Section 6.—Canadian Life Tables

Five 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, 1956 and 1961. The life table values for 1961 are given in abbreviated form in Table **31**.

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 1961, of 100,000 males born, 3,058 would have died in their first year, according to the mortality rates in effect during the period 1960-62, so that 96,942 would survive to one year of age; 179 would have died in their second year so that 96,763 survived to two years of age, and so on. At 100 years of age only 105 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 age 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 1961 life table (see Table **31**) about 12,100 males would have died before reaching age 50 as compared with about 7,600 females; only 57,517 of the original group of 100,000 males would have survived to age 70 as compared with 72,746 females.

31.—Canadian Life Table, 1961

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		.03058	68.35	100,000		.02387	74.17
		3,058				2,387		
1 year..........	96,942		.00185	69.50	97,613		.00164	74.98
		179				160		
2 years.........	96,763		.00114	68.63	97,453		.00096	74.11
		110				94		
3 "	96,653		.00099	67.71	97,359		.00071	73.18
		96				69		
4 "	96,557		.00083	66.78	97,290		.00061	72.23
		80				59		
5 "	96,477		.00073	65.83	97,231		.00053	71.27
		292				196		
10 "	96,185		.00050	61.02	97,035		.00029	66.41
		282				147		
15 "	95,903		.00089	56.20	96,888		.00040	61.51
		555				229		
20 "	95,348		.00153	51.51	96,659		.00055	56.65
		771				281		
25 "	94,577		.00157	46.91	96,378		.00064	51.80
		710				333		
30 "	93,867		.00150	42.24	96,045		.00079	46.98
		758				433		
35 "	93,109		.00193	37.56	95,612		.00115	42.18
		1,048				654		