

45.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

Country.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.	Country.	Year.	Crude Birth Rate.
Russia, European.....	1909	44.0	Finland.....	1920	25.1
Rumania.....	1914	42.5	Switzerland.....	1920	25.1
Bulgaria.....	1911	40.2	Australia.....	1921	25.0
Serbia.....	1912	38.0	Prussia.....	1921	24.9
Quebec.....	1921	37.6	Norway.....	1921	24.6
Chile.....	1914	37.0	South Australia.....	1921	24.1
Ceylon.....	1920	36.5	Ontario.....	1922	23.9
Japan.....	1921	35.1	Nova Scotia.....	1922	23.8
Jamaica.....	1919	34.1	United States ¹	1920	23.7
Portugal.....	1920	32.2	Germany.....	1922	23.6
Spain.....	1921	30.4	Prince Edward Island.....	1922	23.4
Hungary.....	1922	29.4	Western Australia.....	1921	23.4
Canada.....	1921	29.4	New Zealand.....	1921	23.3
New Brunswick.....	1922	29.2	Victoria.....	1921	23.2
Union of S. Africa (whites).....	1920	28.9	United Kingdom.....	1921	22.5
Manitoba.....	1922	28.3	England and Wales.....	1921	22.4
Netherlands.....	1920	28.2	Austria.....	1920	22.1
Saskatchewan.....	1922	27.9	Belgium.....	1920	21.4
Tasmania.....	1921	27.0	Sweden.....	1921	21.4
Queensland.....	1921	26.6	France.....	1920	20.4
New South Wales.....	1921	25.9	Ireland.....	1921	20.2
Denmark.....	1921	25.5	Italy.....	1917	19.0
Scotland.....	1921	25.2	British Columbia.....	1922	18.0

¹Birth Registration Area.

3.—Marriages.

Nearly a century ago it was observed in the United Kingdom that the number of marriages tended to be high when the price of wheat was low and to be low when the price of wheat was high. This was quite naturally the case among a population, the majority of which was living at a comparatively low standard of comfort, and where the staple food, as a consequence, was the chief factor in the cost of living.

More recently, the curve showing marriage rates has in the United Kingdom and in other English-speaking countries ceased to bear any constant relation to the price of wheat, the staple food of the people, though it still does so in poorer countries. Its place in influencing the marriage rate, has, however, been taken by the general level of prosperity. Marriages in such countries as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia tend to increase in "good times" and to diminish in "hard times," when great numbers of those who are contemplating marriage are led to postpone such marriage until the advent of better industrial conditions.

Even in the short period covered by the vital statistics of the registration area of Canada, the truth of the above statement is supported by the evidence. In 1920, a year of great prosperity, the marriages occurring in the registration area of Canada numbered 59,344 or 9.4 per thousand of population; in 1921 they declined to 51,073 or 8.0 per thousand, and in 1922 to 47,690 or 7.3 per thousand of population, largely owing to the industrial depression in these years. It should also be mentioned, of course, that there doubtless occurred in 1920 a number of deferred marriages, which under more normal conditions would have occurred in the war years. Summary statistics of marriages contracted in 1921 and 1922 appear in Table 46.