DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH

## DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA

in

1934

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## DI VORCES IN CAIADA, 1934

There were 1,106 divorces granted in Canada in the calendar year 1934, 1,068 being granted by the courts of seven provinces, while 38 were granted by the Dominion Parliament. These latter have been allotted to provinces according to the domicile of the petitioner, 36 being granted to applicants residing in the province of Quebec and two to wives residing in Ontario whose husbands were residents of quebec.

As compared with 1933 there was an increase of 183 divorces, or 19.8 per cent. Ontario recorded 358 as against 304 for the previous year. All the other provinces also showed increases. Table 1 shows the divorces granted, by provinces, in each of the twenty-two years from 1913 to 1934.

The Sex of Applicants for Divorces.- Up till 1924, Canada's divorce statistics differed from those of most other countries in that they showed that a majority of the divorces granted were on the petition of the husband. In 1924 wives obtained 51.2 p.c. of the decrees granted, but in 1925 husbands were again in the majority of the successful petitioners with 50.6 p.c. In 1926 wives received relief in 52.0 p.c., in 1927 in 52.6 p.c. and in 1928 in 52.0 p.c. of the cases adjudged, this condition being possibly due in part to the passing of the Divorce Act, 1925, which removed certain anomalies which formerly operated to the prejudice of wives. In 1929 and 1930 Wives received relief in $53.9 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{ct}_{6}$ and $58.4 \mathrm{p} \quad \mathrm{c}$. , respectively, of the cases adjudged, while in 1931 the proportion dropped to 57.7 p.c., rising in 1932 and 1933 to 58.7 p.c. and 58.9 p.c., respectively and reaching a new high point in 1934 at 68.5 p.c. (see Table 2). A comparison of Canadian divorce statistics with those of New Zealand and the United States shows that of the decrees granted in the former country from 1928 to 1933 , wives received $52.8,57.3,56.3,58.0,55.7$ and 56.5 p.c., respectively, while figures for the latter country for the six year period from 1927 to 1932 show the decisions granted to wives as being $70.5,71.0,71.4,72.3 .72 .8$ and $73.5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. of the total respectively. In the United States, the proportion of two divorces granted to wives to one granted to husbands remained fairly constant from 1889 to 1923, but is now being replaced by a higher ratio of about five to $t_{\text {wo }}$.

Proportion of Divorced Persons in the Population.- At the 1931 census, there were enumerated 4,049 divorced males and 3,392 divorced females in the Dominion, or 0.08 p.c. and 0.07 p.c. of each sex respectively, while in 1921 the figures recorded were 3,670 and 3,731 or 0.08 p.c. and 0.09 p.c., respectively. As among the nine provinces, British Columbia showed the highest percentage of divorced persons in the population with 0.24 p.c. of each sex, while Quebec showed the lowest percentage with 0.02 males and 0.03 females. Divorced persons who have subsequently been remarrisd are, of course, recorded in the census as married.

Remarriase of Divorced Persons.- An interesting side light on the divorce question is afforded by the figures of divorced persons who remar ried in the years 1926 to 1933, as shown in Table 3. The statistics indicate that the number of divorced persons remarrying is increasing pari passu with the number of divorces. Table 4 shows by provinces the number of divorced persons who remarried in the five years 1929-1933.

1. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1913-1934
(Final Decrees)
Note.- In Prince Edward Island, one divorce was granted in 1913 and one in 1931.

