



3 1761 04413 8550

Conference on vital statistics,
Ottawa, 1918.

Report of Conference on vital
statistics between representatives
of the dominion and provincial
governments.

HA
12
C65
1918



DOMINION OF CANADA



REPORT OF CONFERENCE

ON

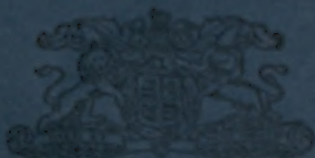
VITAL STATISTICS

BETWEEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION AND
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

HELD AT THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS, OTTAWA,
ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
JUNE 19 and 20, 1918

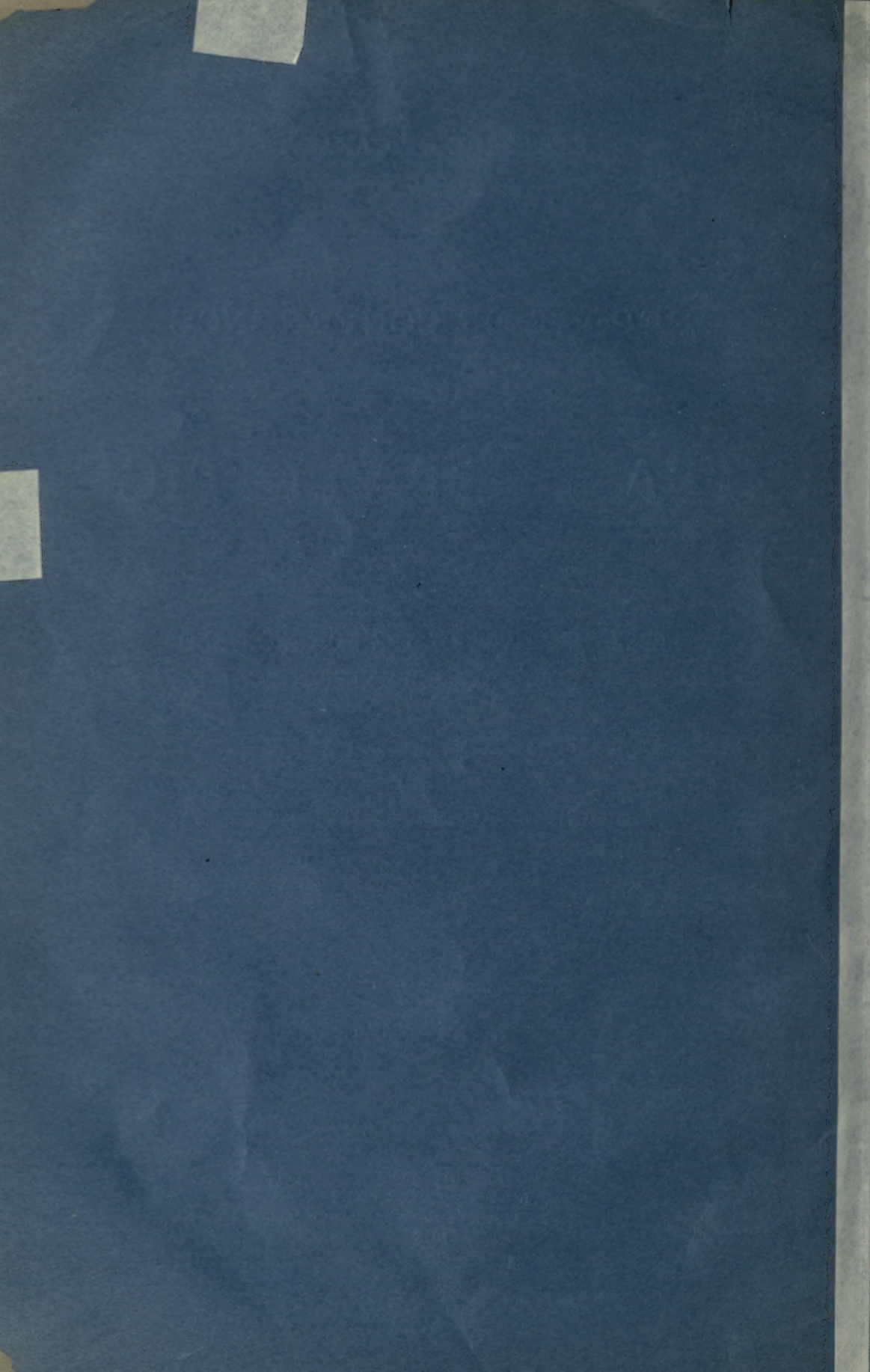


OTTAWA

J. DE LANQUERIE TACHÉ

PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1918



DOMINION OF CANADA

Conference on Vital Statistics, Ottawa, 1918

REPORT OF CONFERENCE

ON

VITAL STATISTICS

BETWEEN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION AND
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

HELD AT THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS, OTTAWA,
ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
JUNE 19 and 20, 1918



OTTAWA

J. DE LABROQUERIE TACHÉ

PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1918

HA
12
C65
1918

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS.

PROCEEDINGS OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1918.

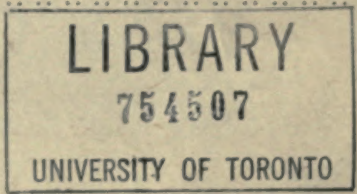
	Page.
Address of Welcome to Members and Delegates by Sir George Foster	4
Co-ordination of Vital Statistics in Canada. Address by R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., Dominion Statistician, Ottawa	5
Agenda, Item No. 1.—Decennial Mortuary Statistics to be Discontinued	8
Agenda, Item No. 2.—The Principle of Dominion and Provincial Co-operation	8
Agenda, Item No. 3.—The Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics—Model Bill and Schedules—Uniform Administration	9

PROCEEDINGS OF THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1918.

Agenda, Item No. 4.—Proposed Action by Dominion Bureau of Statistics	11
Adoption of General Resolutions	13
Mortuary Statistics, 13; Dominion and Provincial Co-operation, 13; Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics, 13.	
Votes of Thanks	14

APPENDIX.

Agenda I. Question of the Collection of Mortuary Statistics by the Decennial Census	17
Agenda II. Dominion and Provincial Co-operation in Vital Statistics	19
Agenda III. Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics	20
Agenda IV. Proposed Action by Dominion Bureau of Statistics	23
Population Schedule of Census, 23; Draft Order in Council, 24; Rules and Regulations, 25.	
Model of Vital Statistics Act	26
Office and Duties of Registrar General, 26; Registration Division, 27; Office and Duties of Division Registrars, 27; Duties of Assessors, 29; Church Notices, 29; Registration of Marriages, 29; Registration of Births, 30; Regis- tration of Deaths, 31; Penalties, 34; General, 36.	
Standard Forms	37
1, Official Notice of Marriage, 37; 2, Notice of Issue of Marriage License, 38; 3, Physician's Notice of Birth, 39; 4, Certificate of Registration of Birth, 40; 5, Physician's Notice of Death, 41; 6, Certificate of Registration of Death, 42; 7, Burial Permit, 43; 8, Cemetery Return, 44.	
Rules of Statistical Practice Adopted by the American Public Health Association (Section on Vital Statistics)	45



REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON VITAL STATISTICS

BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, HELD AT THE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS, OTTAWA, ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, JUNE 19 AND 20, 1918.

The Conference on Vital Statistics, which was held at the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, on June 19 and 20, 1918, was the outcome of correspondence between the Minister of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion and the Ministers respectively responsible for the administration of the Health Acts of the nine Provincial Governments. This correspondence was inaugurated by a circular letter, which in November, 1917, was addressed by Sir George Foster to each of the provincial Ministers above referred to. The letter referred to the growing demand for comprehensive and accurate vital statistics—a demand which will increase after the war—and the difficulty of meeting the same under present conditions. A plan of Dominion and provincial co-operation in the work was put forward, the letter concluding with the suggestion that the best method of arriving at a full understanding of the problem was by means of a conference between the Dominion and provincial officers concerned. This suggestion was cordially received by all of the Provincial Governments, and eventually the conference proposed was convened for June 19 and 20, 1918.

The attendance at the conference included the following members and delegates:—

Representing the Dominion Government.

- The Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster, G.C.M.G., M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa.
Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
Mr. E. H. St. Denis, Secretary, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
Mr. E. S. Macphail, Superintendent of Compilation, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.
Mr. E. H. Godfrey, Editor, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

Representing the Provincial Governments.

- Nova Scotia—Mr. A. J. Campbell, Bureau of Industries and Immigration, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
New Brunswick—The Hon. Wm. F. Roberts, M.D., Member of Executive Council, St. John; Captain Herbert J. Smith, St. John.
Quebec—M. G. E. Marquis, Chief, Bureau of Statistics, Quebec; Dr. J. W. Bonnier, D.P.H., Recorder of Vital Statistics, Superior Board of Health for the province of Quebec, Montreal.
Ontario—Lt.-Col. J. W. S. McCullough, M.D., D.P.H., Deputy Registrar General, Toronto;
Mr. S. J. Manchester, Chief Clerk, Register General's Department, Toronto.
Manitoba—The Hon. J. W. Armstrong, M.D., Provincial Secretary, Winnipeg.
Saskatchewan—Dr. M. M. Seymour, M.D., Commissioner of Public Health, Regina.
Alberta—Mr. Donald Mackie, Acting Deputy Registrar General, Edmonton.

Present by Invitation.

- Dr. W. H. Davis, M.D., Chief of Division of Vital Statistics, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.
 Mr. G. D. Finlayson, Superintendent of Insurance, Ottawa.
 Mr. A. D. Watson, Actuary, Insurance Department, Ottawa.
 Mr. E. Blake Robertson, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Immigration and Colonization, Ottawa.
 Dr. P. H. Bryce, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Department of Immigration and Colonization, Ottawa.
 Major D. L. McKeand, M.C., Board of Pension Commissioners, Ottawa.
 Mr. M. J. Patton, Commission of Conservation, Ottawa.
 Mr. D. E. Kilgour, Toronto; Mr. Hugh H. Wolfenden, Ottawa; and Mr. Arthur H. Wood, Montreal, representing the Actuarial Society of America.
 Dr. H. B. Small, M.D., Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa.
 Mr. Robert E. Mills, City Department of Public Health, Toronto.
 Mr. H. J. Ross, Union of Canadian Municipalities, Montreal.

PROCEEDINGS OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1918.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER opened the proceedings on the morning of Wednesday, June 19, with a brief address of welcome to the members and delegates. He said his Department had had at heart for a number of years the perfecting of a system of statistical information which should stand as authoritative for the Dominion. We had grown up in this country with forms of statistics devised by courts, corporations, municipalities and provinces, added to what was done by the Dominion. This meeting represented an effort to co-ordinate the work in one of the most important of these different branches of statistical activity. It had not been the purpose of the Dominion Government arbitrarily to attempt to enforce its opinions or to regulate other bodies in the gathering of statistical information; what was wanted was to co-ordinate the different efforts—municipal, provincial, and Dominion—particularly provincial and Dominion—to the end that they might adopt all features that were good, cut out all that were bad, and put in their place such organizations and methods as were up to date, without overlapping each other. It might be that legislation would be necessary to bring this about.

It was not necessary for him in a gathering of that kind to refer to the necessity for vital statistics. They had to do, of course, with the human element, with life and its progress—a knowledge of which was necessary as a basis for the work of social reform and of legislation. In the negotiations which had preceded the conference they had been met by the Provincial Governments in the broadest and most generous spirit. There were differences in jurisdiction, in powers and in politics, but difficulties of this kind could always be overcome by discussion and co-operation, each retaining its own powers and yet working together for a common purpose. He was especially glad to have with them that morning an eminent statistician from the United States (Dr. Davis) to give them the benefit of his experience and counsel. In conclusion he expressed the hope that as the result of their deliberations they might be able eventually to obtain for Canada a system of vital statistics equal to that of any of the sister Dominions within the Empire and indeed equal to that of any country in the world. (Cheers.)

Sir George Foster having withdrawn to fulfil other engagements, it was moved by Dr. BRYCE, seconded by Major McKEAND, and resolved unanimously that Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, be elected chairman of the conference.

Mr. COATS thanked the conference for the honour conferred upon him and expressed his personal obligations to those representatives whose assistance and advice

had made it possible for the conference to be called. He explained that all the provinces of the Dominion were represented at the conference with the exception of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, both of which, however, had written very cordially with regard to the movement. He asked leave to read the following address prepared for the purpose of giving a general view of the situation, and by way of introduction to the agenda prepared by the Bureau.

CO-ORDINATION OF VITAL STATISTICS IN CANADA.

Address by R. H. COATS, B.A., F.S.S., Dominion Statistician, Ottawa.

The present conference has been called for the purpose of completing plans for a system of vital statistics for Canada. It is unnecessary to emphasize the importance of such statistics. Not only are they necessary in preventing crime and in facilitating the transfer of property, but they lie at the basis of public sanitation and afford a measure of national efficiency from the most important standpoint of all, namely, the biological. As the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has been the prime mover in calling the present conference, a brief statement of its point of view and a summary of past history and of the present condition which it is proposed to correct may be of service.

Vital statistics are a part of the scheme of population statistics, or demography, which is, perhaps, the leading subject with which the Bureau has to deal. Two kinds of records are required in almost every accounting system: a periodical stock-taking, and a day-to-day record of transactions. In population statistics, the stock-taking is, of course, the decennial census; the day-to-day part consists of two records: first, migration into and from the country; and, second, the natural increase or decrease through births and deaths within the country, i.e., vital statistics.

The Bureau accordingly comes to the problem of vital statistics from two distinct angles. In the first place, we take the census. Now, the merchant who takes stock relates that process carefully to his day-books and ledgers, and so ought the census to relate its broad decennial inquiry to the needs and objects of vital statistics. Secondly, though the day-to-day recording of vital statistics is done by the provinces (civil rights, the protection of which is an important object of vital statistics, being assigned to the provinces by the British North America Act), the Bureau is also specifically instructed to compile vital statistics annually, doubtless in appreciation of the fact that such statistics are necessary for dealing with certain national problems—immigration, for example—and also that vital statistics even from the purely local standpoint must, if they are to be of real value, rest on the broadest possible basis. Side by side with this mandate goes another, which implies that the Bureau ought to avoid setting up duplicate organization for vital statistics, but should work through the provinces. At any rate, the machinery is provided for so doing.

