

owing partly to the effects of the depression, the birth rate fell more than did the death rate. Since then the rate of natural increase has risen sharply to 13.7 per 1,000 in 1942, 13.9 in 1943 and 14.1 in 1944. These rates are higher than in any years since 1926.

The rates of natural increase of the provinces followed generally the trend of Canada as a whole, with minor variations. In the earlier years, Saskatchewan and Quebec had the highest rates. The high rates in the Prairie Provinces were due in part to their relatively younger populations and consequent very low death rates. In Quebec, on the contrary, the death rate in 1926-30 was high and has declined steadily since then. Quebec now has the highest rate of natural increase in Canada and, in fact, one of the highest in any civilized area.

Table 33 gives the numbers and rates of natural increase in Canada and the provinces for the years 1926-44. Numbers and rates by sex are also given. It can be seen that, except in the case of Quebec, the rates of natural increase are throughout considerably higher for the female than for the male population. There are two reasons for this. On the one hand, the excess of male over female births is relatively smaller than the excess of males over females in the population as a whole. This is particularly true of the western provinces. Hence the birth rate for males is less than the birth rate for females. On the other hand, we have already noted the fact that male mortality is heavier than female and that the death rate of males is higher than that of females.

In a country with a fairly young population such as Canada, which has been populated to a large extent by immigration in the past fifty years, an excess of males in the population is to be expected. The higher rate of natural increase of the female population is the means by which this excess is gradually reduced. Eventually, quite apart from the casualties of war, there will no doubt be an excess of females, as is already the case in most European countries.

### 33.—Natural Increase and Rates of Natural Increase, by Sex and by Provinces, 1941-44, with Five-Year Averages, 1926-40

NOTE.—Figures for 1944 are by place of residence.

Province and Year	Excess of Births Over Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Males		Females		
			Number	Rate per 1,000 Males	Number	Rate per 1,000 Females	
Prince Edward Island.....	Av. 1926-30	766	8.7	398	8.9	368	8.6
	Av. 1931-35	960	10.7	486	10.5	474	10.9
	Av. 1936-40	974	10.4	504	10.4	469	10.4
	1941	915	9.7	483	9.8	432	9.4
	1942	1,176	13.0	571	12.2	605	14.0
	1943	1,259	13.9	606	12.8	653	15.0
	1944	1,360	14.9	670	14.2	690	15.6
Nova Scotia.....	Av. 1926-30	4,653	9.0	2,291	8.7	2,362	9.4
	Av. 1931-35	5,414	10.3	2,720	10.1	2,693	10.5
	Av. 1936-40	5,934	10.7	2,898	10.2	3,037	11.2
	1941	6,989	12.1	3,335	11.3	3,654	13.0
	1942	8,921	15.1	4,377	14.5	4,544	15.7
	1943	8,917	14.7	4,308	13.9	4,609	15.5
	1944	9,369	15.3	4,698	15.1	4,671	15.6
New Brunswick.....	Av. 1926-30	5,308	13.2	2,666	13.0	2,642	13.5
	Av. 1931-35	5,730	13.6	2,834	13.2	2,896	14.2
	Av. 1936-40	6,065	13.7	2,992	13.2	3,073	14.2
	1941	7,088	15.5	3,396	14.5	3,692	16.5
	1942	7,509	16.2	3,850	16.2	3,659	16.1
	1943	8,173	17.7	4,079	17.2	4,094	18.1
	1944	8,336	18.0	4,177	17.6	4,159	18.5