|  | N.S. | N.B. | Que. | Ont. | Van. | Sask. | Alta. B.C.Total <br> for <br> Canada |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1913 | - | 4 | 4 | 20 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 60 |
| 1914 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 70 |
| 1915 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 53 |
| 1916 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 67 |
| 1917 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 10 | - | 1 | 2 | 23 | 54 |
| 1918 | 24 | 10 | 2 | 10 | - | 1 | 2 | 65 | 114 |
| 1919 | 36 | 13 | 4 | 49 | 88 | 3 | 36 | 147 | 376 |
| 1920 | 45 | 15 | 9 | 91 | 42 | 26 | 65 | 136 | 429 |
| 1921 | 41 | 13 | 9 | 101 | 122 | 50 | 84 | 128 | 548 |
| 1922 | 35 | 12 | 6 | 90 | 97 | 37 | 129 | 138 | 544 |
| 1923 | 22 | 19 | 11 | 105 | 81 | 41 | 87 | 139 | 505 |
| 1924 | 42 | 15 | 13 | 114 | 77 | 28 | 118 | 136 | 543 |
| 1925 | 30 | 15 | 13 | 121 | 79 | 42 | 101 | 150 | 551 |
| 1926 | 19 | 12 | 10 | 113 | 85 | 48 | 154 | 167 | 608 |
| 1927 | 29 | 17 | 13 | 182 | 102 | 60 | 148 | 197 | 748 |
| 1928 | 28 | 14 | 25 | 213 | 79 | 55 | 168 | 203 | 785 |
| 1929 | 30 | 21 | 30 | 208 | 89 | 69 | 147 | 222 | 816 |
| 1930 | 19 | 27 | 40 | 207 | 114 | 62 | 151 | 255 | 875 |
| 1931 | 36 | 20 | 39 | 90 | 94 | 5. | 154 | 208 | 692 |
| 1932 | 35 | 26 | 24 | 341 | 114 | 61 | 149 | 245 | 995 |
| 1933 | 27 | 12 | 23 | 304 | 116 | 48 | 135 | 258 | 923 |
| 1934 | 33 | 17 | 36 | 358 | 126 | 62 | 168 | 306 | 1,106 |

$$
\text { 2. DIVORCAS GRANTED IN CAIADA, } 1932-1934 \text {, BY PROVINCES }
$$

| Provinces | To Husbands: |  |  | To Wives: |  |  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 |
| P.E.Island... | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nova Scotia ....... | 19 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 17 | 23 | 35 | 27 | 33 |
| New Brunswick ..... | 14 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 26 | 12 | 17 |
| Quebec .......... | 6 | 9 | 7 | 18 | 14 | 29 | 24 | 23 | 36 |
| Ontario ........... | 166 | 125 | 104 | 175 | 179 | 254\% | 341 | 304 | $358+$ |
| Manitoba .......... | 39 | 39 | 38 | 75 | 77 | 88 | 114 | 116 | 126 |
| Sarkatchewan ...... | 28 | 23 | 23 | 33 | 25 | 39 | 61 | 48 | 62 |
| Alberta ........... | 66 | 56 | 62 | 83 | 79 | 106 | 149 | 135 | 168 |
| British Columbia.. | 90 | 82 | 96 | 155 | 176 | 210 | 245 | 258 | 306 |
| Canada .......... | 428 | 354 | 348 | 567 | 569 | 758 | 995 | 923 | 1,106 |

[^0]3. DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRIED, BI SEX, 1926-33.

| Year | Nales | Females |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1926 | 484 | 512 |
| 1927 | 586 | 521 |
| 1928 | 749 | 739 |
| 1929 | 756 | 703 |
| 1930 | 759 | 668 |
| 1931 | 669 | 589 |
| 1932 | 661 | 579 |
| 1933 | 654 | 606 |

4. DIVORCED PERSONS REMCARRIED, BY PROVITCES, 1929 - 33.

Note.- The number of divorced men who married divorced women was 111 in 1929, 109 in 1930, 101 in 1931, 73 in 1932 and 63 in 1933.

|  | 1929 |  | 1930 |  | 1931 |  | 1932 |  | 1933 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prince Edward Is. | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 | - |
| Nova Scotia ..... | 24 | 17 | 25 | 16 | 28 | 27 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 25 |
| New Brunswick ... | 46 | 35 | 23 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 22 | 18 |
| Quebec .......... | 52 | 37 | 66 | 49 | 68 | 52 | 69 | 44 | 50 | 43 |
| Ontario | 187 | 175 | 200 | 155 | 174 | 137 | 198 | 154 | 213 | 177 |
| Manitoba | 64 | 63 | 66 | 54 | 73 | 43 | 59 | 51 | 67 | 62 |
| Saskatchewan | 46 | 55 | 63 | 50 | 43 | 47 | 53 | 35 | 41 | 29 |
| Alberta ......... | 118 | 90 | 101 | 108 | 102 | 107 | 88 | 103 | 88 | 101 |
| British Columbia. | 218 | 230 | 214 | 207 | 155 | 152 | 148 | 151 | 147 | 151 |
| Total .......... | 756 | 703 | 759 | 668 | 669 | 589 | 661 | 579 | 654 | 606 |

Of the 356 divorces granted in 1934 by the Ontario courts, ${ }^{+}$the parties in 61 cases were married outside the province. The remaining 295 cases have been analysed as to age by the Registrar General's Office and the resulting table is republished bere as Table 5, through the kind permission of that Department, on account of its general bearing on the question of how far disparity of ages between husbands and wives is a predisposing element in bring about divorce.