Now, up to the present the Bureau has found it quite impossible to fulfil either of these functions properly. The reason lies in the provincial situation. One province has no vital statistics. In the others, legislation and methods differ often in the widest way. For example, the statistical year is not uniform; the international classification of deaths is not universally followed; and each province has its own scheme for the collection, compilation and presentation of these statistics. Take the highly important matter of the form of death certificate as an instance. Of the 24 items which such a certificate usually covers, two of the provinces omit 16, another 15, another 13, whilst the lowest number of omissions is 3, and this does not include other items of the 24 which differ in what they call for.

Administration is of first importance in vital statistics. The best legislation in the world will yield statistics that are worse than useless, if it is not administered efficiently. Now, standards of administration differ as between province and province and from time to time in the same province. I might instance a rather remarkable increase in the birth-rate in a certain province recently, the explanation of which lies,

not in any gain in reproductive force among the population, but in the energy with which the province in question has addressed itself to securing better registration. The gain, accordingly, is in departmental efficiency, and it is a very fine thing; but it is disconcerting to have the news of it given out in the form of a rise in the birth-rate. It will easily be seen that unless methods as well as legislation are standardized, no combination of vital statistics is possible. Accordingly, though this Bureau has made an annual practice of bringing together the more recent provincial vital statistics, we have always, for the above reasons, prefaced the figures with a note that they must not be made the basis of any calculation of mean birth- or death-rates, which signifies, being interpreted, that we are without true vital statistics.

The same factor has militated against careful delimitation of questions in the decennial census. Under a proper scheme, while the local authorities keep account of births and deaths from day to day, there are certain data of first-rate interest to Vital Statistics which the Census can obtain more readily. The Census has not always obtained these data, but we can plead in extenuation that it is hard to relate the census inquiry to a system of vital statistics when the latter does not exist.

Two interesting attempts to improve matters may be briefly mentioned. Thirty-five years ago the Dominion Government instituted a plan for compiling the annual mortuary statistics of cities of 25,000 and over, by subsidizing local boards of health to supply the information under special regulations. A beginning was made with the five cities of Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Halifax, and St. John, but by 1891 the list had grown to twenty-five. This was in the days when the only records of births and deaths were those of the municipalities. With the organization of provincial bureaus of vital statistics, the Dominion work was abandoned. Its demise, however, was marked by a significant incident, namely, a conference of Dominion and provincial officials, summoned by the Hon. A. R. Angers in 1893, which passed a resolution calling upon the provincial and federal authorities to co-operate in the work of collecting, compiling and publishing the vital statistics of the Dominion. That resolution has lain a long time dormant—exactly a quarter of a century—but we may hope to-day that its slumber is at last to be disturbed.

The other attempt to meet the situation was made through the medium of the Census. The framers of the original Census Act seemed to have thought that they might bridge the chasm in so far as mortuary statistics are concerned by instructing the Office, when taking the Census, to ascertain the number and causes of the deaths occurring in each household during the preceding year. But the results were not happy. It is a fundamental rule of census-taking that you should not ask questions involving the extensive use of memory or of scientific knowledge. The reason is obvious. Most people are not scientifically minded, and neither are the eight or ten thousand enumerators that the Census must employ at \$2 or \$3 a day to make its inquiry. In actual experience it was found that our enumerators missed 20 per cent of the deaths. (Incidentally we found that we got a good number that the local records missed.) The cause may be set down to migration of population, lapse of memory or knowledge in the person supplying the information and the difficulty of guarding against careless enumeration. Moreover, the information we did obtain was unsatisfactory, especially in the all-important matter of the cause of death. Even had the results been otherwise, mortality statistics at ten-year intervals are of comparatively little use. Moreover, we need birth-rates and marriage-rates only less insistently than death-rates. We also need morbidity statistics. The inability to get accurate and reliable vital statistics through the decennial census has been recognized in the United States, France and Germany for many years, and it is high time that we ceased so abortive an undertaking here.

Now, what is the remedy? It lies, we think, in taking up the matter where it was left by the Conference of 1893 and in framing a plan for permanent Dominion and provincial co-operation. In this it has seemed a natural part for the Bureau to take the first step. We have no right, as we have no inclination, to say to any province how it shall conduct its affairs. But Vital Statistics are scarcely on that footing. As

already said, their value, in relation to perhaps their most important ends, lies almost wholly in the breadth of the basis on which they rest, and a province which does such work in a water-tight compartment is losing half of the results. In fact, the basis of vital statistics is not even national. At the close of the war an Imperial Conference on statistics will probably be held, in which an inter-Imperial system of Vital Statistics is one of the items for discussion. Canada will, of course, be represented at that conference. It goes without saying, also, that we should be able to compare notes with the United States in such a matter. In fact, Vital Statistics are international in scope and interest.

What this Bureau has done in taking up the matter is, I think, known to all present. First, we drew up a memorandum to which was attached a model provincial Bill, model forms of registration and model regulations for procedure in detail, and also a model Order in Council to govern Dominion procedure—all based on thorough examination of vital statistical legislation and administration in the provinces and in other countries. This memo, we laid in an informal way, more than a year ago, before the provincial departments, from several of whom valuable criticisms and suggestions were received. In the light of these we have recast the matter, and the present conference is with the view that we may agree upon its final form.

Briefly, the plan, as we have sketched it out, involves that each province bring its legislation and administration to a standard to be agreed upon, the Dominion Bureau engaging to act as intermediary agent for the maintenance of the standard and to furnish the machinery for the compilation and centralization of the resulting statistics. With regard to the additional facilities and economies which co-operation in compilation work alone can effect, the possibilities are very great. The Census will also, of course, ensure that the supplementary decennial data will be obtained in the proper manner. By the above, it is not meant that any province must cast its system in an iron mould or surrender individuality. The standard is a minimum standard, pure and simple. This is the plan which has been adopted in Australia and the United States, two countries whose federal forms of government and whose social institutions approximate closely to our own.

Our meeting to-day consists of representatives who will approach the subject of vital statistics from, we hope, every possible angle. In addition to the representatives of the Provincial Vital Statistical Bureaus, who, with the representatives of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, may be called the principals in the conference, we have with us the Dominion Department of Immigration, the enlargement of whose records and their co-ordination with the general subject of Canadian demography is urgently called for, and the Department of Insurance which makes an exceedingly practical use of Vital Statistics—namely, the biometrical. We have also the Dominion Pensions Board and the Commission of Conservation, each of which has an important point of view. The American Society of Actuaries has kindly consented to send a committee. The Public Health aspect is represented both incidentally in the above, and by a delegate from the Canadian Medical Association. The Union of Canadian Municipalities and the Municipal Improvement League are also present. Finally, we have been so fortunate as to obtain the attendance of Dr. Davis, Chief of the Division of Vital Statistics of the United States Bureau of the Census. We had contemplated inviting a representative from Newfoundland, on the happy precedent established by Australia when New Zealand was included in the conference which brought the Australasian scheme of vital statistics into existence; but the exceptional circumstances of the past year prevented. This we shall hope to remedy.

The agenda we submit for your consideration consist of four main items, arranged to facilitate constructive discussion. First, we should like to establish the principle that Vital Statistics must be collected by the method of registration, and that the Census cease its decennial mortuary investigation. Secondly, we would affirm the general principle of provincial and Dominion co-operation under a scheme of uniform legislation and administration by the provinces and co-ordination by the

Dominion. Thirdly and fourthly, we should like to proceed to a detailed discussion of possible procedure by the provincial and Dominion Governments respectively to achieve this result.

When we have accomplished the above, or something to the same end, we shall have formulated what this conference set out to formulate, namely, a scheme of Vital Statistics for Canada. This, we may be sure, will receive sympathetic consideration by the governments concerned. The present situation ought not to be allowed to continue. So long as it does, we are among the backward nations. In Canada at the present moment public health problems cannot be satisfactorily studied. Immigration is one of the largest factors in our national development, but what immigration really means to Canada must, without Vital Statistics, remain a sealed book. We are at present engaged in the greatest war of all time, and we are without fundamental knowledge of our man power and how it is to be conserved and rebuilt, though we are fighting an adversary who measures such matters to a nicety. I feel confident that to-day will prove the beginning of the end of this, and that our conference will prove the first step towards a comprehensive and scientifically-conceived scheme of Canadian Vital Statistics.

On the motion of Captain SMITH, seconded by M. MARQUIS, it was resolved that the Chairman's address form part of the records of the conference.

The conference then proceeded to consider the first item upon the agenda paper, having reference to the proposed abandonment by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics of future attempts to collect mortuary statistics through the Census.

Agenda, Item No. 1.—Decennial Mortuary Census to be Discontinued.

Mr. MACPHAIL read the memorandum prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on this item (see page 17), and moved, seconded by Mr. Ross, a resolution that mortuary statistics be eliminated from future censuses.

Captain SMITH raised the question as to whether the mortuary statistics of the Census would prove a useful check upon provincial figures.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the object was to establish a principle. The instituting of a check was another matter. If it were thought that the Census could undertake an inquiry as a check, well and good.

Mr. WOLFENDEN said that in the United States mortuary statistics were continued by the Census until 1900. In 1910 they were discarded. It would be an advantage if Dr. Davis would favour them with his view as to whether they found the Census mortuary statistics of value.

Dr. DAVIS replied that the United States had discarded the census of mortality. No check had been recently attempted, except that two years ago inquiries were sent to all the physicians of the United States asking them to send in the number of deaths that occurred in their practice during a certain month. The replies were checked up with the transcripts in hand, and they showed that well over 90 per cent of the deaths were in. He mentioned this as a possible way of checking, if they abandoned the Census returns.

Action on the Resolution was deferred.

Agenda, Item No. 2.—The Principle of Dominion and Provincial Co-operation.

Mr. MACPHAIL, having read item No. 2 of the agenda paper (see Appendix, pp. 19 to 20), including a resolution in favour of the organization of a system of vital statistics by means of Dominion and provincial co-operation and the enactment of uniform provincial legislation, a brief discussion ensued, during which the question was raised by Dr. McCULLOUGH as to whether they should not first consider whether a

uniform law was desirable, and whether it was workable. It seemed to him that the proposed resolution could hardly be definitely adopted until they were sure that they could co-operate.

Captain SMITH suggested that the conference should deal with matters other than births, deaths and marriages, as, for instance, the question of industrial accidents. In matters of social reform, if they had not detailed statistics of this kind, efforts were only haphazard.

Mr. WATSON suggested the addition of divorces to the statistics of births, deaths, and marriages.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that a record of industrial accidents was maintained by the Department of Labour, and briefly described the arrangements made in this connection.

Action upon Resolution No. 2 was deferred.

Agenda, Item No. 3.—The Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics—Model Bill and Schedules—Uniform Administration.

The same procedure as in the case of Item No. 2 was adopted with regard to Item No. 3, in favour of the acceptance by the Conference of the draft Vital Statistics Bill as the basis for securing uniformity in each province (see Appendix, pp. 26 to 44).

The Conference then proceeded to discuss the draft Vital Statistics Bill clause by clause.

(Note.—The Bill as printed in the Appendix, pp. 26 to 44, is not as originally introduced, but embodies the various changes made by the conference.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1918.

The CHAIRMAN, at the opening of business, pointed out the desirability of expediting proceedings. The draft Bill was primarily an embodiment of principles, the exact wording being of secondary importance. He suggested that they limit their discussion to principles, and appoint a committee to draft the Bill finally. The committee might consist of Dr. McCullough and M. Marquis as representing, respectively, the two provinces nearest to Ottawa, and of himself, *ex officio*, on the understanding that they could seek the advice of other representatives near at hand—Dr. Bryce, Mr. Wolfenden, and Mr. Watson.

M. MARQUIS did not think he could accept membership on this committee, as the province of Quebec had a special system of collecting vital statistics, which it would be difficult to change. As long as Quebec could supply the standard information required he thought that would suit the case. He supposed it did not matter what tools were used if the results were produced.

The CHAIRMAN said he was in thorough agreement with the view that what they wanted was standard information, and that the means used in securing it were relatively unimportant. The Model Bill was merely a definition of the means which general experience had proved most efficient. If an equally efficient alternative existed there would be no objection to it. He was inclined to think that standard forms alone were not sufficient. A return 60 per cent perfect was not comparable with one 90 per cent perfect, whether made on standard forms or not. He thought they might ask Dr. Davis as to the object of adopting the Model Bill in the United States.

Dr. DAVIS said there was the same difficulty in Canada as in the United States. There were nine provinces to get into line in Canada, and they had forty-eight states. At present only twenty-eight states were in line. The object of the Model Bill was simply to point out a certain course of action or bit of machinery which would make

possible the collection of vital statistics in the easiest and best way. In the United States no two states had exactly the same law, even though that law was fashioned on the Model Bill. It had been necessary to make changes to conform to the laws of the states. One of the worst stumbling blocks they had was the county system. There should be a direct transmission from the registrar to the Federal Bureau. The Model Bill, he understood, was intended simply to bring before them an ideal. If all the provinces could not adopt it, it might be possible, as in the United States, to establish a registration area and admit thereto such provinces as would pass good laws and give proof of 90 per cent of registration. The Bill was simply a matter of machinery. The standard blank forms were a great thing, but they were not the whole thing. Certain of the states had used the standard blanks, but they did not get the returns. They needed the machinery of a good law to enable them to get the standard forms filled in.

Mr. KILGOUR said that the three representatives of the Actuarial Society of America there present, who had had considerable statistical experience in their work for insurance companies, held that a Model Bill, while not necessarily to be followed literally by all the provinces, was highly desirable. Standardization of method throughout was absolutely essential if accurate statistics were to be obtained.

Mr. WOOD endorsed Mr. Kilgour's statement, as it was very desirable that there should be a model law for the provinces to follow. Statistics that were not carefully collected were worse than useless. If a model law was to be prepared, the only way was to refer the details to a small committee.

Dr. ARMSTRONG thought a Model Bill, as a basis for uniform legislation, was highly desirable. He did not know how reports from the different provinces could mean the same thing unless they were collected under the same or similar laws. He could understand that Quebec might be an exception to this rule. In Manitoba they attached great importance to the details of the certificates of death, and if they could do so they were going to get certificates of sickness. The preservation of public health in Canada now was most important, and if they were to reduce the death-rate in infants they must get some plan that would show the reduction accurately. He was sorry to observe a tendency to minimize the importance of a Model Bill. He would like to see Manitoba conform as far as possible to the other provinces on good lines, and he was in hearty sympathy with the proposal of the Dominion Bureau to prevent overlapping.

