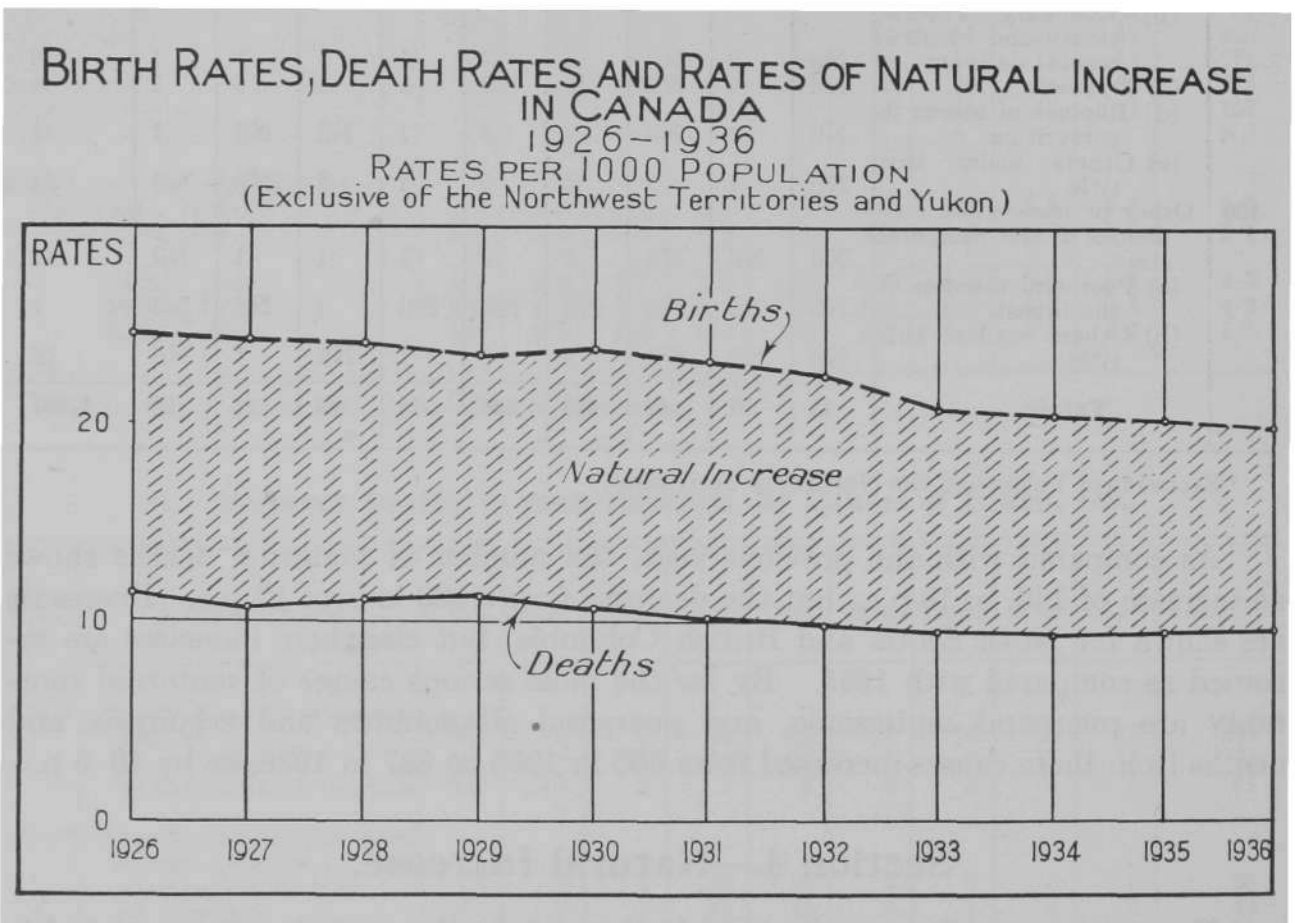


high death rate exists. The high rates for these provinces brought the averages for Canada up to 11.1 in 1934, 10.6 in 1935, and 10.3 in 1936, in spite of the fact that the rate for British Columbia, which has always been low, was only 4.5 in 1936. The rate of natural increase in 1935 was 13.7 per 1,000 in the Union of South Africa (whites), 7.9 in New Zealand, 7.1 in Australia, 5.6 in the Irish Free State, 4.8 in Northern Ireland, 4.6 in Scotland, and 3.0 in England and Wales, so that Canada compares quite favourably with most other British countries.

The rates of natural increase per 1,000 of the mean population for other countries in the latest years are as follows, the figures being for 1935: Netherlands, 11.5; Japan, 14.8; Spain, 9.9; Italy, 9.4; Denmark, 6.6; Germany, 7.1; United States, 6.0; Finland, 6.5; Switzerland, 3.9; Norway, 4.0; Belgium, 2.6; Sweden, 2.1; France, -0.5.



During recent years the rate of natural increase of the population of Canada has declined. In 1921 the rate was 17.8; it declined to 13.3 in 1926 and to 12.2 in 1929. After 1929 there was a temporary improvement but, as Table 32 shows, the rates for 1934, 1935, and 1936—11.1, 10.6 and 10.3, respectively—continued the downward trend. Among the provinces the trends generally follow that of Canada as a whole, except in the Maritime Provinces, for each of which the trend is not so regularly downward and has, in fact, been upward since 1934. Quebec shows the greatest improvement in death rate for the period since 1926. The birth rate is declining here as elsewhere and the rate of natural increase has shown a definitely downward trend, although not so markedly as that of Saskatchewan.

Statistics of natural increase in cities and towns of 10,000 population and over are given for the period 1926-36 in Table 33, but these are not worked out as rates per thousand of population, though the census populations in 1931, which are also given, furnish some guide to such rates.