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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH

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## DIVORCES IN CANADA

1924

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DIVORCE IN CANADA, 1924.

Statistics of divorces, secured from the authorities of seven provinces where divorces are granted by the courts and from the Dominion statutes for Ontario and Quebec, and compiled by the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show an increase of 38 in the number of divorces granted in Canada during 1924 over the previous year. A total of 543 divorces were granted during the calendar year 1924, as compared with 505 during the calendar year 1923 - an increase of 7.5 p.c. The 1924 total is only 5 less than the record number, granted in 1921.

The increase in divorces granted from 1916 to 1921 has been ascribed to the unsettling psychological effects of the war period and the long separations of men from their wives, combined with the new facilities for obtaining divorce, provided by a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which enabled the courts of the Prairie Provinces to grant divorces. Decreases in the totals in 1922 and 1923 appeared to indicate a decline in divorces which might be ascribed to the cessation of abnormal war-time conditions, but the comparatively large increase in 1924, six years after the Armistice, must evidently be attributed to the greater ease with which decrees may now be obtained and, possibly, to a more lenient view of such proceedings on the part of the community. It may be remarked, however, that any attempt to attribute increases or decreases throughout the Dominion to any particular cause must be very approximate, since Table 1, following, shows the fluctuations in the various provinces to be quite irregular.

The number of divorces granted during 1924, by provinces, (Table 1) was 136 in British Columbia, 118 in Alberta, 114 in Ontario, 77 in Manitoba, 42 in Nova Scotia, 28 in Saskatchewan, 15 in New Brunswick, 13 in Quebec and none in Prince Edward Island, where, indeed, only one divorce has been granted since Confederation.

The largest increase in divorces in any province during the year was in Alberta, where 1924 showed an increase of 31 over 1923. Next in order were Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, with increases of 20, 9 and 2 respectively. Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and British Columbia recorded respective decreases of 13, 4, 4, and 3. In addition to the actual increases or decreases by provinces, attention may also be drawn to the larger number of decrees granted to wives in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta, to husbands in Nova Scotia and Alberta and to the smaller number granted to husbands in Manitoba and to wives in Saskatchewan, (See Table 2).





The Sex of Applicants for Divorces.-

It will be seen that, in the common division of divorce statistics into those granted to husbands and to wives, the 1924 figures indicate a change from the preceding year. In 1922 and 1923, divorces granted to husbands in Canada formed respectively 53 and 53.5 p.c. of the total number granted. In 1924, however, this percentage dropped to 48.8 p.c. The change in relative proportions is very probably to be accounted for by the recent demand for equal rights for either sex in divorce proceedings. In comparing Canadian divorces in this respect with those in New Zealand and in the United States, it is seen that the decrees granted in New Zealand are also distributed practically evenly between the sexes, while in the United States, since 1889, the proportion between decrees granted to husbands and to wives has been approximately 1 to 2 respectively.

(A possible indication of the grounds of petitions and decrees may be had from statistics of divorce in New Zealand, where a preponderance of divorces are granted to husbands on grounds of adultery and separation, while a corresponding preponderance of decrees based on desertion are granted to wives. In the United States, however, 40 p.c. of the divorces granted to wives are on grounds of cruelty, while 44 p.c. of those to husbands are on grounds of desertion. In the latter country, as in New Zealand, a correspondingly larger proportion of decrees are granted to husbands on grounds of adultery than to wives).

Divorces Granted in United States to Persons Married in Canada.-

A fact which throws considerable new light on the divorce situation in Canada is found in the Marriage and Divorce Bulletin of the United States Bureau of the Census. The statistics of this publication indicate the surprisingly large extent to which divorces are granted in that country to persons married in Canada. Thus, in 1922, no fewer than 1,368 divorce decrees were granted to couples married in Canada, a number more than 2½ times as large as the total number granted in Canada in the same year. This number also formed 36.2 p.c. of the number of divorces granted in United States during the year to couples married in foreign countries; while, at the same time, the percentage of the Canadian-born population to the total foreign-born amounted to only 8.1 p.c. The Bulletin goes on to say, "It is possible that many Canadians acquire a residence in the United States for the sole purpose of obtaining divorce because in general, divorce laws are more liberal in the United States than in Canada". Of the 1,368 divorces granted to couples who had been married in Canada, no fewer than 462 were granted by the courts of the State of Michigan, while 135 were granted in the State of Washington and 128 in California.

Ottawa, April 9, 1925-KH.

THEORY OF THE EARTH

The theory of the earth is a branch of geology which deals with the origin and development of the earth and its various parts. It is a science which seeks to explain the processes which have shaped the earth and its features. The theory of the earth is based on the study of the earth's history and its various parts. It is a science which seeks to explain the processes which have shaped the earth and its features. The theory of the earth is based on the study of the earth's history and its various parts. It is a science which seeks to explain the processes which have shaped the earth and its features.