Mr. WATSON considered that discussion of the Model Bill was the readiest way of bringing out divergent views. Provinces with perfect systems could review the Model Bill, and, perhaps, detect loop-holes in it; others from the discussion might discover loop-holes in their own systems. They were there to express their views as to an essential minimum. M. Marquis could help them to express this minimum, even though he might not need to make any changes in his own law.

Dr. SEYMOUR thought it exceedingly important that they should carry out the objects for which they had met, and one of these was the preparation of a Model Bill. Great reforms took time. It took years to put through medical registration, and they could not expect to put a measure of such great importance as this into proper form at once. They would, however, be making a move towards this object by outlining their opinions, and the best way of doing so would be to put this Model Bill into a working form. It was essential that the representatives of two of the older provinces should act on the Committee.

M. MARQUIS then withdrew his objection to serving on the committee. He described the system of vital statistics in Quebec, stating that with the machinery and system in existence they could produce results equal to those of the other provinces.

It was moved by Dr. SEYMOUR, seconded by Dr. ROBERTS, that the committee be appointed as suggested by the chairman.

Dr. McCULLOUGH said he was very desirous of having results come from the meeting, but he did not think the appointment of the committee named would get

them very much further. He could not serve on a committee representing two provinces only, but he would be willing to serve on a committee with representatives of each of the provinces.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that a committee of that kind was then sitting.

Dr. McCULLOUGH, proceeding, said there were more than the provincial representatives present. In any case, it had to be remembered that a Model Bill would have to run the gauntlet of the legislatures of the provinces. He thought they had the principles of the Bill in those provinces where there was legislation at the present time, together with the other machinery necessary for the collection of information, with the exception of standard schedules. He did not think any Model Bill would improve very much on the Act of Manitoba. It would take some time to prepare a Model Bill and standard certificates, but they would not get ahead by appointing a committee from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

After some further discussion, Dr. ROBERTS said he was impressed with the remark of Dr. Seymour that it took time to accomplish results. The difficulties rested mainly in Ontario and Quebec, and if these were solved all the provinces would fall into line. He had therefore supported the motion for a committee of three. As the representative from Ontario, however, had suggested a committee representative of all the provinces, this suggestion might be adopted, and such committee should have power, not necessarily to report, but to give a final finding. There would doubtless be many points to settle if a scheme of centralization went forward, and such a committee would be useful in more ways than one.

The CHAIRMAN said he was willing to accept the amendment and would ask British Columbia and Prince Edward Island to name representatives to complete the committee.

The question of the appointment of a committee representative of all the nine provinces having been put from the Chair and declared carried, the conference then resumed detailed consideration of the Model Bill. The remaining clauses having been disposed of, the Bill, as amended, was passed and referred to the special committee appointed to settle its final terms.

The CHAIRMAN, on the resumption of business at the afternoon session, said they had still two main items for consideration, viz.: (1) the question of standard certificates, and (2) No. 4 of their agenda paper, defining the policy of the Dominion Government.

It was decided to proceed first with the latter of these two subjects.

Agenda, Item No. 4.—Proposed Action by Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Mr. MACPHERL read the memorandum prepared on this subject, including the questions proposed to be asked in the Population Schedule of the Decennial Census and the draft Order in Council of the Dominion Government passing regulations under The Statistics Act, 1918, for the collection and publication of vital statistics by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Registrar General of each province. (See Appendix, pp. 23 to 25.)

Note.—The form of the draft Order in Council, as printed on pp. 24 and 25, is as finally approved by the conference.

On the preamble, Dr. ROBERTS said it seemed that an important omission had been made from the reasons given for the Order in Council as drafted. He thought the reform of vital statistics might be considered as a war measure. The chairman, in his opening address, had referred to the efficiency of Germany as due to a thorough understanding and organization of their nation. The point should be brought out in the "reasons."

The CHAIRMAN said they would be only too glad to incorporate Dr. Roberts' suggested addition. They might profitably insert a clause to read somewhat as follows:

"Whereas recent events have shown the necessity for the maintenance of an accurate inventory of man-power, etc."

Regulations 1 and 2 having been passed subject to amendment, considerable discussion arose on regulation 3, the original draft of which provided that the Minister (Trade and Commerce) might for each properly filled in transcript of original return of each birth, marriage or death, pay to the Registrar General of each province the sum of two cents.

It was contended by Dr. McCULLOUGH, Dr. BRYCE, Dr. ARMSTRONG, Dr. ROBERTS, Mr. CAMPBELL, M. MARQUIS, and Dr. SEYMOUR that as large sums were paid by the Provincial Governments for the collection of vital statistics in connection with the administration of the Health Acts, and an elaborate system of records had been built up, a substantial proportion of the cost should be borne by the Dominion Government, the opinion being voiced that the cost should be equally shared between the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The cost to a province and municipality of securing an individual return was 20 to 25 cents.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the 2 cents were intended merely to defray the cost of transcribing records. The amount was based on precedent in Australia, where 14 cent was paid, and in the United States, where the rate was 3 cents, but the latter country did not furnish the blank forms and other literature, nor did it carry out the compilation as proposed by the Order in Council. Under The Statistics Act, section 10, (reading) the Bureau had the right of access to provincial and municipal as well as private records. Fundamentally, the arrangement suggested by the Bureau proceeded on the assumption that the collection of vital statistics pertains to the provinces under the British North America Act and that the provinces would desire to continue the work and to maintain a minimum standard. If this assumption was incorrect, the Bureau would be glad to consider taking over the work, if the provinces would waive jurisdiction. At present the Bureau interpreted its function as a co-ordinating one, and it proposed to bear all expenses appertaining thereto, establishing a central clearing house under proper direction, compiling the statistics, and collating them with other statistics. He thought that such a plan would be greatly to the advantage of the provincial bureaus, and, in fact, that the latter could not do really effective work in a series of water-tight compartments. He described the similar arrangements made by the Bureau with twenty-seven provincial and Dominion Departments for taking the annual census of production. Reference was also made to the Institute of Agriculture at Rome, which was supported, not only in the acceptance of statistical direction, but financially as well, by the leading countries of the world for the benefits derived by the centralization of statistics of the more important world crops.

The chairman's view was supported by Mr. MACKIE, who expressed his conviction that the province of Alberta would furnish the statistics required for the cost of transcribing them, and by Mr. WATSON, Mr. KILGOUR and Mr. WOLFENDEN.

Dr. DAVIS said that data of importance to the country should not be withheld on questions of finance. Physicians, for example, went through a long period at college and spent a great deal of money, but if they by any chance discovered a remedy it was given out. He thought the same position should be taken by Government Departments.

Eventually, on the motion of Dr. McCULLOUGH, seconded by Mr. ROBERTS, it was resolved that the words "the sum of two cents" be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "such remuneration as may be mutually agreed upon between the Dominion Government and the several Provincial Governments."

The conference, returning to Item No. 3 on the agenda paper, then went into committee for consideration *seriatim* of the schedules and rules of statistical practice appended to the Model Bill, and these, after amendment in various particulars, were adopted, on the motion of Mr. MILLS, seconded by Mr. MANCHESTER. A resolution was also adopted requesting the Post Office Department to extend franking privileges to reports re communicable diseases, and the committee to revise the Model Bill was instructed to report as expeditiously as possible.

Adoption of General Resolutions.

Having resumed consideration of the proposed general resolutions which had been postponed from previous sessions, these resolutions were, on motion, unanimously adopted, as follows:—

Omission of Mortuary Statistics from the Schedules of the Decennial Census.—Resolved, that this conference, having reference to the mortuary statistics obtained by the censuses of 1901 and 1911, approves of the intended action of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in omitting inquiries *re* mortuary statistics from future censuses.

Dominion and Provincial Co-operation.—Resolved, that the organization of a system of vital statistics for Canada is imperatively demanded at the present time, such statistics (a) to include births, deaths and marriages; (b) to be on an annual basis; and (c) to be collected, compiled and published in a manner which will permit comparison to be made between different localities and provinces throughout the Dominion and between Canada as a whole and other countries.

That such statistics can best be secured by Dominion and provincial co-operation, following the procedure indicated in The Statistics Act, clauses 9 and 34.

That the general principle of such co-operation be (1) the enactment of uniform legislation and the adoption of uniform methods of administration by the provinces; and (2) an engagement on the part of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (a) to use its machinery as a centralizing and unifying agency and to collaborate with the provinces in a mutually satisfactory way in the collection, compilation and publication of vital statistics; and (b) to secure all necessary data in taking the population census.

Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics.—Whereas it is essential to a satisfactory scheme of vital statistics that the Acts, forms, regulations, etc., of the several provinces should agree in general principles and should provide for systems of registration in accordance with a uniform plan, and that there should be a uniform standard of statistical and general efficiency in order that conditions in every province may be submitted to analysis and comparison with those of other provinces or other communities similarly situated,

And whereas it is the opinion of this conference that, in order to secure co-operation between the Dominion and provincial authorities, as in the United States, Australia and other federated communities, the first step is to establish legislative and administrative standards for the provinces,

Be it therefore resolved: (a) that the draft Vital Statistics Act, subject to amendment by the committee appointed at this conference, with the forms appertaining thereto, be accepted as the basis for securing uniformity of legislation in each province, with such changes in wording and content as may be necessary to suit local conditions, provided, however, that the clauses relating to administration and to schedules and forms being part of the Act be accepted without material change;

(b) That the "Rules of Statistical Practice," as adopted by the American Statistical Association, be adhered to *mutatis mutandis* in regard to deaths and births;

(c) That mortality statistics be collected in accordance with the International Nomenclature of Causes of Death;

(d) That it is desirable no changes in the Act, regulations or forms agreed upon for the collection of vital statistics should be made by any province without submitting copies clearly outlining such changes and the reasons why they are contemplated to the Dominion Statistician, who shall immediately communicate copies of the intended amendments to the various provincial governments, and further, that such changes should not be put into effect if they will in any way lessen the merit or alter the scope of the information agreed upon as essential to a scheme of national vital statistics.

Votes of Thanks.

Dr. McCULLOUGH moved a vote of thanks to the chairman for the very careful way in which he had prepared the agenda, and expressed the pleasure they all had in having this conference with him. He hoped that lasting good might come of it.

Dr. ARMSTRONG, in seconding the motion, said he had noted the enormous amount of work involved. He was sure that the conference would be productive of a great deal of good, and while they had not seen eye to eye in everything, a start had been made, and he felt sure that the continuation of their deliberations along the same lines would result in great benefit to Canada.

M. MARQUIS supported the motion, and on behalf of the province of Quebec wished to thank the chairman for all the trouble he had taken. The various memos. he had received had made his own work very light, and he thought that Mr. Coats and his assistants deserved their best thanks. Finally, he wished in every way he could to help the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its endeavour to obtain uniform statistics from the nine provinces. He thanked them all for the cordial relationship established.

Mr. GODFREY having put the vote of thanks to the meeting, declared it carried by acclamation,

The CHAIRMAN expressed his gratitude for the motion, and said he must associate with it Mr. E. S. Macphail, who had done so much of the work. They were deeply grateful to all who had attended the conference and assisted in the discussion of this knotty problem. He personally as well as the Bureau, felt under special obligation to Dr. Davis, who had come all the way from Washington, on short notice and under pressure of other calls upon his time, to attend the conference.

Dr. BRYCE, as a co-member with Dr. Davis of the American Public Health Association, said it gave him great pleasure to move a special vote of thanks to Dr. Davis.

Dr. BONNIER seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Dr. DAVIS, in reply, said he appreciated the spirit they had shown and the chance he had had of associating with them in matters of this kind. He hoped that the conference would help towards a national advance in the vital statistics of Canada, and he believed it would. At the present time they had every prospect of completing what they had so well begun.

The conference closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

APPENDIX.

MEMORANDA PREPARED BY THE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS AS
A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE ON VITAL STATISTICS,
JUNE 19-20, 1918.

Agenda I. Question of the Collection of Mortuary Statistics by the Decennial Census.

Agenda II. General Principles of Dominion and Provincial Co-operation in Vital Statistics.

Agenda III. Standardization of Provincial Vital Statistics—Model Bill and Schedules.

Agenda IV. Proposed Action by Dominion Bureau of Statistics.



AGENDA—ITEM I. IN FUTURE DECENNIAL CENSUSES NO ATTEMPT TO BE MADE TO COLLECT MORTUARY STATISTICS.

The Census and Statistics Act, 1905, contained two clauses with reference to Vital Statistics: (1) It required that the Census and Statistics Office shall ascertain with the utmost possible accuracy for the various territorial divisions of Canada a record of all persons deceased within the Census year (section 14). (2) Under the heading "General Statistics," provision was made (section 19) for the collection of Vital Statistics in intercensal years in the following terms:—

Subject to the approval of the Governor in Council and under direction of the Minister, the Office shall collect, abstract and tabulate . . . Vital Statistics and information from time to time in intercensal years of each decade, in such ways and manners as are found most practicable.

Associated with the latter section, and for practical purposes to be read as part of it, is a provision (section 20) for co-operation between the Census Office and any provincial or municipal organizations which are engaged in the collection of Vital Statistics as follows:—

Whenever in any province or territory any system is established or any plan exists for collecting . . . Vital Statistics the Minister may under authority of the Governor in Council arrange with the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of such province or territory, or with the organization possessed of such system or plan, for the transmission of such information as is required by schedules prepared by the Office under direction of the Minister and approved by the Governor in Council for the procuring of such statistics.

It will be seen that two kinds of activity on the part of the Census are indicated: (1) independent inquiry in the decennial year; and (2) inquiry annually, presumably in collaboration with local authorities. With regard to the latter no action has ever been taken.

With regard to the data collected by the Census direct in the Census year, in every Census taken in Canada since Confederation an effort has been made to comply with the provision of the Census Act relating to Mortuary Statistics. It may be said at once that, although 30 cents was paid for every record of death compared with 5 cents for every record of a living person, the success which has attended the collection of these statistics in the past has not been such as would warrant a continuation of the effort. Some of the objections inherent in the collection of Mortuary Statistics decennially through the medium of Census enumerators are:—

(1) The making of the inquiry depends (a) upon the efficiency of the enumerator (the fact that he is paid for every such record entered does not guarantee comprehensiveness of inquiry) and (b) upon the memory of the informant as to dates and similar details. It is highly improbable that accurate information essentially technical and scientific in character can be obtained from even the most intelligent of the men chosen as Census enumerators whose main duties do not call for qualifications of this order. There is frequently inadequate knowledge in the household of the cause of death of a decedent and consequent inability on the part of the informant to distinguish between primary and contributory causes. Moreover, the person in possession of information may be absent on the day of visitation by enumerator.

