,000 would have survived. The probability of death at each age is the ratio between the number of deaths and the population at each age. Finally, the expectation of life is the number of years which a person on the average might expect to live if the mortality rates in the given years remained constant throughout his lifetime.

Mortality rates at all ages for males have been almost consistently higher than for females. Males have the highest risk of mortality as compared with females during their first year of life, from their late 'teens to early 30's and from age 50 to 65. For both boys and girls the risk of mortality drops rapidly during childhood and is lowest at about age 10, increases gradually to about age 40 for males and about 50 for females and then rises steeply with advancing age. As an illustration of the information available from study of the life tables, it may be observed that at the mortality rates given in the 1956 life table (see Table **25**) about 13,000 males would have died before reaching age 50 as compared with about 8,700 females; only 56,466 of the original group of 100,000 males would have survived to age 70 as compared with 70,327 females.

25.—Canadian Life Table, 1956

Age	Males				Females			
	Number Living at Each Age	Number Dying Between Each Age and the Next	Probability of Dying Before Reaching Next Birthday	Expectation of Life	Number Living at Each Age	Number Dying Between Each Age and the Next	Probability of Dying Before Reaching Next Birthday	Expectation of Life
				yrs.				yrs.
At birth	100,000	3,472	.03472	67.61	100,000	2,767	.02767	72.92
1 year	96,528	241	.00250	69.04	97,233	210	.00216	73.99
2 years	96,287	139	.00144	68.21	97,023	116	.00120	73.15
3 "	96,148	111	.00115	67.31	96,907	90	.00093	72.24
4 "	96,037	91	.00095	66.38	96,817	68	.00070	71.31
5 "	95,946	335	.00083	65.45	96,749	227	.00058	70.35
10 "	95,611	314	.00057	60.67	96,522	192	.00037	65.51
15 "	95,297	598	.00099	55.86	96,330	256	.00047	60.64
20 "	94,699	802	.00160	51.19	96,074	312	.00060	55.80
25 "	93,897	781	.00169	46.61	95,762	396	.00075	50.97
30 "	93,116	844	.00172	41.98	95,366	498	.00094	46.17