

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.

Summary statistics of the births, deaths, and natural increase (births minus deaths) per 1,000 of population are given for the years 1921 to 1938, by provinces, in Table 32. Statistics of marriages are also included in this table for convenience. The Province of Quebec is regarded as having one of the highest rates of natural increase per 1,000 population of any civilized area, although for 1938 New Brunswick had a higher rate. The rate for Quebec was 17.1 in 1931 and, while it has been appreciably reduced in line with common experience, it stood at 14.3 in 1938. Saskatchewan has usually approached Quebec in the matter of natural increase and for the years 1934 and 1935 the rates for this prairie province actually exceeded those for Quebec, although for 1936, 1937, and 1938 they were lower. Alberta followed Saskatchewan in order. In the case of the two western provinces the high rates of natural increase are due to their relatively younger populations and lower crude death rates. The high rates for these provinces brought the averages for Canada up to 10.6 in 1935, 10.3 in 1936, 9.6 in 1937 and 11.0 in 1938, in spite of the fact that the rate for British Columbia, which has always been low, was only 4.4 in 1937 and 6.6 in 1938. The rate of natural increase in 1937 was 14.8 per 1,000 in the Union of South Africa (Whites), 8.2 in New Zealand, 8.2 in Australia, 3.9 in Ireland (Eire), 4.7 in Northern Ireland, 3.7 in Scotland, and 2.5 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 uniform year are as follows, the figures being for 1937: Netherlands, 11.0; Japan, 13.6; Italy, 8.7; Denmark, 7.2; Germany, 7.1; United States, 5.8; Finland, 6.6; Switzerland, 3.7; Norway, 4.7; Belgium, 2.2; Sweden, 2.3; France, - 0.3.

### BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND RATES OF NATURAL INCREASE IN CANADA 1926-1938

RATES PER 1000 POPULATION  
(Exclusive of the Northwest Territories and Yukon)

