

last war is any criterion, then the birth-rate will in a year or two tend to fall. Any fall brings the danger-point much nearer. This tendency to follow the experience of the last post-war period, however, may be negated by such positive measures as better wages and working-conditions, family allowances, maternity benefits, health benefits, social security provisions against sickness, invalidity, and old age, universal superannuation, improved housing conditions, and suchlike amenities. It is too early, however, to estimate the effects of these things. If they have had any effect on the birth-rate up to the present they have been masked by the influence of the war. Great interest attaches, therefore, to the next few years with a view to determining the real influences of these economic incentives on child-bearing.

In passing, it is well to mention that in most of the countries with western European populations, the net reproductive rate is well below 1—in England between 0·7 and 0·8. This means a serious potential decline in population within a relatively short time.

D. MIGRATION

A further factor affecting population growth is that of external migration. The following table shows, at five-yearly intervals, the arrivals, departures, and the excess of arrivals over departures:—

Table No. 22.—Table showing Immigration, Emigration, and Excess of Arrivals over Departures from 1861 to 1945

			Arrivals.			Departures.			Excess of Arrivals over Departures.
			M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
1861-65	..	..	107,526	34,680	142,206	44,241	4,796	49,037	93,169
1866-70	..	..	37,085	15,684	52,769	25,918	6,315	32,233	20,536
1871-75	..	..	67,560	42,522	110,082	21,059	7,077	28,136	81,946
1876-80	..	..	55,049	31,726	86,775	23,179	8,809	31,988	54,787
1881-85	..	..	48,144	27,924	76,068	32,186	14,923	47,109	28,959
1886-90	..	..	49,315	24,501	73,816	54,226	28,292	82,518	- 8,702*
1891-95	..	..	69,499	36,288	105,787	59,582	30,885	90,467	15,320
1896-1900	..	..	59,650	31,613	91,263	52,330	28,295	80,625	10,638
1901-05	..	..	102,293	49,286	151,579	71,070	35,063	106,133	45,446
1906-10	..	..	124,377	70,353	194,730	99,923	53,841	153,764	40,966
1911-15	..	..	115,012	78,822	193,834	97,356	60,917	158,273	35,561
1916-20	..	..	61,933	52,414	114,347	54,954	44,539	99,493	14,854
1921-25	..	..	109,749	89,515	195,264	80,095	66,286	146,381	48,883
1926-30	..	..	102,343	84,494	186,837	90,285	74,787	165,072	21,765
1931-35	..	..	58,874	53,059	111,933	62,924	55,152	118,076	- 6,143*
1936-40	..	..	86,145	85,279	171,424	78,528	80,986	159,514	11,910
1941-45	..	..	18,441	16,562	35,003	16,999	15,415	32,414	2,589

* Excess of departures.

(1) Armed Forces not included between 1914 and 1920 and between 1939 and 1945.

(2) Figures for the period from 1921-1925 do not correspond with figures for the same period in Table No. 24—the difference of 1,126 is due to a change in a recent Year-Book, for which no explanation is offered. Similarly for difference of 2,862 in the 1926-1930 period. The more recent figures are probably more accurate. From 1931 and onwards the figures in the above tables are for years ending 31st March. Hence there is some overlap in the above figures as between period 1926-1930 and 1931-1935. Figures from 1931 onward therefore do not agree with figures in next table, which are for calendar years.

The importance of external migration over the period under review is clearly marked in the table. In the early years up to approximately 1880, immigration was very important, principally of the assisted type, although during that period, particularly during the early years of the period, there were a large number of free immigrants arriving, particularly in connection with the discovery of gold. The excess of departures over arrivals for the period between 1886 and 1890, and again between 1931 and 1935, is due solely to the depressions which operated in those periods. The large increase between 1911 and 1915, and again between 1921 and 1925, are due to some extent to the