(2) Migration from locality to locality, from province to province, from country to town, etc., disturbs the coherence of records. Emigration from and immigration to the country are similarly disturbing factors.

(3) The Census return duplicates that of the province, results disagree, confusion is created.

(4) Mortuary Statistics, to be of material value to the State, must cover a series of consecutive years; decennial statistics are all but valueless.

How potent the above objections are to invalidate statistical accuracy the following will show:—

(a) In the Census volume on this feature of the Census of 1901 the following comment occurs:—

It is well recognized that the mortality returns of a census are never full. They are often ten per cent or more below the actual deaths as verified by local registration and other sources of information. Indeed, no method of procuring mortality statistics is quite satisfactory, not even when the law requires regis-

tration to be made with a government or municipal officer before a burial permit can be issued. In Canada provincial registration is well organized in Ontario and Quebec, and in the case of these provinces an effort was made to supplement the census returns by comparison with the local records. It was found, however, that this could not be done for Quebec without more time than could be spared for the work, owing to the common practice in the parishes there of recording married women under their maiden names. For Ontario comparison was very carefully made, name by name, and after striking out the duplicates and the stillborn the total mortality for the census year in a population of 2,182,947 was ascertained to be 33,272. This is 6,243 more than the provincial records show, exclusive of stillborn. In the state of Michigan, where the same method of making up the mortality statistics was pursued for the United States Census of 1900, the total mortality in a population of 2,420,982 was ascertained to be 33,572 which is 9,961 more than the returns of census enumerators and 2,468 more than the state records show.—Census of 1901, Vol. IV, page 228).

At page 298 of the same volume it is stated that "the provincial records for the city of Montreal indicate a death-rate considerably higher than the census returns show."

(b) In 1911, the mortuary statistics obtained through the medium of the census, when compared with those of the provinces and principal cities, where supposedly effective systems of registration of deaths were in operation, are very disappointing. The following table gives a statement by provinces and for fifteen selected cities of the number of deaths returned by the local registrars:—

TABLE showing statistics of mortality as compiled from census returns compared with provincial and municipal figures, 1911.

Provinces and Cities.	Federal Census 1910-11.	From Provincial and Municipal Records for Calen- dar Year 1910.	Decrease of Census Figures Compared with Provincial or Municipal.
<i>Provinces.</i>			
Alberta.....	3,173	3,526	353
British Columbia.....	2,261	3,221	960
Manitoba.....	4,387	5,100	714
New Brunswick.....	4,359	No report.	-
Nova Scotia.....	6,350	8,237*	887
Ontario.....	25,752	34,539	7,787
Prince Edward Island.....	1,378	1,114†	†264
Quebec.....	33,334	35,183	1,849
Saskatchewan.....	3,197	2,221	†976
Yukon.....	28	87	49
Northwest Territories.....	473	No report.	-
<i>Cities.</i>			
Montreal.....	7,359	11,038	3,679
Toronto.....	3,148	5,593	2,445
Winnipeg.....	1,277	1,803	526
Vancouver.....	330	No report.	-
Ottawa.....	860	1,519	659
Hamilton.....	570	1,160	590
Quebec.....	1,565	1,554	†11
Halifax.....	585	829	244
London.....	441	768	327
Calgary.....	287	700	413
St. John, N.B.....	575	872	297
Victoria, B.C.....	243	405	162
Regina.....	100	211	111
Edmonton.....	317	379	62
Brantford.....	150	309	159

*Oct. 1, 1910—Sept. 30, 1911. †June 1, 1910—May 31, 1911.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

Resolved, that this conference, having reference to the mortuary statistics obtained by the censuses of 1901 and 1911, approves of the intended action of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in omitting inquiries *re* mortuary statistics from future censuses.

AGENDA—ITEM II. COMPREHENSIVE VITAL STATISTICS TO BE COLLECTED, COMPILED AND PUBLISHED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS ACCORDING TO A UNIFORM PLAN BY DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATION.

In discussing the vital statistics of Canada the Departmental Commission on Statistics appointed in 1912 reported as follows:—

"The discrepancies and omissions which characterize the vital statistics now collected throughout Canada call urgently for remedy. For the Dominion, now engaged in building up its national unity, it is important that uniform data should render possible to statisticians the institution of true interprovincial and international comparisons. By effective cooperation of the provinces with the Dominion this object should be capable of attainment without sacrificing the liberty of each province to satisfy its own special statistical requirements. The statistics published by the provincial boards of health might also with advantage be brought under review from the wider standpoint.

"In this connection the following statement from the report for 1918-19 of the Committee on Public Health of the Commission of Conservation, Canada, as published on page 7 of the Third Annual Report of the Commission, is of value as showing the practical bearing of statistics of this character:—

"It is essential that there should be a more uniform and systematic recording of births, marriages, and deaths in Canada than there is at present. There must be some system which while leaving to the provinces the collecting of the information, will allow of early and regular returns being made to a Dominion Office, where they will be carefully collected and published from time to time."

The above would seem in accordance with the consensus of opinion both in Canada and elsewhere as to the lines on which the improvement of conditions might proceed. Corroborative of the soundness of this view is the fact that the two countries whose federal form of government and whose social institutions approximate closely to those of Canada, namely, Australia and the United States, have both established excellent systems of vital statistics on the general basis above outlined. Unsatisfactory as conditions are at present, it would manifestly be an unwise duplication of energy to attempt to set up a second scheme of vital statistics in the provinces under different administration, even if such a procedure would not lead to direct friction and constitute an infringement of provincial rights. Co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Department is the line of action irresistibly suggested if waste of effort and the production of divergent results are to be eliminated, and if true comprehensiveness and comparability of results are to be achieved.

It may be added that on January 31, and February 1, 1893, a Conference between provincial and Federal public health authorities *re* cholera and Vital Statistics met at Ottawa, by invitation of the Hon. A. R. Angers, Minister of Agriculture, the specific subjects for consideration being (a) the relations between Dominion and Provincial sanitation laws and (b) the question of devising a method for collecting and publishing health statistics which would be common to the Dominion and to the provinces. At this Conference it was resolved: "That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable that the federal and provincial authorities co-operate in the work of collecting, compiling, and publishing the Vital Statistics for the Dominion."

It is apparent that the procedure for such organization is indicated under the clauses of the Census and Statistics Act cited in Item I, as amended by The Statistics Act, 1918, as follows:—

9. (1) The Minister may enter into any arrangement with the government of any province providing for any matter necessary or convenient for the purpose of carrying out or giving effect to this Act, and in particular for all or any of the following matters:—

(a) The execution by provincial officers of any power or duty conferred or imposed on any officer under this Act or the regulations;

(b) The collection by any provincial department or officer of any statistical or other information required for the purpose of carrying out this Act; and

(c) The supplying of statistical information by any provincial department or officer to the Dominion Statistician.

(2) All provincial officers executing any power or duty conferred or imposed on any officer under this Act or the regulations, in pursuance of any arrangement entered into under this section, shall, for the purposes of the execution of that power or duty, be deemed to be officers under this Act.

(34). Subject to the direction of the Minister, the Bureau shall collect, abstract and tabulate annually statistics in relation to all or any of the following matters: (a) Population; (b) Birth, Deaths and Marriages; (c) Immigration and Emigration; (d) Agriculture; (e) Education; (f) Public and Private Finance; (g) any other matters prescribed by the Minister or by the Governor in Council

PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

That the organization of a system of vital statistics for Canada is imperatively demanded at the present time, such statistics

- (a) to include births, deaths and marriages,
- (b) to be on an annual basis, and
- (c) to be collected, compiled and published in a manner which will permit comparison to be made between different localities and provinces throughout the Dominion and between Canada as a whole and other countries.

That such statistics can best be secured by Dominion and provincial co-operation, following the procedure indicated in The Statistics Act, 1918, clauses 9 and 34.

That the general principle of such co-operation be: (1) the enactment of uniform legislation and the adoption of uniform methods of administration by the provinces; and (2) an engagement on the part of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (a) to use its machinery as a centralizing and unifying agency and to collaborate with the provinces in a mutually satisfactory way in the collection, compilation and publication of vital statistics, and (b) to secure all necessary data in taking the population census.

AGENDA—ITEM III. PROVINCIAL VITAL STATISTICS AND THEIR STANDARDIZATION.

In order to fully emphasize the difference in scope and methods employed in each province and the necessity for standardization, it would be necessary to make a close analysis of existing vital statistics. For the present, however, it will suffice to note (1) that one province neither collects nor publishes vital statistics, and (2) that as between the others there exist wide differences in scope and methods:—

(a) The statistical year is not uniform in all; in Prince Edward Island it ends on August 31; in Nova Scotia on September 30; whilst in the other provinces the calendar year is adopted.

(b) The Bertillon or International classification of causes of death is wholly or partially adopted by seven provinces, but not by the eighth.

(c) Each province adopts a separate scheme for the collection, compilation and representation of these statistics. As a consequence comparisons between one province and another are at present valueless.

Confining for the present our attention to mortuary statistics, the certificate of death in every province should contain provisions for obtaining in a uniform way some twenty-four items. These items must be accurately supplied by the informant and the physician (if any), and carefully recorded on the prescribed forms before they can be accepted as a basis for a satisfactory return of mortuary statistics.

The following table shows the items of information regarding a decedent which are required for a proper summary of mortuary statistics, and to what extent the form of death certificates used at present in each province would supply the items of information in question:—

c. Information complete. o. Information omitted. i. Information incomplete.

Items necessary in Standard Death Certificate.	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island
1. Registered number of death	c	o	e	e	e	o	e	e	e
2. Full name of deceased	c	e	e	e	e	o	e	e	e
3. Sex	c	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
4. Racial origin	c	o	o	o	o	i	o	o	o
5. Conjugal condition	c	i	e	e	e	i	o	i	o
6. Birthplace	c	e	e	e	e	o	e	e	e
7. Age (in years, months and days)	c	i	e	e	e	o	e	e	i
8. Last occupation—									
(a) Trade, profession or kind of work	i	i	i	i	i	o	i	i	o
(b) Industry or establishment in which employed	i	i	i	i	i	o	o	o	o
(c) How long was deceased employed there	c	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
9. Former occupation—									
(a) Trade, profession or kind of work	i	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
(b) Industry or establishment in which employed	i	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
(c) How long was deceased employed there	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
10. Birthplace of father	c	o	e	e	o	o	o	o	o
11. Birthplace of mother	c	o	e	e	o	o	o	o	o
12. How long in Canada if an immigrant	c	o	e	i	o	o	o	o	o
13. Date of death	c	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e
14. Place of death (county and township, city or town. If in institution, name)	i	e	e	e	e	i	i	e	i
15. Cause of death, primary, contributory (from physician's report)	e	e	e	e	e	e	i	e	i
16. Name and address of physician	c	e	e	e	e	e	i	e	i
For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients and Recent Arrivals.									
17. Duration of residence—									
(a) At place of death	o	e	e	e	o	o	o	o	o
(b) In the province	i	e	e	e	o	o	o	o	o
18. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death	o	e	o	e	o	o	o	o	o
19. Former or usual residence	o	e	e	e	o	o	o	o	o
Items omitted	3	8	5	4	12	16	19	13	16
Items defective	5	4	2	3	2	2	4	2	4

The conclusion is thus reached that provincial vital statistics as at present collected afford no possibility of calculating mean annual birth-marriage or death-rates that can be recognized as statistically satisfactory, or that would meet actuarial requirements. They cannot, therefore, be employed by any central agency for those wider ends that are so important, not only from a national, but from a local point of view.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

Whereas it is essential to a satisfactory scheme of vital statistics that the Acts, forms, regulations, etc., of the several provinces should agree in general principles and should provide for systems of registration in accordance with a uniform plan, and that there should be a uniform standard of statistical and general efficiency in order that conditions in every province may be submitted to analysis and comparison with those of other provinces or other communities similarly situated,

And whereas it is the opinion of this conference that, in order to secure co-operation between the Dominion and provincial authorities, as in the United States, Australia and other federated communities, the first step is to establish legislative and administrative standards for the provinces,

Be it therefore resolved (a) that the draft Vital Statistics Act herewith attached, with the forms appertaining thereto, be accepted as the basis for securing uniformity of legislation in each province, with such changes in wording and content as may be necessary to suit local conditions, provided, however, that the clauses relating to administration and to schedules and forms being part of the Act be accepted without material change;

(b) That the "Rules of Statistical Practice," as adopted by the American Statistical Association be adhered to *mutatis mutandis* in regard to deaths and births;

(c) That mortality statistics be collected in accordance with the International Nomenclature of Causes of Death;

(d) That it is desirable no changes in the Act, regulations or forms agreed upon for the collection of vital statistics should be made by any province without submitting copies clearly outlining such changes and the reasons why they are contemplated to the Dominion Statistician, who shall immediately communicate copies of the intended amendments to the various provincial governments, and further that such changes should not be put into effect if they will in any way lessen the merits or alter the scope of the information once agreed upon as essential to a scheme of national vital statistics.

AGENDA, ITEM IV. PROPOSED ACTION BY DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The duty of the Dominion Government in connection with vital statistics lies in two distinct fields: (1) In the enumeration of the people at stated intervals, on which occasions the questions submitted to each individual should be so framed as to afford a full and proper index from the standpoint of vital statistics; and in presenting a general statistical background for vital statistics; and (2) in connection with the annual records of births, deaths and marriages by provincial authorities to lead its help in securing uniformity of standards and methods and in compiling and issuing data in the form best calculated to subservise the general interests. To these may be added the compilation and collation of statistics of migration.

