

12.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

Countries.	Years.	Crude Birth Rate.	Countries.	Years.	Crude Birth Rate.
Egypt.....	1923	43.0	Ontario.....	1925	22.6
Chile.....	1924	39.7	Canada (Registration Area).....	1925	22.6
Costa Rica.....	1923	39.2	Germany.....	1925	22.5
Rumania.....	1924	37.7	Austria.....	1923	22.4
Salvador.....	1924	37.6	Finland.....	1924	22.3
Ceylon.....	1924	37.3	Denmark.....	1923	22.8
Jamaica.....	1924	36.6	Western Australia.....	1925	22.2
Russia (European).....	1921	35.5	Victoria.....	1924	22.0
Japan.....	1924	33.8	Northern Ireland.....	1925	21.7
Quebec.....	1924	30.4	Latvia.....	1924	21.6
Spain.....	1921	29.8	Scotland.....	1925	21.3
Italy.....	1923	29.2	United States.....	1925	21.2
Hungary.....	1925	27.7	Nova Scotia.....	1925	21.2
Newfoundland.....	1923	27.4	New Zealand.....	1925	21.2
New Brunswick.....	1925	27.1	South Australia.....	1925	21.0
Czechoslovakia.....	1924	26.8	Prussia.....	1923	20.5
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1925	26.5	Irish Free State.....	1924	20.2
Uruguay.....	1924	25.8	Norway.....	1925	20.0
Panama.....	1923	25.3	Belgium.....	1924	19.9
Saskatchewan.....	1925	24.6	Prince Edward Island.....	1925	19.2
Tasmania.....	1925	24.5	France.....	1924	18.9
Netherlands.....	1925	24.1	Switzerland.....	1924	18.7
New South Wales.....	1924	24.1	Esthonia.....	1924	18.3
Queensland.....	1924	23.9	England and Wales.....	1925	18.3
Australia.....	1924	23.3	Sweden.....	1924	18.1
Alberta.....	1925	22.9	British Columbia.....	1925	18.1
Manitoba.....	1925	22.7			

3.—Marriages.

Nearly a century ago it was observed in the United Kingdom that the number of marriages tended to be high when the price of wheat was low and to be low when the price of wheat was high. This was quite naturally the case among a population, the majority of which was living at a comparatively low standard of comfort, and where the staple food, as a consequence, was the chief factor in the cost of living.

More recently, the curve showing marriage rates in the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries has ceased to bear any constant relation to the price of wheat, the staple food of the people, though it still does so in poorer countries. Its place in influencing the marriage rate has, however, been taken by the general level of prosperity. Marriages in such countries as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia tend to increase in "good times" and to diminish in "hard times," when great numbers of those who are contemplating marriage are led to postpone such marriage until the advent of better industrial conditions.

Even in the short period covered by the vital statistics of the registration area of Canada, the truth of the above statement is supported by the evidence. In 1920, a year of great prosperity, the marriages occurring in the registration area numbered 59,344 or 9.5 per 1,000 of population; in 1921 they declined to 51,073 or 8.0 per 1,000; in 1922 to 47,811 or 7.3 per 1,000 of population, largely owing to the industrial depression in these years; in 1923 they showed an increase to 49,056, the rate, however, remaining much the same as in 1922, at 7.4 per 1,000 of population. Again in 1924, a rather unfavourable year, the rate fell to 7.1 per 1,000 population, while in 1925 a decrease of 387 in the number of marriages caused a further decrease in the rate to 6.9 per 1,000 population. It should be mentioned, of course, that there doubtless occurred as late as 1921 a number of deferred marriages, which under more normal conditions would have occurred in the war years. Summary statistics of marriages contracted in 1921 to 1925 appear in Table 14, the figures and rates for Quebec being taken from provincial sources.