

# CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS\*

## CONSPECTUS

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A short historical outline of the early collection of vital statistics in Canada is given at pp. 104-105 of the 1940 edition of the Year Book. Co-operation of the provinces in the collection of comparable statistics was finally effected as a consequence of the establishment of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, under the Statistics Act of 1918.

In 1919, as a result of a conference, a plan was devised whereby the Bureau of Statistics and the Registrar General's office in each province would co-operate in producing national vital statistics for the Dominion. Under this national system, while registration of births, marriages, and deaths, is carried out as heretofore by the provincial authorities, the legislation of each province conforms in its essentials to a model bill, prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, one of the features of which was compulsory registration. The Bureau of Statistics undertakes compilation and tabulation. From 1921 to 1925 vital statistics were compiled by the Bureau on a comparable basis for all provinces with the exception of Quebec.

Quebec has been included in the registration area only as from Jan. 1, 1926, from which date her statistics are on a comparable basis with those of the other provinces.

Two important considerations should be borne in mind by the student who uses either the tables that follow or the detailed reports issued by the Bureau of Statistics for comparative purposes. First, in spite of the improvements of the past decade, registration generally, and the registration of births in particular, is not as yet universally carried out. Secondly, the very considerable differences in the age and sex distribution of the population in different provinces make comparisons of crude birth rates and crude death rates, as among the provinces, unfair and misleading. All rates in this chapter have been recalculated on the basis of the revised estimates of population given at p. 70.

In 1938 the Vital Statistics Branch inaugurated a series of reports showing: (1) births according to residence of mother (issued in 1939); (2) deaths according to place of residence and place of occurrence for cities and towns of 5,000 population or over, and for the remaining parts of counties or census divisions (issued in 1938); (3) deaths according to residence and cause of death, by provinces; (4) the same information as in (3) for cities of 40,000 population or over; (5) the same information for places of 5,000 population or over but under 40,000. Deaths according to residences and causes for counties and census divisions, exclusive of places of 5,000 population or over are also given and the 1936 report covers live births, stillbirths, and deaths under one year and under one month. These reports are in three Parts and may be obtained from the Dominion Statistician, price 25 cents for each Part.

**Yukon and the Northwest Territories.**—The vital statistics of Yukon and the Northwest Territories have been collected and compiled since 1924. They are not, however, presented with those of the nine provinces in the tables of this chapter

\* This chapter has been revised in the Vital Statistics Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A list of the publications of this Branch will be found in Chapter XXVIII, Sect. 1, under "Population".