

respect to crude birth rate (the annual number of births per 1,000 of population) are shown in Table 10.

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

Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.	Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.
Egypt	1937	43.5	<b>Canada—concluded.</b>		
Costa Rica	1937	42.2	Ontario	1938	17.6
Straits Settlements	1937	42.1	British Columbia	1938	16.4
Salvador	1936	41.2	Iceland	1937	20.4
Palestine	1938	39.9	Hungary	1937	20.2
Panama	1937	36.0	Uruguay	1937	19.9
Ceylon	1938	35.9	Netherlands	1937	19.8
British India	1937	34.5	Northern Ireland	1937	19.8
Chile	1937	33.5	Irish Free State	1937	19.2
Jamaica	1937	32.1	Finland	1937	18.9
Roumania	1937	30.8	Germany	1937	18.8
Japan	1937	30.6	Denmark	1938	18.1
Greece	1937	26.4	Latvia	1937	17.7
Spain	1935	25.2	Scotland	1937	17.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	1937	25.0	United States (reg. area)	1938	17.6
Poland	1937	24.9	Australia	1938	17.5
Union of South Africa (whites)	1937	24.9	New Zealand	1937	17.3
Bulgaria	1937	24.0	Czechoslovakia	1937	17.2
Italy	1937	22.9	Estonia	1937	16.1
Lithuania	1937	22.3	Norway	1938	15.8
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>20.5</b>	British Isles	1937	15.5
New Brunswick	1938	25.7	Belgium	1936	15.3
Quebec	1938	24.6	Switzerland	1937	15.0
Nova Scotia	1938	22.3	England and Wales	1937	14.9
Prince Edward Island	1938	21.0	Sweden	1938	14.9
Alberta	1938	20.3	France	1937	14.7
Saskatchewan	1938	19.4	Austria	1937	12.8
Manitoba	1938	18.7			

**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 from 1935 to 1938. This general trend for Canada as a whole was followed in the figures for most provinces. For 1938 as compared with 1937 there were decreases shown in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia, but there were slight increases for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Summary statistics of marriages and marriage rates, 1936-38, with averages for 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35, are given in Table 13, p. 119 and in Table 32, p. 141.

**Age at Marriage.**—The average age of all bridegrooms in the Dominion in 1937 was 29.3 years and that of all brides 25.2 years. The average excess of the bridegroom's age was thus 4.1 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