Under each of these a definite suggestion is made hereunder. A list of the questions it is proposed in future to ask at the decennial population census of the Dominion is first given, questions 12 and 13 having been introduced to meet the needs of vital statistics. Then follows a draft Order in Council designed to outline the action to be taken by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in connection with the annual publication of vital statistics. Briefly, it is proposed that the Bureau should, as in Australia and the United States, obtain transcripts, on payment of a just rate, of all original records filed with local registrars, and should compile and publish results under such headings as experience may prove most conducive to the broad purposes of vital statistics. In Australia, it may be noted, the compilations were originally made by the state authorities in accordance with a general plan, the Commonwealth Statistical Office receiving only summary results. This plan, though it eliminates the possibility of duplication in the work of compilation, does not provide a check, nor does it leave open an opportunity for the central office to make special inquiries or analyses of the data as current problems may suggest. It has accordingly been abandoned in Australia. The whole matter of the arrangements between Dominion and province in connection with the compilation and publication of the statistics might be left flexible. For example, certain of the provinces might prefer lending the records temporarily, to be returned within, say, 21 days of date of receipt. The Dominion might carry out the entire work of compilation, returning the results to the provinces in a form to be agreed upon, or the Dominion and the provinces might compile independently and check results. There would appear no reason why different arrangements in matters of detail might not be adopted in the case of different provinces.

QUESTIONS ON THE POPULATION SCHEDULE OF THE DECENNIAL CENSUS.

Number in the order of visitation—

1. Dwelling house.
2. Family, household or institution.

Residence and personal description—

3. Name of each person.
4. Place of habitation.
5. Sex.
6. Single, married, widowed, divorced or legally separated.
7. Month and year of birth.
8. Age at last birthday.
9. Country or place of birth.
10. Rural or urban born.

Mother of how many children—

11. Number born alive.
12. Number still living.

Citizenship, Nationality and Religion—

13. Year of immigration to Canada.
14. Year of naturalization.
15. Racial or tribal origin.
16. Nationality.
17. Religion.

Profession, occupation, trade or means of living—

18. Chief occupation or trade.
19. Employer, employee, working on own account.
20. Where employed as—"on farm", "in cotton mill", etc.
21. Secondary occupation.
22. If unemployed on date of census, state date from which unemployment has been continuous.
23. Cause of unemployment—as, sickness, trade disputes, etc.

Education and language of each person five years old and over—

24. Months at school in 19 .
25. Can read.
26. Can write.
27. Can speak English.
28. Can speak French.
29. Other language spoken as mother tongue.

Ownership of home—

30. Owned or rented.
31. Materials of construction.
32. Rooms occupied by this family.
33. Farm or house.

In cities and towns only—

34. Has this family running water in sink and closet.
35. Rent paid if heating not included.
36. Rent paid if heating included.

Infirmities—

37. Blind (both eyes).
38. Deaf and dumb.
39. Insane or lunatic.
40. Idiotic or feeble minded.

DRAFT ORDER IN COUNCIL *RE* ANNUAL VITAL STATISTICS.

Whereas the registration of births, marriages and deaths at the time of their occurrence furnishes an official record of much value to individuals; and

Whereas the registration of deaths with information upon certain points is essential to the progress of medical and sanitary science in preventing and restricting diseases and in devising and applying remedial agencies; and

Whereas all the principal countries of the civilized world recognize the necessity for such registration and enforce the same by general laws; and

Whereas annual registration of marriages, births and deaths is now carried on by the provinces under laws which differ in their requirements; and

Whereas the desirability of uniformity in the laws, systems and methods regulating the collection and tabulating of such data has long been recognized by all who have attempted to make original compilations of the returns of births and deaths from the different provinces or to extract and collate comparable figures from the various statistics published; and

Whereas experience has shown the impracticability of attempting to procure through the medium of a decennial census complete records of the number of deaths together with proper and adequate description of the cause of deaths; and

Whereas it is a matter of national importance as shown by recent events that there should be a thorough inventory of man-power and complete and accurate annual statistics not only of death but also of the anterior facts of marriages and births; and

Whereas the reporting of communicable diseases by physicians will lead to a better knowledge of morbidity conditions and will so render possible the application of remedial measures;

Therefore, His Excellency, by and with the advice of the Privy Council for Canada has been pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that the Minister of Trade and Commerce be empowered under the provisions of Chapter 43, Statutes of Canada, 1918, entitled "An Act respecting the Dominion Bureau of Statistics", to open negotiations

with the several provinces looking towards the perfecting of a system of co-operation to the end that the Dominion of Canada may secure a complete and uniform system of registration of marriages, births and deaths and of morbidity reports which will promote uniformity in statistical methods as applied to vital statistics throughout Canada and so insure the greatest possible coordination of statistical effort in this regard.

The annexed Rules and Regulations for securing a mutually satisfactory basis of co-operation between the Minister and the Registrars-General of the different provinces as to the way and manner in which statistics of births, marriages and deaths and of morbidity shall be collected by the provinces and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are hereby adopted and approved.

Rules and Regulations.

1. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics may receive transcripts or certified copies of the original returns of marriages, births and deaths made by the clergymen, physicians, undertakers or other persons upon whom it is incumbent to make such returns.

2. These copies are to be forwarded by the provincial department charged with the execution of the Vital Statistics Act in each province to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics quarterly or monthly on dates to be agreed upon.

3. The Minister may for each properly filled in transcript or copy of original return of each birth, marriage or death pay to the Registrar-General such remuneration as may be mutually agreed upon. He may also print and supply free of charge the necessary forms as appended to the Model Act upon which the returns shall be made to the registrars by clergymen, physicians, undertakers, etc.

4. Nothing in the preceding sections shall preclude an arrangement between the Bureau of Statistics and any provincial department whereby the original returns may be forwarded to the Bureau for transcript, compilation and return in order to avoid duplication of work and office expense.

5. The Bureau of Statistics shall compile, tabulate and publish the vital statistical data for the Dominion as a whole, and may furnish monthly or quarterly compilations, according to a stated plan, to each province of the data appertaining thereto.

6. The Bureau of Statistics shall also co-ordinate the statistics of immigration and emigration with vital statistics.

7. The Minister may, from time to time, out of the Vote for the Bureau of Statistics, devote a sum not exceeding \$ to pay the expenses of one representative from each province to attend at Ottawa a conference of vital statisticians. Such conference shall be for the purpose of bringing about a closer official and personal association of the registration officials of the several provinces and of increasing co-operation between government bureaus and other organizations interested in the improvement and use of vital statistics and of promoting the introduction of effective systems of registering vital statistics for public health and legal purposes, including the revision from time to time of the classification of causes of death; aiding in the maintenance of uniform methods of collecting, preserving, correcting and compiling registration records and of publishing the statistical data derived therefrom; and in general of promoting a proper appreciation of the necessity and importance of vital statistics.

8. The Minister may, after each decennial revision of the International Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death, have prepared a "Manual of the International List of the Causes of Death", to contain (1) the terms of the French list or as many of them as may be properly used in English, (2) the terms founded upon medical certificates of causes of death as reported by Canadian physicians, (3) the terms of the Nomenclature of Diseases of the Royal College of Physicians of London, England. The final draft of the manual may, if the Minister considers it necessary, be submitted for revision and approval to a committee of the Canadian Medical Council appointed for the purpose, which committee shall report to the Minister.

9. The Minister may also prepare and supply free of charge to Provincial Registrars for distribution to all duly qualified physicians in the Dominion a Physician's Pocket Reference to the International List of Causes of Death.

10. The provisions of the foregoing clauses shall apply only to such provinces as shall adopt the "Model Act" as the basis of their legislation on vital statistics or have enacted legislation which conforms to the salient features of the "Model Act", and provided that the standard certificates and forms supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shall be used in obtaining the original returns, and provided further that each province shall furnish satisfactory evidence that it received returns of at least 90 per cent of all marriages, births and deaths occurring in each calendar year.

MODEL OF VITAL STATISTICS ACT FOR UNIFORM LEGISLATION IN THE PROVINCES OF CANADA.

AN ACT RESPECTING VITAL STATISTICS.

Office and Duties of Registrar-General.

Annual Report of Registrar-General.	1. The Registrar-General shall annually collate, publish and distribute for the use of the Legislature a full report of the births, marriages and deaths of the preceding year, giving such details, statistics and information as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may deem necessary.
Regulations.	2. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make such regulations as he may deem necessary for the purpose of obtaining information required by this Act.
Searching records with Registrar-General.	3. Any person shall be entitled at all reasonable hours on payment of the prescribed fee and on signing an application in the prescribed form, to have search made of the record of a birth, marriage or death kept in the Office of the Registrar-General.
Certificate of Registrar-General.	(2) The Registrar-General shall, when requested, give a certificate of the details of any birth, marriage or death of which there is a record in his office on payment of the prescribed fee.
Effect as evidence.	(3) The certificate shall be <i>prima facie</i> evidence in any court, or in any proceeding before a Justice of the Peace, of the facts certified to be recorded.
	(4) The fees to be paid for searches and certificates shall be prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.
	NOTE. —Introductory interpretation clauses to be inserted according to the circumstances of the particular province.
Registrar-General to prepare schedules and forms.	4. The Registrar-General shall cause such schedules and forms to be used as may be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, in order to obtain correct statistical information, and the same shall be prepared according to the schedules appended to this Act. He shall distribute them to the Division Registrars.
Instructions.	5. The Registrar-General shall prepare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required to procure the uniform observance of the provisions of this Act and the maintenance of a perfect system of registration; and no blanks shall be used other than those supplied by the Registrar-General. He shall carefully examine the certificates received monthly from the local registrars, and if any such are incomplete or unsatisfactory he shall require such further information to be supplied as may be necessary to make the record complete and satisfactory.
Examination of certificates.	
Incomplete certificates.	(2) All clergymen, physicians, nurses, informants or undertakers, or other persons having knowledge of the facts, are hereby required to supply, upon a form provided by the Registrar-General or upon the original certificate, such information as they may possess regarding any marriage, birth or death upon demand of the Registrar-General, in person, by mail, or through the local registrar; provided that no certificate of birth, or death, after its acceptance for registration by the local registrar, and no other record made in pursuance of this Act, shall be altered or changed in any respect otherwise than by amendments properly dated, signed and witnessed.
How corrected.	
Preservation of certificates.	(3) The Registrar-General shall further arrange, bind and permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner, and shall prepare and maintain a comprehensive and continuous card index of marriages, births and deaths.
Infectious diseases.	(4) He shall inform all Division Registrars what diseases are to be considered infectious, contagious or communicable and dangerous to the public health, as decided by the provincial Board of Health, in order that when deaths occur from such diseases, proper precautions may be taken to prevent their spread.
Records in possession of Associations.	(5) If any cemetery, company or association, or any church or historical society or association, or any other company, society, or association, or any individual is in possession of any record of marriages, births or deaths which may be of value in establishing the

genealogy of any resident of this province, such company, society, association or individual, may file without expense to them such record or a duly authenticated transcript thereof with the Registrar-General, and it shall be the duty of the Registrar-General to preserve such record or transcript and to make a record and index thereof in such form as to facilitate the finding of any information contained therein. Such record and index shall be open to inspection by the public, subject to such reasonable conditions as the Registrar-General may prescribe.

6. The Registrar-General shall keep a true and correct account of all fees by him received under these provisions and turn the same over to Provincial treasurer.

7. The Registrar-General is hereby charged with the thorough and efficient execution of the provisions of this Act in every part of the province and is hereby granted supervisory power over inspectors, division registrars, deputy division registrars and sub-registrars, to the end that all its requirements shall be uniformly complied with. The Registrar-General, either personally or by an accredited representative, shall have authority to investigate cases of irregularity or violation of law, and all registrars shall aid him, upon request, in such investigations. When he deems it necessary, he shall institute proceedings in cases of violation of any of the provisions of this Act.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an Inspector of Vital Statistics whose duty it shall be to inspect the registration offices and examine the schedules prepared under this Act and to see that the entries and registrations are made and completed in a proper manner and in legible handwriting.

Registration Division.

9. All territory within the province shall be a part of some Registration Division.

10. Every municipality shall be a Registration Division.

11. Territory not within a municipality may be attached to an existing Registration Division, or set apart as a Registration Division, by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

12. Where a Registration Division is formed of territory not within a municipality the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a Division Registrar for it and may make such regulations as he may deem necessary to secure a correct record of the births, marriages and deaths occurring therein.

Office and Duties of Division Registrars.

13. The Clerk or Secretary-Treasurer of every municipality, or such person as may be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, shall be the division registrar of the same.

(1) The Registrar-General shall supply to every division registrar schedules in the prescribed form upon which the division registrar shall enter the details of every birth, marriage and death registered in his office, and it shall be the duty of such division registrar to apply to the Registrar-General for the issue of such forms whenever he may require them. In case of the resignation or dismissal of such division registrar, or the termination of his appointment by the effluxion of time or otherwise, he shall hand over all such forms and other matter pertaining to his duties under this Act, in his possession to his successor in office.

(2) The division registrar shall make every schedule in duplicate, and on or before the fifteenth days of January, April, July and October in every year, he shall transmit to the Registrar-General one duplicate of each schedule down to and including the last day of the month next preceding, and the other duplicate schedule shall be kept by the division registrar on file in his office. He shall, on or before the seventh day in each month, transmit to the Registrar-General the original returns of every birth, marriage or death made by the person registering during the month next preceding and, if no births,

marriages or deaths occurred in any month, he shall on the seventh day of the following month report the fact to the Registrar-General on the prescribed form.

Duplicate schedules to be preserved.

(4) The duplicate schedule shall be bound up or otherwise arranged from time to time by the division registrar in such manner as may be prescribed.

Custody of schedules and forms.

(5) It shall be the duty of the division registrar to keep the schedules, forms and documents received by him in a place of safety, and he shall use all available means to obtain the necessary information for the purpose of completing the records required to be made by him.

Duty of Division Registrar on default being made in registration.

(6) If the division registrar has reason to believe that a birth, marriage or death has taken place within his division which has not been registered, he shall inform the proper person of his duty to register the same, and, on failure of such person to make the registration, the division registrar shall forthwith supply the Registrar-General with such information as he possesses in regard to the matter.

Expenses paid by municipality.

(7) The expense incurred by the division registrar for postage, stationery and all other matters under this Act shall be paid to him by the municipality of which he is the division registrar.

Certificate of registration.

14. A division registrar, upon application therefor and on payment of the prescribed fee, shall make any search and shall give a certificate in the prescribed form, as to any one registration not included in any monthly return made, but shall not make any search or give any certificate other than such as is authorized by this section or in any other than the prescribed form.

Division Registrar entitled to fee.

(2) The division registrar shall be entitled to the fees for such searches and certificates for his own use.

Correcting errors in registration.

