

## Section 2.—Births.

Throughout almost the whole of the civilized world the birth rate has in the past generation been on the decline, though the consequent decline in the rate of natural increase has to a considerable extent been lessened by the synchronous decline in the death rate.

The crude birth rate of England and Wales, for example, was 35.4 per 1,000 population on the average of the decennium 1871-80, 32.5 in 1881-90 and 29.9 in 1891-1900. In 1913 the birth rate was 24.1, and, though it rose to 25.5 in 1920, it fell again to 22.4 in 1921, 19.7 in 1923, 18.8 in 1924, 18.3 in 1925, 17.8 in 1926, 16.6 in 1927, 16.7 in 1928 and 16.3 in 1929.

Similarly, in France the crude birth rate declined from an average of 25.4 per 1,000 population in the 1870's, 23.9 in the 1880's and 22.2 in the 1890's to 21.4 in 1920 and 19.1 in 1923, rising slightly to 19.0 in 1925 and falling to 18.8 in 1926, 18.2 in 1927, 18.2 in 1928 and 17.7 in 1929. In Germany, again, the crude birth rate was 39.1 in the 1870's, 36.8 in the 1880's, 36.1 in the 1890's, 23.0 in 1922, 20.7 in 1925, 19.5 in 1926, 18.4 in 1927, 18.6 in 1928 and 17.9 in 1929.

In Canada the crude birth rate still stands at a comparatively high figure, being 23.9 per 1,000 in 1930. This, however, is largely due to the influence of Quebec, where the birth rate stood at the high figure of 29.6 per 1,000 in 1930, as compared with 21.0 per 1,000 in Ontario. In the other provinces the figures varied from 16.1 and 19.9 per 1,000 in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island to 24.9 and 25.9 in Alberta and New Brunswick respectively.

Statistics of births and birth rates for the years 1926-30 with averages for 1921-25 and 1926-30 are given by provinces in Table 4. The averages for the former period are exclusive of the province of Quebec which was not then in the registration area.

#### 4.—Number of Living Births and Birth Rates, by Provinces, 1926-30 with Averages 1921-25 and 1926-30.

##### A.—LIVING BIRTHS.

| Year.                | P.E.I. | N.S.   | N.B.   | Que.   | Ont.   | Man.   | Sask.  | Alta.  | B.C.   | Canada. |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Average 1921-25..... | 1,966  | 12,119 | 11,080 | 1      | 71,454 | 16,590 | 21,580 | 15,461 | 10,256 | 1       |
| Average 1926-30..... | 1,734  | 11,016 | 10,327 | 82,771 | 68,703 | 14,391 | 21,298 | 15,924 | 10,356 | 236,520 |
| 1926.....            | 1,752  | 10,950 | 10,340 | 82,165 | 67,617 | 14,661 | 20,719 | 14,456 | 10,063 | 232,750 |
| 1927.....            | 1,697  | 11,134 | 10,479 | 83,064 | 67,671 | 14,147 | 21,015 | 14,897 | 10,084 | 234,188 |
| 1928.....            | 1,806  | 10,931 | 10,047 | 83,621 | 68,510 | 14,504 | 21,261 | 15,692 | 10,385 | 236,757 |
| 1929.....            | 1,670  | 10,688 | 10,235 | 81,380 | 68,458 | 14,236 | 21,446 | 16,924 | 10,378 | 235,415 |
| 1930.....            | 1,749  | 11,346 | 10,534 | 83,625 | 71,263 | 14,411 | 22,051 | 17,649 | 10,967 | 243,495 |

##### B.—BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.

| Year.                | P.E.I. | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Man. | Sask. | Alta. | B.C. | Canada. |
|----------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|---------|
| Average 1921-25..... | 22.6   | 23.4 | 28.4 | 1    | 23.7 | 26.8 | 27.7  | 26.0  | 18.4 | 1       |
| Average 1926-30..... | 19.7   | 21.4 | 25.8 | 30.5 | 21.0 | 21.7 | 24.7  | 24.2  | 16.2 | 24.1    |
| 1926.....            | 20.1   | 21.3 | 26.1 | 31.6 | 21.4 | 22.9 | 25.2  | 23.8  | 16.6 | 24.7    |
| 1927.....            | 19.5   | 21.6 | 26.3 | 31.3 | 21.0 | 21.7 | 25.0  | 23.5  | 16.2 | 24.3    |
| 1928.....            | 20.5   | 21.2 | 25.1 | 30.8 | 20.9 | 21.8 | 24.7  | 23.8  | 16.2 | 24.1    |
| 1929.....            | 19.0   | 20.8 | 25.3 | 29.4 | 20.5 | 21.0 | 24.3  | 24.7  | 15.7 | 23.5    |
| 1930.....            | 19.9   | 22.1 | 25.9 | 29.6 | 21.0 | 20.9 | 24.4  | 24.9  | 16.1 | 23.9    |

<sup>1</sup> Quebec not included in present registration area prior to 1926.

Table 5 gives the number of living births in cities of 10,000 population and over for the years 1926 to 1930 inclusive. The number of births reported for the cities shows in most cases an increase in recent years.