

**Birth Rates in Various Countries.**—The relative positions occupied by Canada and its individual provinces among various countries of the world with 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	Saskatchewan.....	1940	20.8
Straits Settlements.....	1937	42.1	Manitoba.....	1940	20.3
Salvador.....	1936	41.2	Ontario.....	1940	18.2
Palestine.....	1938	39.9	British Columbia.....	1940	17.4
Panama.....	1937	36.0	Hungary.....	1937	20.2
Ceylon.....	1938	35.9	Uruguay.....	1937	19.9
British India.....	1938	34.1	Netherlands.....	1937	19.8
Chile.....	1938	33.4	Northern Ireland.....	1939	19.5
Jamaica.....	1937	32.1	Eire.....	1940	19.1
Roumania.....	1937	30.8	Finland.....	1937	18.9
Japan.....	1937	30.6	Germany.....	1937	18.8
Greece.....	1938	26.1	New Zealand.....	1939	18.7
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1939	25.3	Latvia.....	1938	18.4
Spain.....	1935	25.2	Denmark.....	1938	18.1
Poland.....	1937	24.9	Australia.....	1939	17.7
Newfoundland and Labrador.....	1938	24.8	Scotland.....	1939	17.4
Bulgaria.....	1937	24.0	United States (reg. area).....	1940	17.9
Italy.....	1938	23.7	Czechoslovakia.....	1937	17.2
Lithuania.....	1939	22.4	Estonia.....	1937	16.1
Iceland.....	1937	20.4	Norway.....	1938	15.8
<b>Canada</b> .....	<b>1940</b>	<b>21.5</b>	British Isles.....	1939	15.5
New Brunswick.....	1940	25.9	Belgium.....	1937	15.4
Quebec.....	1940	25.7	Switzerland.....	1939	15.2
Nova Scotia.....	1940	22.9	England and Wales.....	1939	14.9
Prince Edward Island.....	1940	22.3	Sweden.....	1938	14.9
Alberta.....	1940	22.0	France.....	1938	14.6
			Austria.....	1937	12.8

## 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. 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 1940. This general trend for Canada as a whole was followed in the figures for most provinces. (See Table 12, p. 126 and Table 32, p. 147.)

**Age at Marriage.**—The average age of all bridegrooms in the Dominion in 1939 was 29.0 years and that of all brides 25.1 years. The average excess of the bridegroom's age was thus 3.9 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 0.2 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 1939. On the other hand, when the parties are grouped by the age of the bride, the same regularity is not shown.