Section 4.—Natural Increase

The rate of natural increase of the population of Canada declined steadily from 17·9 in 1921 to 13·3 in 1926 and to 12·2 in 1929. In 1930 the rate increased to 13·2, but from then to 1937 it declined steadily to 9·9. In 1938 the rate was 11·0, in 1941 it was 12·2 and in 1943 it reached its highest point since 1925, viz., 13·9.

Among the provinces the trends, generally, followed that of Canada with minor variations. The Province of Quebec is considered to have one of the highest rates of natural increase per 1,000 population of any civilized area. The rate for Quebec in 1921 was 23·4 and while it gradually reduced in line with common experience to a low point of 12·8 in 1937, it has since recovered and stood at 16·5 in 1941, 18·0 in 1942 and 18·5 in 1943, the highest point since 1925. Saskatchewan has usually approached Quebec in the matter of natural increase; in fact for the years 1926-30, 1934 and 1935 the rates for this prairie province actually exceeded those of Quebec, although for later years the recovery has been less pronounced, with a rate of 14·1 in 1942 and 14·1 in 1943. Alberta has followed Saskatchewan fairly closely, except that the recovery since 1938 has been more pronounced with a rate of 15·8 in 1942 and of 16·2 in 1943. The high rates of natural increase in the two prairie provinces are largely due to their relatively younger populations and lower crude death rates. The chart facing p. 166 portrays the effects of variations between the birth and death rates in the Dominion and the provinces upon the rates of natural increase.

Rates of Natural Increase in Various Countries.—Canada compares quite favourably with most countries in the matter of rates of natural increase. In 1943 the rate in Canada was 13·9, in Denmark 11·7, in the United States 11·0, in Northern Ireland 10·8, in New Zealand 10·7, in Australia 10·4, in Eire 7·6, in Scotland 5·6 and in England and Wales 4·4.

Natural Increase in Canadian Cities and Incorporated Centres.— Statistics of natural increase in urban centres of 10,000 population or over are given for the period 1926 to 1943 in Table 28. Rates per 1,000 population are not shown, though the census populations in 1931 and 1941 are given to furnish some guide to such rates.

28.—Natural Increase in Urban Centres of 10,000 Population or Over, by Place of Residence, 1941-43, with Five-Year Averages, by Place of Occurrence, 1926-40

Province and Urban Centre	Census Populations		Averages 1926-30	Averages 1931-35	Averages 1936-40	1941	1942	1943
	1931	1941						
Prince Edward Island—								
Charlottetown..............	12,361	14,821	23	99	141	129	215	215
Nova Scotia—								
Dartmouth........	9,100	10,847	75	78	57	193	291	342
Glace Bay...........	20,706	25,147	378	445	634	504	515	500
Halifax....................	59,275	70,488	573	732	877	986	1,313	1,272
Sydney....................	23,089	28,305	270	374	455	516	634	681
Truro....................	7,901	10,272	82	76	113	176	206	170
New Brunswick—								
Fredericton................	8,830	10,062	59	39	83	69	121	88
Moncton...................	20,689	22,763	266	249	278	306	422	407
Saint John.................	47,514	51,741	432	536	613	604	725	792
Quebec—								
Cap-de-la-Madeleine........	8,748	11,961	278	211	210	272	293	267
Chicoutimi................	11,877	16,040	325	284	283	491	653	751
Drummondville............	6,609	10,555	194	224	165	250	283	281
Granby....................	10,587	14,197	183	239	224	325	317	327
Hull......................	29,433	32,947	647	515	487	719	792	894