11.—Literacy.[1]

The results of the census of 1921 with regard to literacy furnish most encouraging evidence of the progressive elimination of illiteracy in Canada. Indeed, the rate of progress is not adequately shown by the comparison made in Table 35 between literacy in 1921 and in the two preceding censuses, since this comparison can be made only for the ages of 5 years and over, and experience has shown that the illiteracy of children in the quinquennial age group between 5 and 9 years of age is practically meaningless.

35.—Literacy among the Population 5 Years of Age and over, by Provinces, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Provinces.		Population.		Can read and write.	Can read only.	Cannot read nor write.	Per cent 5 years and over.		
		Total.	5 years of age and over.				Can read and write.	Can read only.	Cannot read nor write.
		No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island—	1901	103,259	91,860	77,372	4,591	9,897	84·23	5·00	10·77
	1911	93,728	83,792	76,259	1,153	6,380	91·01	1·38	7·61
	1921	88,615	78,969	72,147	1,335	5,487	91·36	1·69	6·95
Nova Scotia—	1901	459,574	407,152	331,007	18,143	58,002	81·30	4·46	14·24
	1911	492,338	433,801	384,605	4,358	44,838	88·66	1·00	10·34
	1921	523,837	463,442	413,952	6,026	43,464	89·32	1·30	9·38
New Brunswick—	1901	331,120	290,732	233,060	10,618	47,054	80·16	3·65	16·19
	1911	351,889	306,896	261,160	2,622	43,114	85·10	·85	14·05
	1921	387,876	338,996	293,454	3,286	42,256	86·57	·97	12·46
Quebec—	1901	1,648,898	1,411,324	1,099,693	61,614	250,017	77·92	4·37	17·71
	1911	2,005,776	1,714,545	1,483,301	12,977	218,267	86·51	·76	12·73
	1921	2,361,199	2,044,181	1,814,953	17,955	211,273	88·79	·88	10·33
Ontario—	1901	2,182,947	1,958,635	1,758,427	28,830	171,378	89·78	1·47	8·75
	1911	2,527,292	2,264,419	2,108,485	7,302	148,632	93·11	·32	6·57
	1921	2,933,662	2,632,085	2,447,588	15,207	169,290	92·99	·58	6·43
Manitoba—	1901	255,211	219,290	184,295	3,083	31,912	84·04	1·41	14·55
	1911	461,394	398,078	340,870	1,231	55,977	85·63	·31	14·06
	1921	610,118	532,306	464,369	4,011	63,928	87·24	·75	12·01
Saskatchewan—	1901	91,279	78,185	40,941	797	37,447	63·88	1·02	35·10
	1911	492,432	421,432	352,768	926	57,738	86·08	·22	13·70
	1921	757,510	644,335	566,038	4,609	73,688	87·85	·71	11·44
Alberta—	1901	73,022	62,554	42,731	707	19,116	68·31	1·13	30·56
	1911	374,295	325,916	283,513	1,198	41,205	86·99	·37	12·64
	1921	588,454	509,896	453,572	3,259	53,065	88·95	·64	10·41
British Columbia—	1901	178,657	163,336	121,782	973	40,581	74·56	·60	24·84
	1911	392,480	356,603	314,183	1,013	41,407	88·11	·28	11·61
	1921	524,582	474,787	427,374	2,552	44,861	90·01	·54	9·45
Yukon—	1901	27,219	26,864	17,374	54	9,436	64·67	·20	35·13
	1911	8,512	8,006	6,843	76	1,087	85·47	·95	13·58
	1921	4,157	3,880	2,732	8	1,140	70·41	·21	29·38
Northwest Territories—	1901	20,129	18,699	3,233	174	15,292	17·29	·93	81·78
	1911	6,507	5,672	857	7	4,808	15·11	·12	84·77
	1921	7,988	7,471	749	6	6,716	10·03	·08	89·89
Canada—	**1901**	**5,371,315**	**4,728,631**	**3,918,915**	**129,584**	**680,132**	**82·88**	**2·74**	**14·38**
	1911	**7,206,643**	**6,319,160**	**5,622,844**	**32,863**	**663,453**	**88·98**	**·53**	**10·50**
	1921	**8,788,483**	**7,739,833**	**6,957,412**	**58,254**	**715,167**	**90·00**	**·75**	**9·25**

Literacy of Population over 10 years of age by Age-groups and Birthplaces.—The proportion of the population 10 years of age and over totally illiterate—that is, unable to read and write in any language—was 5·10 p.c. in 1921, as shown in Table 36. This population included Indians, exclusive of whom

[1]For more detailed information see tables on pp. 645-689 of Vol. II of the Census of 1921, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.