

follow that of Canada as a whole, except in the Maritime Provinces, for each of which the trend is not so regularly downward and was, in fact, upward between 1934 and 1938. For 1939 the only provinces showing increases are Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Alberta. Quebec shows the greatest improvement in death rate for the period since 1926. The rate of 10·3 for 1936 was the lowest for the period 1926-39. In 1938 the rate was 10·4. 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.

The Province of Quebec is regarded as having one of the highest rates of natural increase per 1,000 population of any civilized area. The rate for Quebec was 17·1 in 1931 and, while it has been appreciably reduced in line with common experience, it stood at 14·4 in 1939. 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 later years they have been 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, 11·0 in 1938, and 10·7 in 1939, in spite of the fact that the rate for British Columbia, which has always been low, was only 4·4 in 1937, 6·6 in 1938, and 6·3 in 1939. The rate of natural increase in 1938 was 15·5 per 1,000 in the Union of South Africa (Whites), 8·2 in New Zealand, 7·9 in Australia, 5·7 in Ireland (Eire), 6·3 in Northern Ireland, 5·1 in Scotland, and 3·5 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 for 1937 (the latest uniform year) are: 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 - 1939  
RATES PER 1000 POPULATION  
(Exclusive of the Northwest Territories and Yukon)