15. If at any time after the registration of a marriage, birth or death any of the particulars thereof are found to be omitted or incorrect, then, upon the error being reported to the proper division registrar, it shall be his duty to inquire into the same, and, if satisfied that the entry is incorrect to correct the error according to the fact, entering the correction in the margin of the record, without alteration of the original entry, and shall note thereon the fact that the correction has been made and the date thereof.

Correction by Registrar-General after return.

(2) If the schedule containing a copy of the original entry has been returned to the Registrar-General, the Registrar-General shall on evidence satisfactory to him correct the error in the margin of the schedule as well as in the indexed record thereof, without altering the original entry, and shall note on them the fact that the correction has been made and the date thereof.

Division Registrar to supply blank forms.

16. Each division registrar shall supply free of charge blank forms of certificates to such persons as require them. Each division registrar shall carefully examine each certificate of marriage, birth or death when presented for a record in order to ascertain whether or not it has been made out in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the instructions of the Registrar-General; and if any certificate of death is incomplete or unsatisfactory it shall be his duty to call attention to the defects in the return, and to withhold the burial or removal permit until such defects are corrected. All certificates, either of marriage, birth or death, shall be written legibly, in durable black ink, and no certificate shall be held to be complete and correct that does not supply all of the items of information called for therein, or satisfactorily account for their omission. If the certificate is properly executed and complete, he shall then issue a burial or removal permit to the undertaker; provided that in case the death occurred from some disease which is held by the Provincial Board of Health to be infectious, contagious or communicable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for the removal or other disposition of the body shall be issued by the Registrar except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Provincial Board of Health. If a certificate of birth or marriage is incomplete, the local registrar shall immediately notify the informant, and require him to supply the missing items of information if they can be obtained. He shall number consecutively the certificates of births, marriages and deaths, in three separate series, beginning with number 1 for the first birth, the first marriage and the first death in each calendar year, and sign his name, as registrar in attest of the date of filing in his office.

Examine certificates.

Issue permits proviso.

17. Each Division Registrar is hereby charged with the strict and thorough enforcement of the provisions of this Act in his district, under supervision and direction of the Registrar-General. And he shall make an immediate report to the Registrar-General of any violation of this law coming to his knowledge, by observation or upon complaint of any person, or otherwise.

Duties of Assessors.

18. It shall be the duty of the assessor or assessors of each city, town, village or municipality, notwithstanding anything which may be contained in any charter of such city, town, village or municipality, when making the assessment, to inquire of each resident taxable party, whether there have been any births or deaths in the family since the last assessment, and whether the same have been registered or not; if any have not been registered the assessor shall put the number in the column in the assessment roll, headed "Birth" or "Death" as the case may be; and, if they have been registered, he shall put the letter "R" in the column headed "Registered" and as soon as the assessment roll has been completed he shall transmit to the division registrar the number of such births and deaths not registered, giving the names and addresses of the parents of children whose births are not registered and the names and addresses of persons whose deaths have not been registered.

(2) On the assessment notices to be sent by assessors to each person assessed, and also on the tax notices to be mailed by municipal treasurers or collectors, under the provisions of "The Assessment Act", there shall be printed a brief summary of the principal provisions herein as regards the duty of the general public in reference to the registration of births, marriages and deaths, in such form as shall be from time to time prepared by the Registrar General and forwarded to the division registrars who shall forthwith furnish certified copies thereof to the assessors, treasurers and collectors of their respective municipalities. It shall be the duty of the assessors, treasurers and collectors to see that the provisions of this section are carried out.

Church Notices.

19. Every clergyman, minister or other person authorized to baptize or perform the ceremony of marriage or conduct funeral services shall keep registers in such form as may from time to time be determined by the Registrar-General, showing the persons whom he baptizes or marries or who die within his cure or congregation, or over whose bodies he may have conducted funeral services.

(2) The registers mentioned in this section shall be supplied by the Department, and shall be the property of the Government but they shall be retained by the Church or Congregation to which the Minister, clergyman or other person performing the ceremony belongs at the time of the first baptism or marriage entry or death which he records therein, and shall thereafter be kept as records in such church, or in case of the abandonment of the church, they shall be filed in the Department and such registers shall be open to inspection at any reasonable hour to registrars.

Registration of Marriages.

20. Every clergyman, minister, or other person authorized by the law of the province to solemnize marriages shall, at the time of each marriage, make two written records thereof in the form prescribed, and every such record shall be signed by each of the parties to the marriage, and by the minister, clergyman, or other person authorized as aforesaid officiating, and by at least two credible witnesses.

(2) Every clergyman, minister, or other person authorized as aforesaid shall within forty-eight hours from and after the solemnization by him of a marriage, deliver or forward by registered letter to the Registrar-General one of the complete records according to the form prescribed by this Act, and prepared in accordance with the previous section.

21. The notice of marriage shall be in the prescribed form.

Issue of marriage license to be reported.	22. Every person authorized to issue marriage licenses shall, within forty-eight hours from and after the issuance of each marriage license, deliver or forward to the Registrar-General full and complete particulars thereof in the prescribed form.
Penalty.	(2) Failure to comply with the provision of this Section shall be deemed an offence against this Act, and the offender shall, on summary conviction thereof, be liable to a penalty of dollars, and, in default of immediate payment, to imprisonment for
Time limit for registration of marriages.	23. Where the registration of a marriage has not been made as provided in Section 20 of this Act, the Registrar-General may register the same at any time within twelve months after the performance of the marriage ceremony, provided the information is furnished in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the registration to be made in the schedules of the current half-year.
Registration after expiration of twelve months.	(2) After the expiration of twelve months from the performance of the marriage ceremony the registration shall only be made by the Registrar-General, provided the information is furnished in accordance with the provisions of this Act, in which case the entry of registration shall be made in the proper register, the date of registration being entered in the proper column of the register.
Regulations for registration after twelve months.	24. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for registrations of marriages which have not been registered under the foregoing provisions of this Act.

Registration of Births.

Duty of medical practitioner.	25. Every legally qualified medical practitioner who attends at the birth of a child shall give notice thereof within twenty-four hours in the prescribed form to the Division Registrar of the Division in which the child was born.
	26. If there is no physician or nurse in attendance, it shall be the duty of the father or the mother of the child, or the occupier of the house in which the child was born, to notify the Division Registrar of such birth as required.
	27. Where a child is born registration thereof in the prescribed form shall be made with the Division Registrar of the Division in which the child was born, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the father, if living, or (b) in case of inability on the part of the father, or if he is dead, by the mother if living, or (c) in case of the inability of both parents, or if neither be living, by the person standing in the place of the parents to the child,* or (d) if there is no father or mother or other person whose duty it is to give the notice, by the occupier of the house in which the child was born if he has knowledge of the birth, and by the nurse present at the birth.
Persons required to give notice of birth.	
Time limit.	28. The registration shall be made within thirty days after the date of the birth.
Contents of notice of birth.	29. The notice and registration of birth shall be in the prescribed form.
Registration of new-born child found exposed.	30. If a living new-born child is found exposed it shall be the duty of any person in whose charge such child may be placed, to give to the best of his knowledge and belief, to the Division Registrar of the Division in which the child is found within seven days after the placing of such child, such information of the particulars required to be registered concerning its birth as the informant possesses.
Registering illegitimate births.	31. A person shall not be named in the register as the father of an illegitimate child unless he and the mother request in writing that the name be so entered, and the Division Registrar shall write the word "Illegitimate" in the column for the name of the child immediately under the child's name.
Child born at sea.	32. If any child of a parent or resident of the province shall be born at sea, and an entry of birth made in the vessel's log book, any District Registrar may on sufficient proof of the correctness of such entry cause the same to be registered in the book kept for that purpose.

33. When the birth of any child has been registered and the name, if any, by which it was registered has been changed, the parent or guardian of the child, or the person procuring the name to be changed, may deliver to the District Registrar a certificate signed by the Minister, clergyman or other person who performed the rite of baptism upon which the name was changed, or, if the child is not baptized, signed by the father, mother or guardian of the child, or other person procuring the name of the child to be changed. And the Registrar-General shall, upon the receipt of such certificate, forward it to the Registrar who shall make the necessary alteration in the margin of the schedule containing the original entry without making any alteration in the entry, and shall also make the same in the index regarding such child.

34. The Registrar-General shall attest by his official signature the registered number of the birth and the exact date of the filing of such notice in his office.

35. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for the registration of births which have not been registered under the foregoing provisions of this Act.

36. Stillborn children, or those dead at birth, shall be registered as births and also as deaths, and notices of both the birth and death, shall be filed with the Division Registrar in the prescribed form. The notice of birth shall contain, in place of the name of the child, the word "stillbirth". The medical certificate of cause of death shall be signed by the attending physician, if any, and shall be in the prescribed form. Nurses shall not sign certificates of death for stillborn children but such cases and stillbirths occurring without attendance of either physician or nurses shall be treated as deaths without medical attendance as provided for in section 47 of this Act. (*Committee to define "still births."*)

37. If the birth of a child be not registered in the manner and within the period aforesaid, the person upon whom it is by virtue of the preceding provisions of this Act incumbent to register such birth, shall remain liable to effect such registration notwithstanding the expiration of the period aforesaid, and shall in respect of every further period of thirty days after the expiration of the period aforesaid, for which he shall refuse or neglect to register such birth, be guilty, of a separate offence against this Act.

Registration of Deaths.

38. The body of any person whose death occurs in the province shall not be interred, deposited in a vault or tomb, cremated or otherwise disposed of, or removed from or into any registration district, until a permit of burial, removal or other disposition shall have been properly issued by the division registrar of the division in which death occurs, and no such burial or removal permit shall be issued by any Division Registrar until a complete and satisfactory notice of death has been filed with him in the prescribed form.

(2) Provided that when a body is transported by a common carrier into a registration division in the province for burial, then the transit and removal permit issued in accordance with the law and health regulations of the place where the death occurred when said death occurs outside the province, shall be accepted by the division registrar of the division into which the body has been transported for burial or other disposition as a basis upon which he shall issue a local burial permit, in the same way as if the death occurred in his district, but he shall plainly enter upon the face of the burial permit that it was a body shipped in for interment, and give the actual place of death, but a burial permit shall not be required from a division registrar of the division in which interment is made when a body is removed from one division to another in the province, for purpose of burial or other disposition, either by common carrier, hearse, or other conveyance; and no division registrar shall, as such, require from undertakers or persons acting as undertakers any fee for the privilege of burying dead bodies.

39. Every duly qualified medical practitioner who was last in attendance during the last illness of any person shall forthwith on having knowledge of the death of such person deliver or transmit to

Altering or inserting name after registration of birth.

Registered number.

Registration of birth after appointed time.

Registration of stillbirths.

Person incumbent to register birth liable.

Burial permits.

Physician's notice to Division Registrar.

the Division Registrar of the Division in which the death took place the notice of death in the prescribed form.

Deaths in camp
or mine.

40. When a death occurs in any camp or mine, before interment or cremation or other disposition of the body or its removal from the camp or mine, the owner, manager or other person in charge shall forthwith report such death to the Division Registrar in the prescribed form together with such additional information as may from time to time be required by the Registrar-General.

Burial permit must
be issued.

41. A Division Registrar shall immediately upon registering any death, deliver without charge to any person requiring the same a burial permit in the prescribed form that the death had been duly registered.

Exceptional cases.

42. Notwithstanding what is set forth in the foregoing section, it is provided that a clergyman, minister or other person who is called upon to perform any funeral or religious service for the burial of any dead body, under circumstances rendering it impracticable (by reason of the distance from the post office address of the nearest division registrar of the place where the burial takes place, or otherwise) to obtain the required permit of burial or removal of the body, may perform such ceremony without obtaining such permit, but in that event, such clergyman, minister or other person, shall accept the certificate of death in the prescribed form, issue a burial permit and forthwith make a return of such certificate in the prescribed form to the Division Registrar of the division in which the death took place.

43. Where upon proper representation to the Registrar-General he is of the opinion that in any section of the province the registration of deaths for purposes of burial would be facilitated he may appoint a Sub-Registrar for the special purpose of issuing certificates of registration of deaths upon payment by the applicants.

(2) The Sub-Registrar shall register the death upon the special form of schedule provided, and shall forthwith transmit the original form to the Division Registrar of the municipality in which the death occurred for registration by him, and the Sub-Registrar shall make quarterly returns to the Registrar-General.

44. Where a death has occurred in a township or territory without municipal organization or where it is impracticable to register by reason of distance, the return may be made to the nearest Division Registrar, or Sub-Registrar who, upon payment of a fee of twenty-five cents by the applicant, shall register the same on the prescribed form and issue a certificate of registration which certificate shall be sufficient, and such Registrar shall forward the return to the Division Registrar of the Division in which the death occurred.

45. The official certificate of death shall be in the prescribed form.

Particulars to be
furnished to
Registrars.

46. The personal and statistical particulars called for in the prescribed form, shall be furnished by the occupier of the house in which the death takes place, or, if the occupier be the person who has died, then by any adult person residing in the house in which the death took place.

(2) When a death occurs in some place other than in a house, the said personal and statistical particulars shall be furnished by any adult person present at the death, or having any knowledge of the circumstances attending the death, and by any coroner who views the body.

(3) The medical certificate on the official notice of death shall be made in the prescribed form, and signed by the physician, if any, last in attendance during the last illness of the deceased.

Death without
medical attendance.

47. In case of any death occurring without medical attendance it shall be the duty of the undertaker or such other person who has charge of the burial or removal of the body to notify the Division Registrar of such death and when so notified the Division Registrar shall inform the coroner or other proper officer and refer the case to him for immediate investigation and certification prior to issuing the permit, provided that when the coroner or other officer is not a qualified physician, or where there is no such officer, and in such cases only, the Division Registrar is authorized to prepare and sign a certificate hereinbefore provided for from the statements of relatives or other persons having adequate knowledge of the fact; and any coroner who holds an inquest on the body of any deceased person and makes the certificate of death required for a burial permit, shall state

on his certificate if possible the name of the disease causing death, or, if caused by violence, the probable means of death, whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal as determined by the inquest, and shall, in either case, furnish such information as may be required by the Registrar-General properly to classify death.

48. The undertaker, or the person acting as such, shall sign a statement by statement as to the place and date of burial or removal, giving his undertaker address.

