

**10.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries of the World and of Provinces of Canada in Recent Years—concluded.**

Country.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.	Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.
<b>Country—concluded.</b>			<b>Province of Canada—</b>		
Switzerland.....	1935	16.0	Quebec.....	1936	24.3
Estonia.....	1935	15.9	New Brunswick.....	1936	24.2
Belgium.....	1935	15.5	Nova Scotia.....	1936	22.0
British Isles.....	1935	15.4	Prince Edward Island.....	1936	21.5
France.....	1935	15.2	Saskatchewan.....	1936	20.5
England and Wales.....	1935	14.7	Alberta.....	1936	20.4
Norway.....	1935	14.3	Manitoba.....	1936	18.1
Sweden.....	1935	13.8	Ontario.....	1936	16.9
Austria.....	1935	13.2	British Columbia.....	1936	14.1

## Section 2.—Marriages and Divorces.

### Subsection 1.—Marriages.

The marriage rate in modern countries of the western world is appreciably influenced by the general level of prosperity prevailing. Marriages in such English-speaking countries, for instance, 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 the event. Thus an examination of the figures for individual years over the past decade clearly shows that marriages reached a peak in 1929 after which the recession was steady and marked until 1932; for 1933 there was an improvement, though of little more than 2 p.c. over 1932, for 1934 a further improvement of over 14 p.c. was recorded, and the improvement continued in 1935 and 1936. This general trend for Canada as a whole was followed in the figures for each province, although in the cases of Prince Edward Island and Alberta the large increases in 1934 were not held in the following year.

Summary statistics of marriages and marriage rates, 1934-36, with averages for 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35, are given in Table 13, p. 170 and in Table 32, p. 191.

**Age at Marriage.**—The average age of all bridegrooms in the Dominion in 1935 was 29.0 years and that of all brides 25.0 years. The average excess of the bridegroom's age was thus 4.0 years. It may be noted in Table 11 that when the contracting parties are grouped by age of bridegroom, the average difference in age is less for the younger groups, grooms under 20 being 0.4 years younger than the brides, while the excess of the average bridegroom's age was 1.5 years in the group 20-24, and steadily increased for each quinquennial age group until it was 11.3 years for the bridegrooms 50 years or over in 1935. On the other hand, when the parties are grouped by the age of the bride, the same regularity is not shown. In the case of brides in the age groups 25-29 years and 30-34 years, the bridegrooms approximate most closely in age to their brides. Since these tables are based upon all marriages contracted during the year, the figures given should not be understood to signify the average ages at *first* marriage. Out of each 1,000 bridegrooms in 1936, 930 were bachelors, 60 widowers, 11 divorced men; out of each 1,000 brides, 954 were spinsters, 37 widows, 9 divorced women. The first year in which as many as 1 p.c. of those marrying had previously been divorced was 1928. The comparison between the figures of divorces granted, as shown in Table 15 of this chapter, and the number of divorced persons re-married is of some interest.