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I. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1913 - 1924.

(Final Decrees.)

Year	Ont.	Que.	Alta.	Sask.	Man.	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	British Columbia	Total for Canada
1913	20	4	4	1	6	-	4	20	59
1914	18	7	4	2	2	10	12	15	70
1915	10	3	3	1	1	13	6	16	53
1916	18	1	1	2	2	14	11	18	67
1917	10	4	2	1	-	8	6	23	54
1918	10	2	2	1	-	24	10	65	114
1919	49	4	36	3	88	36	13	147	376
1920	91	9	65	26	42	45	15	136	429
1921	101	9	84	50	122	41	13	128	548
1922	90	6	129	37	97	35	12	138	544
1923	105	11	87	41	81	22	19	139-1/	505
1924	114	13	118	28	77-2/	42	15	136-1/	543

Note: In Prince Edward Island, only one divorce was granted between 1868 and 1924; this was granted in 1913.

1/ One granted by Dominion Parliament.

2/ Two granted by Dominion Parliament.

II. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA IN 1923 AND 1924,  
BY PROVINCES AND SEX OF PLAINTIFF.

(Final Decrees).

Provinces	To Husbands		To Wives		Total	
	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924
Prince Edward Island	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	14	20	8	22	22	42
New Brunswick	10	7	9	8	19	15
Quebec	4	5	7	8	11	13
Ontario	45	49	60	65	105	114
Manitoba	49	35-1/	32	42-1/	81	77-2/
Saskatchewan	25	22	16	6	41	28
Alberta	58	65	29	53	87	118
British Columbia	65	62	74-1/	74-1/	139-1/	136-1/
Canada . . . . .	270	265	235	278	505	543

1/ One granted by Dominion Parliament.

2/ Two granted by Dominion Parliament.

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STATE OF NEW YORK

(1890-1891)

NAME	AGE	SEX	RELATION	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	PROPERTY	INCOME
John Smith	35	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$10,000	\$2,000
Mary Smith	32	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$5,000	\$1,000
Robert Smith	15	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Elizabeth Smith	12	F	Daughter	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
William Smith	10	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Anna Smith	8	F	Daughter	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
James Smith	5	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
John Smith	40	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$10,000	\$2,000
Mary Smith	38	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$5,000	\$1,000
Robert Smith	18	M	Son	High School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Elizabeth Smith	15	F	Daughter	High School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
William Smith	12	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Anna Smith	10	F	Daughter	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
James Smith	8	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
John Smith	45	M	Head	High School	Farmer	\$10,000	\$2,000
Mary Smith	42	F	Wife	High School	Homemaker	\$5,000	\$1,000
Robert Smith	20	M	Son	High School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Elizabeth Smith	18	F	Daughter	High School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
William Smith	15	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
Anna Smith	12	F	Daughter	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0
James Smith	10	M	Son	Common School	Student	\$2,000	\$0

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COMPARISONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

In Table 3 are added comparative figures of divorces and marriages in England and Wales, Australia, New Zealand and Canada for the years 1916 to 1922 or 1923. The percentage of divorces to marriages, taking place in the same year, as here given, is seen in the case of England and Wales to have increased during eight years from 0.35 p.c. to 0.91 p.c.; in Australia from 1.53 p.c. to 2.81 p.c.; in New Zealand from 2.41 p.c. to 5.20 p.c. and in Canada from 0.1 p.c. to 0.8 p.c. Similar figures for the United States, where, of course, the total number of divorces is unusually large owing to the comparative ease with which they may be obtained, show increases from 27,919 in 1887 to 42,937 in 1896, 72,062 in 1906, 112,036 in 1916 and 148,815 in 1922. The percentage of divorces to marriages increased from 10.8 to 13.2 during the years 1916 to 1922, divorces alone during this period increasing by 33 p.c.

III. NUMBER OF MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ENGLAND AND WALES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA IN RECENT YEARS.

Year	England and Wales		Australia		New Zealand		Canada	
	No. of Marriages	No. of Divorces	No. of Marriages	No. of Divorces	No. of Marriages	No. of Divorces	No. of Marriages	No. of Divorces
1916	279,846	990	40,289	617	8,213	198	65,000	1/ 67
1917	258,855	703	33,666	652	6,417	221	60,000	1/ 54
1918	287,163	1,111	33,141	697	6,227	203	55,000	1/ 114
1919	369,411	1,654	40,540	891	9,519	337	70,000	1/ 376
1920	379,658	3,090	51,552	1,060	12,175	471	80,931	429
1921	320,852	3,522	46,869	1,405	10,635	513	69,732	548
1922	299,524	2,588	44,731	1,258	9,556	523	64,420	544
1923	292,408	2,667	44,541	-	10,070	524	65,500	1/ 505
1924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	543

1/ Estimated.

