

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

| Countries. | Years. | Crude Birth Rate. | Countries. | Years. | Crude Birth Rate. |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Egypt..... | 1925 | 43.0 | Northern Ireland..... | 1926 | 22.4 |
| Russia (European)..... | 1923 | 42.6 | Finland..... | 1925 | 22.3 |
| Chile..... | 1925 | 39.6 | Australia..... | 1926 | 22.0 |
| Costa Rica..... | 1923 | 39.2 | Western Australia..... | 1926 | 22.0 |
| Ceylon..... | 1925 | 39.2 | Prussia..... | 1925 | 21.9 |
| Rumania..... | 1924 | 36.7 | Austria..... | 1924 | 21.7 |
| Salvador..... | 1925 | 35.9 | Latvia..... | 1924 | 21.6 |
| Japan..... | 1925 | 34.9 | Ontario..... | 1926 | 21.5 |
| Jamaica..... | 1925 | 34.6 | Victoria..... | 1925 | 21.5 |
| Quebec..... | 1926 | 32.1 | United States..... | 1925 | 21.4 |
| Spain..... | 1925 | 29.3 | New Zealand..... | 1926 | 21.1 |
| Italy..... | 1925 | 27.5 | Denmark..... | 1925 | 21.0 |
| Newfoundland..... | 1923 | 27.4 | Scotland..... | 1926 | 20.9 |
| Hungary..... | 1926 | 26.7 | Irish Free State..... | 1926 | 20.6 |
| Union of South Africa (Whites)..... | 1926 | 26.3 | Nova Scotia..... | 1926 | 20.2 |
| Uruguay..... | 1924 | 25.8 | Prince Edward Island..... | 1926 | 20.1 |
| Panama..... | 1923 | 25.3 | South Australia..... | 1926 | 20.0 |
| New Brunswick..... | 1926 | 25.3 | Norway..... | 1926 | 19.7 |
| Czechoslovakia..... | 1925 | 25.1 | Germany..... | 1926 | 19.5 |
| Saskatchewan..... | 1926 | 25.0 | Belgium..... | 1926 | 18.9 |
| Canada..... | 1926 | 24.8 | France..... | 1926 | 18.8 |
| Tasmania..... | 1925 | 24.4 | Switzerland..... | 1925 | 18.4 |
| New South Wales..... | 1925 | 24.0 | England and Wales..... | 1926 | 17.8 |
| Netherlands..... | 1926 | 23.8 | British Columbia..... | 1926 | 17.4 |
| Queensland..... | 1925 | 23.8 | Estonia..... | 1925 | 17.3 |
| Alberta..... | 1926 | 23.8 | Sweden..... | 1926 | 16.9 |
| Manitoba..... | 1926 | 22.9 | | | |

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 taking place in the nine provinces numbered 80,931 or 9.4 per 1,000 of population; in 1921 they declined to 69,732 or 8.0 per 1,000; in 1922 to 64,420 or 7.2 per 1,000 of population, largely owing to the industrial depression in these years; in 1923 they showed an increase to 66,463, 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 485 in the number of marriages caused a further decrease in the rate to 7.0 per 1,000 population, and in 1926 the rate rose again to 7.1 per 1,000, probably influenced by the return of prosperity. 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 1926 appear in Table 14, the figures and rates for Quebec being taken from provincial sources.