

AREA AND POPULATION

Urban Population of the Prairie Provinces.—Winnipeg remains the only city in the Prairie Provinces that has a population exceeding 100,000, and this city has grown from 136,035 in 1911 to 163,000 in 1916. Two cities have, however, risen to the category exceeding 50,000, viz., Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta. In 1916 Calgary is shown to have 56,514 inhabitants as compared with 43,704 in 1911, and Edmonton 53,846 as compared with 30,479 in 1911. In the case of Edmonton, however, the increased population includes Strathcona, now forming part of the city as Edmonton South. Two cities exceed 20,000, viz., Regina (26,127) and Saskatoon (21,048). The former has receded from a population of 30,213 in 1911, and the latter has increased from 12,004 in 1911. Of the remaining twelve cities three exceed 10,000, viz., Moosejaw, in Saskatchewan, with 16,934; Brandon, Manitoba, with 15,215; and St. Boniface, Manitoba, with 11,021.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics by Provinces.—In Canada the registration of births, marriages and deaths is under provincial control, and at present divergent methods, with, in New Brunswick, entire lack of statistics, render impossible the deduction for any series of years of annual birth-, marriage- and death-rates for the Dominion as a whole.

Table 24 shows, however, by provinces (New Brunswick excepted) the number of births, marriages and deaths in each of the years 1911 to 1915, according to the latest returns of the provincial registrars. Using the census figures of population for 1911, and estimates of the Census and Statistics Office for 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915, crude birth-, marriage-, and death-rates per 1,000 of the population living have been calculated for each year, as well as the excess of births over deaths. For Prince Edward Island no data for the year 1912 are available. The figures by provinces in this table are not strictly comparable, owing to the diversity of practice which at present prevails as between the different provincial registrars. Not only is the statistical year not uniform for all the provinces, but there is no uniformity in the practice as regards the inclusion or exclusion of still-births. Thus, in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario still-births are eliminated from the calculations; but in Prince Edward Island, the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia they are included, and for these provinces the numbers of still-births, which are too small to affect materially the birth- and death-rates calculated, are given in a note at the foot of the table.

Vital Statistics of Cities.—Table 25 records the number of births, marriages and deaths by principal cities for the years 1913 and 1915 in continuation of the tables given in previous editions. In this table the natural increase per 1,000 of the population is based upon the locally estimated population in all cases where given.