49. The undertaker, or other person acting as undertaker, shall be responsible for obtaining and filing the official certificate of death with the Division Registrar of the division in which the death occurred, and securing from him the burial or removal permit, prior to any disposition of the body. He shall obtain the personal and statistical particulars required from some one of the persons mentioned in section 46 of this Act, over his signature and address; he shall then present the official notice to the attending physician, if any, or to the health officer, or coroner, as directed by the Division Registrar, for the medical certificate of the cause of death, and other particulars necessary to complete the record, and he shall then state the facts required relative to the date and place of burial, over his signature and with his address, and present the completed certificate to the Division Registrar, who will issue a permit for burial, removal or other disposition of the body. The undertaker shall deliver the burial permit to the sexton or other person in charge of the place of burial, before interring or otherwise disposing of the body; or shall attach the transit permit containing the burial or removal permit to the box containing the corpse when shipped by any transportation company; said permit to accompany the corpse to its destination, where if within the province of it shall be delivered to the sexton or other person in charge of the place of burial.

50. Every person, firm, or corporation selling a casket shall keep a record showing the name of purchaser, purchaser's post office address, name of deceased, date of death, and place of death of deceased, which record shall be open to inspection of the Registrar-General or his representative at all times. On the first day of each month, the person, firm or corporation, selling caskets shall report to the Registrar-General each sale for the preceding month, on a blank provided for that purpose; provided, however, that no person, firm or corporation selling caskets to dealers or undertakers only shall be required to keep such record nor shall such report be required from undertakers when they have charge of the disposition of the dead body.

(2) Every person, firm, or corporation selling a casket at retail, and not having charge of the disposition of the body, shall inclose within casket a notice furnished by the Registrar-General calling attention to the requirements of the law, a blank certificate of death, and the rules and regulations of the Provincial Board of Health concerning the burial or other disposition of the dead body.

51. If the interment or other disposition of the body is to be made within the province, the wording of the burial permit may be limited to a statement by the Division Registrar over his signature, that a satisfactory registration of death having been made, as required by law, permission is granted to inter, remove or otherwise dispose of the body of the deceased, stating the name, age, sex, cause of death, and other necessary details upon the prescribed forms.

52. No sexton, caretaker or other person in charge of any premises in which interments are made shall inter or permit the interment or other disposition of any body, unless it is accompanied by a burial, removal or transit permit, as herein provided, and each sexton or other person in charge of any burial ground shall endorse upon the permit the date of interment over his signature.

(2) Every sexton, caretaker or other person shall keep a record, in a book supplied by the Registrar-General, of all bodies interred or otherwise disposed of on the premises under his charge, in each case stating the name of each deceased person, place of death, date of burial or disposal and name and address of the undertaker who obtained the burial or transit permit, which record shall at all times be open to official inspection; provided that the undertaker or person acting as such, when burying a body in a cemetery or burial ground having no person in charge, shall sign the burial or removal permit.

Duty of undertaker.

Filing of certificate.

Delivery of permit.

Returns by persons, firms or corporations selling caskets.

Proviso.

Blank forms and other papers to be enclosed in casket.

Wording of permit for burial within province.

Duties of persons in charge of cemeteries.

giving the date of burial or removal and shall write across the face of the permit the words "No person in charge". A coroner's warrant shall not be deemed sufficient permit.

(3) Every such sexton, caretaker or other person shall, on or before the seventh day of each month, transmit to the Division Registrar of the division in which the cemetery or burial ground is situated a return in the prescribed form of the burials therein during the previous month up to and including the last day of the month next preceding, for subsequent transmission with the semi-annual returns to the Registrar-General.

53. Where burial has taken place without registration the death may be registered, but registration shall not take place after two years from the death without the written consent of the Registrar-General.

(2) In the case of a body found elsewhere than in a house, and a certificate has not been given by the coroner, registration shall not be made without the like consent of the Registrar-General. The fact of such consent having been given shall be entered in the proper column of the register.

54. The Registrar-General may register a death which has not been registered by a division registrar, provided the information is furnished in accordance with the provisions of this Act. In each such case the registration shall be made in the proper register, and the date of registration shall be made.

55. Every physician and undertaker shall, without delay, register his or her name, address and occupation with the division registrar of the division in which he or she resides, or may hereafter establish a residence; and shall thereupon be supplied by the Division Registrar with a copy of this Act, together with such rules and regulations as may be prepared by the Registrar-General relative to its enforcement.

Within thirty days after the close of each calendar year each Division Registrar shall make a return to the Registrar-General of all physicians or undertakers who have been registered in his division during the whole or part of the preceding calendar year; provided that no fee or other compensation shall be charged by division registrars to physicians or undertakers for registering their names under this section.

56. All superintendents or managers or other persons in charge of hospitals, almshouses, lying-in or other institutions, public or private, to which persons resort for treatment of disease, confinement, or are committed by process of law, are hereby required to make a record of all the personal and statistical particulars relative to the inmates in their institutions at the date of this Act coming into force that are required in the forms of notices and shall be made by them for all future inmates at the time of their admission; and, in case of persons admitted or committed for medical treatment of disease, the physician in charge shall specify for entry in the record the nature of the disease and where, in his opinion, it was contracted. The said personal or statistical particulars shall be obtained from the individual himself if it be practicable to do so; and, when they cannot be so obtained, they shall be secured in as complete a manner as possible from relatives, friends or other persons acquainted with the facts.

Penalties.

57. Any physician or nurse in attendance upon a case of confinement or any other person charged with responsibility for reporting births, in the order named in the prescribed form, who shall neglect or refuse to file a proper notice of birth with the Division Registrar within the time required by this Act, shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than dollars and not more than dollars.

58. If any physician, who was in medical attendance upon any deceased person at the time of death, shall neglect or refuse to make out and deliver to the undertaker, sexton or other person in charge of the interment, removal or other disposition of the body, upon request, the medical certificate of the cause of death, in the prescribed form, or neglects or refuses to deliver or transmit the notice of death in the prescribed form hereinbefore provided for, he shall be

Returns by caretakers, etc., of cemeteries.

Registration of death after burial of body.

Where body found elsewhere than in house.

Registration of death after default.

Registration of physicians and undertakers.

Return of registration.

Proviso.

Returns to be made by officials of hospitals, almshouses, etc.

Neglect or refusal to make returns of births.

Neglect or refusal of physician to make out certificate of death or to forward notice of death.

deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than five dollars and not more than fifty dollars; and, if any physician shall knowingly make a false statement, certification of death in any case, he shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

59. If any undertaker, sexton or other person acting as undertaker shall inter, remove or otherwise dispose of the body of any deceased person, without having received a burial or removal permit as herein provided, he shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than twenty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

60. If a Division Registrar or Sub-Registrar neglects to make any return, as required by this Act, he shall be notified by registered letter of such neglect by the Registrar-General and if after notification he fails to make such returns within five days, the Registrar-General may refuse to issue the certificate for the payment of the fees due to the Division Registrar, even though the returns should be made at a later date, and such Division Registrar shall also incur a penalty of fifty dollars.

61. Any Division Registrar or Sub-Registrar who shall neglect or fail to enforce the provisions of this Act in his division, or shall neglect or refuse to perform any of the duties imposed upon him by this Act, or by the instructions and directions of the Registrar-General shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars.

62. Any Division Registrar or Sub-Registrar who, whether himself or through any employee or representative, charges, levies or collects any fee or receives any compensation (other than that provided herein) from any person for registering any birth, death or marriage or for any service in or about such registration shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction thereof to a penalty of not less than ten dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars.

63. Any other person or persons who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, or who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform any duties imposed upon him or them by the provisions of this Act, or shall furnish false information to a physician, clergyman, undertaker, nurse, or informant, for the purpose of making incorrect registration of any birth, marriage or death, shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

64. Any transportation company or common carrier transporting or carrying, or accepting through its agents or employees, for transportation or carriage the body of any deceased person without any accompanying permit issued in accordance with the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred dollars; provided, that in case death occurred outside of the Province, and the body is accompanied by a certificate of death, burial or removal or transit permit issued in accordance with the law or board of health regulations in force where the death occurred, such death certificate, burial or removal transit permit shall be held to authorize the transportation or carriage of the body into or through the province.

65. All fines and penalties provided for by this Act shall be recoverable, with costs of prosecution, on summary conviction before a police magistrate or justice of the peace, and in default of payment of any such fine or penalty and costs the magistrate or justice shall sentence the offender to imprisonment in the common goal of the judicial district for a period of not less than _____ days and not more than _____ months.

66. If a notice or certificate required by this Act to be given or made by more than one person is given or made by any such persons, the others shall not be liable to any penalty; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to a notice or certificates required to be made by a duly qualified practitioner.

67. All expenses of prosecutions under this Act not recovered from the offender, and whether or not a conviction is obtained, shall

False statement.

Illegal interment or removal.

Penalty for Registrar's neglect to make returns.

Neglect of official duty.

Illegal charges.

Violation of provisions of Act.

Fines to be recoverable with costs.

Saving.

Expenses of prosecution.

be payable by the municipality in which the offence was alleged to have been committed.

Convictions under
this Act final.

68. No conviction, warrant or commitment order or any other proceeding, matter or thing made, done or transacted in or relating to the execution of this Act, shall be vacated, quashed or set aside for want of form or for any defect which does not substantially affect the justice of the case, or be removed or removable by *certiorari* or other writ or process whatsoever into any superior court.

Registration
of mail matter.

69. All returns, communications and other matters required by this Act to be transmitted to the Registrar-General shall be sent through the mail. Evidence of mailing shall be proof of transmission, and no other evidence shall be accepted in defence of any prosecution for non-performance of duty.

General.

70. Each registrar shall be paid a fee for each complete registration of a birth, marriage or death in such way and manner as may be directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

STANDARD FORMS.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Official Notice of Marriage. | 5. Physician's Notice of Death. |
| 2. Notice of Issue of Marriage License. | 6. Certificate of Registration of Death. |
| 3. Physician's Notice of Birth. | 7. Burial Permit. |
| 4. Certificate of Registration of Birth. | 8. Cemetery Return. |

1. OFFICIAL NOTICE OF MARRIAGE.

Form

Province of

Registered No.
(For use of Registrar-General only.)

County Township Municipality

BRIDEGROOM.

1. Full name Surname
Given name

2. Occupation

3. Bachelor, Widower or Divorced

4. Age 5. Religious Denomination

6. Residence
If in Canada, province, county, township and post office address. If foreign—country.

7. Name of father

8. Place of birth of father

9. Maiden name of mother

BRIDE.

10. Full name Surname
Given name

11. Occupation

12. Spinster, widow or divorced

13. Age 14. Religious Denomination

15. Residence
If in Canada, province, county, township and post office address. If foreign—country.

16. Name of father

17. Place of birth of father

18. Maiden name of mother

19. Date of marriage Month Day 19

20. Place of marriage
(Name of church or clergyman's residence or location of dwelling house.)

21. By license or banns
If by license give number.

22. Witnesses

}	Name
	Address
	Name
	Address

23. Signature, address and religious denomination of person solemnizing marriage. The above stated particulars are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Clergyman
(Signature)

Address

Religious denomination

24. Registered No. Filed at this office day of 19

25.
(Signature of Division Registrar.)

26. Remarks: (Can bridegroom and bride read and write?)

2. NOTICE OF ISSUE OF MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Form Province of

BRIDEGROOM.

Name..... Age.....
Residence..... Origin.....
Birthplace..... P. O. (nearest).....
Bachelor, widower or divorced.....
(write word)
Occupation..... Religious Denomination.....

BRIDE.

Name..... Age.....
Residence..... Origin.....
Birthplace..... P. O. (nearest).....
Spinster, widow or divorced.....
Occupation (if any)..... Religious Denomination.....

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a correct record of the license issued to the above named principals and made in presence of the "Vital Statistics Act."

Dated this 14th day of 19.....

Signature of Issuer of Marriage Licenses.

The report of issue of license is to be delivered or forwarded by registered post to the Division Registrar within forty-eight hours. Neglect to comply with this Act is subject to a penalty of \$50.

3. PHYSICIAN'S NOTICE OF BIRTH.

PROVINCE OF

Division Registrar of

County of

I beg to notify you of the following Birth in accordance with Section 14 of the Vital Statistics Act, 1908.

Date of Birth	Sex
---------------	-----

Where Born

Name of Father

Name of Mother

Address of Parents

Twin, Triplet, Illegitimate or Still Born

Signature of Physician

Address

Date

THIS CARD TO BE SENT FORTHWITH TO THE DIVISION REGISTRAR.

The Registrar-General of requests that every physician attending a birth comply with the Act, also leave the attached form with the parents or guardians of the child with instructions as to registration and name of Division Registrar where the birth should be registered.

The certificate of Registration of Birth

Provincial File No.
Registered No.

4. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF BIRTH.

1. Place of Birth
County..... State
- Township..... or village..... or
City..... No.....
(If birth occurred in a hospital, give its Name instead of Street No.)
2. Full Name of Child
- (If child is not yet named, make supplemental report as directed.)

3. Sex of child	4. Twin, triplet or other? (To be answered only in event of plural birth.)	5. Number in order of birth	6. Duration of gestation months	7. Legitimate	8. Date of birth 19.. (month, day, year)
9. Full Name Father			15. Full Name Mother Maiden Name		
10. Residence (Usual place of abode) If nonresident, give place and state.			16. Residence (Usual place of abode) If nonresident, give place and state.		
11. Racial origin	12. Age at last birthday years	17. Racial origin	18. Age at last birthday years		
13. Birthplace (City or place, province or county)			19. Birthplace (City or place, province or county)		
14. Occupation (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work..... (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)..... (c) Name of employer.....			20. Number of children of this mother (Taken as of time of birth of child herein mentioned and including this child). Living Dead Stillborn Boys..... Girls.....		
			21. Date and place of last marriage		
			22. Date and place of previous marriage		
			23. Occupation (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work..... (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed or employer..... (c) Name of employer.....		

Certificate of Attending Physician or Nurse.

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was.....at.....m., on the date above stated.
(born alive or stillborn)

(When there was no attending physician or nurse, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.)

(Signature).....
.....
(Physician or nurse)

Given name added from a supplemental report.....19.....
.....
Registrar. Filed. 19.
Registrar.

(Note.—The form of this certificate is subject to reconsideration by the Committee in connection with the physician's notice of birth and with sections 25-27 of the Model Bill.)

(Instructions on certain points may be printed on the back. Size of certificate 7 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches.)
 Margin Reserved for Binding. Write Plainly, with Unfading Ink...This is a Permanent Record.
 N.B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a Separate Return must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated.

