

Two important considerations should be borne in mind by the students who use either these tables or the detailed reports for comparative purposes.

First, in spite of the improvements of the past decade, registration generally, and the registration of births in particular, is not universally carried out. The great extent of the country and the isolation of many of its inhabitants partly account for this unsatisfactory situation.

Secondly, the great differences in the age and sex distribution of the population in different provinces, as shown by the census of 1921, make comparisons (of crude birth rates, for instance) as among the provinces unfair and misleading. For instance, in British Columbia in 1921 there were only 773 females of ages 15 to 44 to every 1,000 males of these ages, while in Quebec there were 1,017 and in Prince Edward Island 986. Evidently, in view of the great disproportion between the sexes in British Columbia, the crude birth rate per 1,000 of population in that province cannot properly be compared with the crude birth rate in Quebec, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick. Again, in consequence of different age distributions of population in the different provinces—the Prairie Provinces, for instance, have very young populations because of the healthy young immigrants whom they attract—a comparison of crude death rates of the provinces is apt to be misleading. In the Prairie Provinces, taken together, only 126 per 1,000 of the 1911 population and 149 per 1,000 of the 1921 population had passed 45 years of age, while in Quebec 178, in Ontario 233 and in Prince Edward Island 264 per 1,000 of the population were in 1921 over 45 years of age. These latter provinces, having much larger proportions of persons of advanced ages, will inevitably have higher crude death rates per 1,000 of population than the Prairie Provinces. A table showing the death rate as adjusted on the basis of the English "standard million" of 1901 has therefore been included (Table 23).

The natural increase of the population of Canada is first dealt with, followed by detailed tables of births, marriages and deaths in the order named.

Section 1.—Natural Increase.

Summary statistics of the births, marriages, deaths and natural increase per 1,000 of population are given for the years 1924 to 1929 by provinces in Table 1. The figures for 1929 are subject to revision.

The province of Quebec has one of the highest rates of natural increase per 1,000 population in any civilized country but in three of the four years since 1925 Saskatchewan has outranked Quebec in this respect, owing to its younger population and lower crude death rate, as will be seen from the figures. The high rates of natural increase in Quebec and Saskatchewan brought the average for Canada (exclusive of the Territories) up to 17.9 per 1,000 in 1921, 16.6 in 1922, 14.8 in 1923, 15.8 in 1924, 15.3 in 1925, 13.3 in 1926, 13.5 in 1927, 13.2 in 1928 and 12.4 in 1929. The rate of natural increase in 1928 was 11.8 per 1,000 in Australia, 11.1 in New Zealand, 5.0 in England and Wales, 6.5 in Scotland and 5.9 in the Irish Free State, so that Canada compares quite favourably with other British countries.

The rates of natural increase per 1,000 of mean population for other countries in the latest years are as follows, the figures being for 1928 unless otherwise