

Section 12.—Blind and Deaf-Mutes

Detailed statistics of the blind and of deaf-mutes are given for the 1941 Census in bulletin form. For previous censuses earlier editions of the Year Book should be referred to.

Blind.—A general test which took the form of a block of large blackfaced letters on the Census schedule* was used to determine the blind. In the case of children under 10 years of age, or older persons who were illiterate, inability to distinguish or count the fingers of one hand at a distance of twelve feet was alternatively adopted. Those who had lost the sight of one eye only were not regarded as blind. The blind in the nine provinces in 1941, not including 158 blind deaf-mutes, as shown in Table 48, numbered 9,962 or 8·7 per 10,000 of the population as compared with 3,266 or 6·1 in 10,000 at the beginning of the century.

Deaf-Mutes.—Deaf-mutism, unlike blindness, is preponderantly an infirmity originating at birth or an early age. The number of deaf-mutes in the nine provinces of Canada increased from 5,368 in 1881 to 7,194 in 1941.

* See census schedule Form 8, 1941 Census.

48.—Blind, Deaf-Mutes and Blind Deaf-Mutes, by Provinces and Territories, 1941

Province or Territory	Blind ¹			Deaf-Mutes ¹			Blind Deaf-Mutes		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Prince Edward Island . . .	56	55	111	43	21	64	3	3	6
Nova Scotia	475	363	838	219	213	432	5	8	13
New Brunswick	371	358	729	197	182	379	2	1	3
Quebec	1,684	1,468	3,152	1,480	1,366	2,846	35	28	63
Ontario	1,787	1,344	3,131	1,006	962	1,968	29	18	47
Manitoba	364	198	562	232	187	419	2	4	6
Saskatchewan	271	172	443	271	213	484	1	2	3
Alberta	245	152	397	186	156	342	5	4	9
British Columbia	384	215	599	134	126	260	5	3	8
Totals, Nine Provinces.	5,637	4,325	9,962	3,768	3,426	7,194	87	71	158
Yukon	1	Nil	1	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Northwest Territories	10	9	19	1	Nil	1	"	"	"
Canada	5,648	4,334	9,982	3,769	3,427	7,196	87	71	158

¹ Not including blind deaf-mutes.

49.—Blind¹ by Number and Proportion per 10,000 Population, by Provinces, 1881-1941

Province	Numbers							Proportions per 10,000 Population						
	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941
P.E. Island	68	82	67	58	75	82	111	6·2	7·5	6·5	6·2	8·5	9·3	11·7
Nova Scotia	359	406	485	332	576	749	838	8·1	9·0	10·5	6·7	11·0	14·6	14·5
New Brunswick	212	252	283	232	257	374	729	6·6	7·8	8·5	6·6	6·6	9·2	15·9
Quebec	1,102	1,219	1,035	1,117	1,253	2,295	3,152	8·1	8·2	6·3	5·6	5·3	8·0	9·5
Ontario	1,102	1,227	1,063	1,077	1,570	2,309	3,131	5·7	5·8	4·9	4·3	5·3	6·7	8·3
Manitoba	31	36	54	123	179	461	562	5·0	2·4	4·1	2·7	2·9	6·6	7·7
Saskatchewan	—	—	104	78	156	386	443	—	—	5·9	1·6	2·1	4·2	4·9
Alberta	—	—	60	71	101	237	397	—	—	8·2	1·9	1·7	3·2	5·0
British Columbia	128	128	115	138	221	450	599	25·9	13·0	6·4	3·5	4·2	6·5	7·3
Totals	3,002	3,350	3,266	3,226	4,388	7,343	9,962	7·0	7·1	6·1	4·5	5·0	7·1	8·7

¹ Not including blind deaf-mutes.