3. PHYSICIAN'S NOTICE OF DEATH.

Province of

County

Township

Municipality

Street No.

Name of Deceased

Date of Death

The cause of death

(a) Primary

(Duration).....

(b) Immediate

(Duration).....

M. D.

Dated at

this day of A. D. 19

The attending physician is requested to instruct friends of deceased how to proceed to obtain the burial permit. If an undertaker is employed the Vital Statistics Act makes it his duty to obtain the burial permit.

The Physician must forward this card forthwith to the Division Registrar.

6. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH.

1. Place of Death: County..... State..... Registered Number.....
 Township..... or Village..... or City.....
 No..... Street..... Ward.....
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution give its name instead of Street No.)
2. Full Name..... Ward.....
 (a) Residence, No..... Street..... Ward.....
 (Usual place of abode.) (If non-resident, give city or town and state.)
 (b) Length of residence in city or town where death occurred..... Years.....
 Months..... Days. How long in Canada if of foreign birth?..... Years.....
 Months..... Days.

Personal and Statistical Particulars.

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---|
| 3. Sex. | 4. Race or Origin. | 5. Single, married, widowed or divorced.
(Write the word.) |
|---------|--------------------|---|
6. If married, widowed or divorced.
 Husband of.....
 or Wife of.....
7. Date of birth (month, day and year).

8. Age.	Years.	Months.	Days.	If less than one day.....hrs. or mins.....
---------	--------	---------	-------	--

9. Last occupation of deceased:
 (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work.....
 (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer).....
 (c) Name of employer.....
10. Former occupation of deceased:
 (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work.....
 (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer).....
 (c) Name of employer.....
11. Duration of residence:
 (a) At place of death.....
 (b) In province.....
 (c) In Canada (if an immigrant).....
12. Birthplace (city or town).....
 (Province or county).....

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Parents. | 13. Name of father..... |
| | 14. Birthplace of father (city or town).....
(state or country)..... |
| | 15. Maiden name of mother..... |
| | 16. Birthplace of mother (city or town).....
(state or county)..... |

17. Informant:
 (Address).....
18. Filed.....19.....
 Registrar.....

Medical Certificate of Death.

19. Date of death (month, day and year).....
20. I hereby certify, that I attended deceased from.....to.....
 that I last saw h—alive on.....and that death occurred on the date stated above at.....m.
 The cause of death was as follows:
 (Duration).....yrs.....mos.....dys.
 Contributory.....
 (Secondary.)
 (Duration).....yrs.....mos.....dys.
21. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?.....
 Did an operation precede death?.....
 Date of.....
 Was there an autopsy?.....
 What test confirmed diagnosis?.....

(Signed).....M.D.
 Date.....
 Address.....

State the Disease Causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) either Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.
 (See reverse side for additional space.)

22. Place of burial, cremation or removal.....
 Date of burial.....19.....
23. Undertaker.....
 Address.....

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. N.B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should STATE CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of Certificate.

7. BURIAL PERMIT.

Margin is Reserved for Binding.
This Certificate is authorized by the Registrar-General for BURIAL PURPOSES ONLY, including TRANSPORTATION.

Form
Province of

Official form prepared by the Registrar-General and issued by Division Registrar for Burial purposes only, including transportation, as authorized by Sections ..., Vital Statistics Act.

I hereby certify that the following particulars of death as returned to me have been duly registered in compliance with Section 36, Vital Statistics Act, 19...

County Township Municipality

Name of deceased

Sex

Date of death

Age

Residence, street No., or section or parish

Occupat on

Single, married, widowed or divorced

Where born

Cause of death

Length of illness

Name of physician in attendance

Religious Denomination of Deceased

Name of Person making return

Date of Issue

Signature of Registrar.

N. B. - This certificate shall be retained by owner or caretaker of Cemetery and returned to the Division Registrar with his Monthly Returns (see 583)

8. CEMETERY RETURN.

Form

Province of

NOTE:— This Return must be made by Caretaker or other Person in charge of cemeteries to the Division Registrar, under Sec. Vital Statistics Act 19..... or before the 7th day of each month for subsequent transmission to the Registrar-General.

No.	Name of Deceased.	Sex M. or F.	Municipality and County in which death took place.	Name of Person issuing Burial permit.	Date of Burial.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

I,, Caretaker of the Cemetery, in
 Municipality County, hereby certify the
 foregoing to be a complete list of the persons buried therein for the quarter ended.....
 A.D. 19.....
 P.O. Caretaker.

RULES OF STATISTICAL PRACTICE ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SECTION ON VITAL STATISTICS).

(Adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Conference.)

Statement of Occupation.

Rule No. 1.—An attempt should be made to secure not only the kind of occupation (e.g., labourer), but also the kind of industry (e.g., pottery).

Rule No. 2.—Occupations should be stated for all decedents over 10 years of age (and for decedents under 10 years of age if employed in a mill, factory, or in any gainful occupation).

Statistical definition of Deaths.

Rule No. 3.—Total deaths, as stated in mortality reports and bulletins should include all deaths that occurred in the area of the state or city during the specified time. (See Rule No. 13 concerning weekly bulletins.)

Stillbirths (as related to Deaths).

Rule No. 4.—Stillbirths should not be included in deaths.

Rule No. 5.—Children born alive and living for any time whatever, no matter how brief, after birth, should not be classed as stillbirths, even though reported by the attending physicians or midwives as "stillborn".

Rule No. 6.—Whenever age, in days, hours or minutes, is reported for a "stillborn" child, or indicated by a difference between dates of birth and death, the registrar should secure a statement that will enable the case to be classed with certainty either as stillbirth or as a death. If no additional information can be obtained, the statement of age should govern, and the case be compiled as a death, not as a stillbirth.

Premature Births.

Rule No. 7.—Premature births (not stillborn) should be included in total deaths (classified under International Title No. 151).

Rule No. 8.—Premature births (stillborn) should be classed under stillbirths, and should not be included in total deaths.

Rule No. 9.—When a premature birth is reported as "stillborn" and an inconsistent statement of age (days, hours, minutes) is also given, the registrar should endeavour to secure a statement that will enable the case to be classed with certainty either as a stillbirth or as a death. If no additional information can be obtained, the statement of age should govern, and the case be compiled as a death, not as a stillbirth.

Rule No. 10.—When a premature birth is reported with no statement of age (space left blank), the local registrar should endeavour to obtain a statement of age, or at least that the child was born alive; but, in the absence of any further data, the case should be compiled as a stillbirth.

Deaths of Non-residents.

Rule No. 11.—All deaths of transients or non-residents occurring in a state or city should be included in the tables of total deaths.

Deaths in Institutions.

Rule No. 12.—Deaths of residents of a city in a hospital or institution situated within the city limits should be distributed by the local registrar to the districts of residence (borough, ward, sanitary district) as far as possible.

Period covered in Bulletins and Reports.

Rule No. 13.—Total deaths should include all deaths that occurred in the given area during the period stated in the table, and no others:—

(a) A weekly bulletin should include all deaths that occurred during the week ending at 12 p.m., Saturday, and no other; provided, that in order to secure earlier publication, a weekly bulletin may include deaths reported up to any time, but should definitely state that fact.

(b) A monthly bulletin should include all deaths that occurred during the calendar month, and no others.

(c) An annual report should include all deaths that occurred during the calendar year, and no others.

Headings of Tables.

Rule No. 14.—Every table of total deaths should explicitly state in its heading that still births are not included, and if any classes of deaths are omitted from a table apparently relating to total deaths, the items excluded should be explicitly stated either in the heading or in a footnote.

Death Rates based on Total Deaths.

Rule No. 15.—Any statement of the death rate (general, crude, or gross death rate) of a state or city should be understood to be based, unless expressly qualified, upon the *total deaths, exclusive of stillbirths*, and without any omissions of deaths whatsoever.

Viability or Nonviability.

Rule No. 16.—Statement of viability or nonviability of an infant prematurely born shall not be considered in classification.

Statistical Definition of Stillbirths.

Rule No. 17.—For registration purposes, stillbirths should include all children born who do not live any time whatever, no matter how brief, after birth.

Rule No. 18.—Birth (completion of birth) is the instant of complete separation of the entire body (not body in the restricted sense of trunk, but the entire organism, including head, trunk, and limbs) of the child from the body of the mother. The umbilical cord need not be cut or the placenta detached in order to constitute complete birth for registration purposes. A child dead or dying a moment before the instant of birth is a stillbirth, and one dying a moment, no matter how brief, after birth, was a living child, and should not be registered as a stillbirth.

Rule No. 19.—No child that shows any evidence of life after birth should be registered as a stillbirth.

Rule No. 20.—Stillbirths should not be included in tables of births or in tables of deaths. They should be given in separate tables of stillbirths.

Rule No. 21.—It is not desirable that midwives be allowed to sign certificates of stillbirths.

Statistical Definition of Births.

Rule No. 22.—Total births should include children born alive only, and headings of tables should state that stillbirths are excluded.

Rule No. 23.—Whenever, under the foregoing rules, a death should be registered there should be a corresponding registration at some previous time of a birth; and whenever a stillbirth is registered it should be rigorously excluded from both the statistics of births and deaths.

Essential Requirements for the Registration of Deaths.

Rule No. 24.—Deaths must be recorded immediately after their occurrence.

Note.—In statistical practice the terms "record" and "recording" should be used in the limited sense of receiving and filing, while the terms "register" and "registration" should be used as embracing the further idea of inclusion of the record in the statistics of the area.

Rule No. 25.—Certificates of death of standard form should be used.

Rule No. 26.—Burial or removal permits are essential to the enforcement of the law.

Rule No. 27.—Efficient local registrars are necessary.

Rule No. 28.—The responsibility for reporting deaths to the local registrar should be placed upon the undertaker or other person having charge of the disposition of the body.

Rule No. 29.—The central registration office should have full control of the local machinery, and its rules should have the effect of law.

Rule No. 30.—The transmission and preservation of returns should be provided for.

Rule No. 31.—Penalties should be provided and enforced.

Essential Requirements for the Registration of Births.

Rule No. 32.—Births must be recorded immediately after their occurrence.

Rule No. 33.—Certificates of birth of standard form should be required.

Rule No. 34.—Some check is necessary to secure enforcement of the law.

Rule No. 35.—Efficient local registrars are necessary.

Rule No. 36.—The responsibility for reporting births to the local registrar should be placed upon the attending physician or midwife, and upon the parents if no physician or midwife was in attendance.

Rule No. 37.—The central registration office should have full control of the local machinery, and its rules should have the effect of law.

Rule No. 38.—The transmission and preservation of returns should be provided for.

Rule No. 39.—Penalties should be provided and enforced.

Method of Testing Accuracy of Registration of Deaths.

Rule No. 40.—The accuracy (completeness with respect to total number) of the registration of deaths in a state or city may be satisfactorily determined by the proportion found actually registered out of a sufficiently large number (10 per cent of the total?) derived from any independent source, e.g., newspaper reports, and properly distributed throughout the state.

Rule No. 41.—Local registrars should regularly note newspapers reports of deaths, in order to detect omissions and secure complete registration.

Rule No. 42.—Registrars should periodically examine the records of interments in cemeteries used by their districts and check up any interments made without proper registration and permit, in order to ascertain the number of unregistered deaths.

Method of Testing Accuracy of Registration of Births.

Rule No. 43.—The accuracy (completeness with respect to total number) of the registration of births in a state or city may be satisfactorily determined by the proportion found actually registered out of a sufficiently large number (10 per cent of the total?) derived from any independent source, e.g., newspaper reports or lists of infants registered as births, and whose certificates of death enable the place and date of birth to be fixed, provided they are properly distributed throughout the state.

Constitution of Standard Tables of Vital Statistics.

Rule No. 44.—Every state or city registration office publishing an annual (or biennial) report should include therein a table showing the population (as estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics), total number of births exclusive of stillbirths, total number of deaths exclusive of stillbirths, total number of stillbirths, total number of marriages,¹ and total number of divorces² for each year of registration.

¹ Providing the item can be obtained.

Rule No. 45.—It is desirable that the corresponding rates be given, but the primary figures should be presented whether it is possible to present rates or not.

Rule No. 46.—Notes should be given in all instances where discrepant figures have been officially printed relative to returns for any year, and the correct figures should be definitely stated.

Rule No. 47.—Notes should be given on changes in methods of compiling stillbirths, and a correct statement of stillbirths should be established for each year on the basis of the definitions approved. If necessary, re-examination of the original returns should be made for the purpose of obtaining comparable figures.

Adoption of Uniform Age-Periods in Mortality Statistics.

Rule No. 48.—Unknown ages should never be accepted in returns. The approximate age, according to the best judgment of the reporter, should be given if the exact age is unknown. When accepted by the central registration office, however, they should be given a place in the statement of ages, in order to show the imperfect quality of registration.

Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death.

Rule No. 1.—That a uniform mode of statement of causes of death upon certificates of death shall be adopted by all registration offices in the United States, which shall provide, first, in the case of a death from disease, for the name of the disease causing death, and, in the case of death from violence, for the means of injury causing death, and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal together with such subsidiary information, if any, as may be necessary under the head of "contributory (secondary)", as provided by the Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death.

Rule No. 2.—That a continuous and systematic effort be made through the conjoined action of the local, state, and government authorities, and with the aid of the organized medical profession, to secure the co-operation of physicians and coroners in the more definite and satisfactory statement of causes of death; and that for this purpose each certificate of death bear a certain minimum amount of suggestions in regard to the statement of cause of death, which shall be uniform throughout the United States, as provided upon the back of the Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death in addition to any special instructions or regulations required for local use.

Rule No. 3.—Instructions in regard to the reporting of occupations should be uniform in population, industrial, and mortality schedules (certificates of death), and uniform instructions should be printed upon the reverse side of the Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death, for physicians and local registrars, and enforced by state registration offices.

Rule No. 4.—That the following blank be adopted as the Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death. (*See P. 41.*)

Rule No. 5.—That the form of the Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death, as adopted and as approved by the United States Bureau of the Census, be employed, beginning January 1, 1910, together with the minimum instructions in regard to the proper statement of the cause of death and occupation, and that offices not now employing the standard certificate should adopt it as soon as practicable or at least should conform to the standard form of statement of cause of death and occupation.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

HA	Conference on vital statistics
12	Ottawa, 1918
C65	Report of Conference on
1918	vital statistics between
	representatives of the domin-
	ion and provincial governments.