Two divorces were granted by Parliament to Ontario petitioners.

## 5. AGES OF THE PARTIES TO 225 DI VORCES GRAITED IN ONTARIO, 1934.

## Aces of Women

Ages



In Table 6 are given comparative figures of divorces and marriages in England and Fales, Australia, New Zealand and Caneda for the years 1916 and subsequently. The percentage of divorces to marriages taking place in the same year, as here given, is seen in the case of Englend and Wales to have increased during these years from 0.35 p.c. to $1.27 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. ; in Australia from $1.53 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. to $4.98 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$.; in New zealand from 2.41 p.c. to $6.17 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. ; and in Canada from $9.1 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. to 1.45 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, 114,000 in 1916, 148,815 in 1922, 265,096 in 1923, 170,952 in 1924, 275,449 in 1925, 180, 853 in 1926, 192,037 in 1927, 195,939 in 1928, 201, 468 in 1929, falling to 191, 591 in 1930, 183,664 in 1931 and 160,338 in 1932. The percentage of divorces to marriages increased from 10.6 to 16.3 during the years 1916 to 1932, divorces during this period increasing by 40.64 p.c. (In 1932 divorces granted to women in the United States constituted $73.5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{c}$. of the total granted, as compared with 72.8 p.c. in 1931).
6. AUMBER OF MARRIAGES ATD DIVORCES IN MIGGLAND AND TAIES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZTALADD SID CAUADA IN RECEIT YEARS

|  |  | Ingland and Fales |  | Australia |  | New Zoaland |  | Canada |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Mar } \\ & \text { riages } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Di- } \\ & \text { vorces } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Mar-- } \\ & \text { riages } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { To. of } \\ & \text { Di- } \\ & \text { vorces } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Mar- } \\ & \text { riages } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Wo. of } \\ & \text { Di- } \\ & \text { vorces } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Marm } \\ & \text { rioges } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { Di- } \\ & \text { vorces } \end{aligned}$ |
| 1916 | .. | 279,846 | 990 | 40,289 | 617 | 8,213 | 198 | 65,000+ | 67 |
| 1917 | ... | 258,855 | 703 | 33,666 | 652 | 6,417 | 219 | 60,000+ | 54 |
| 1918 | ... | 287,163 | 1,211 | 33,141 | 681 | 6,227 | 199 | $55.000+$ | 114 |
| 1919 | . . . | 369,411 | 1,654 | 40,540 | 879 | 9,519 | 336 | 70,000+ | 376 |
| 1920 | .... | 379,658 | 3,090 | 51,552 | 1,152 | 12,175 | 469 | 80,931 | 429 |
| 1921 | . | 320,852 | 3,522 | 46,869 | 1,480 | 10,635 | 511 | 69,732 | 548 |
| 1922 | ... | 299,524 | 2,588 | 44,731 | 1,326 | 9,556 | 522 | 64.420 | 544 |
| 1923 | .... | 292,408 | 2,667 | 44,541 | 1,460 | 10,070 | 522 | 66,463 | 505 |
| 1924 | .... | 296,416 | 2,286 | 45,869 | 1,528 | 10,259 | 526 | 65,129 | 543 |
| 1925 | .... | 295,689 | 2,605 | 45,899 | 1,844 | 10,419 | 612 | 64,644 | 551 |
| 1926 | .... | 279,860 | 2,622 | 47,865 | 1,632 | 10,680 | 614 | 66,658 | 608 |
| 1927 | .... | 308,370 | 3,190 | 49,033 | 1,899 | 10,478 | 540 | 69.515 | 748 |
| 1928 | .... | 303,228 | 4,018 | 48,593 | 1,829 | 10,537 | 572 | 74,311 | 785 |
| 1929 | .... | 313,316 | 3.396 | 47,500 | 2,036 | 10,967 | 635 | 77,288 | 816 |
| 1930 | .... | 315,109 | 3,563 | 43,255 | 1,783 | 11,075 | 620 | 72,657 | 875 |
| 1931 | .... | 321,847 | 3,764 | 38,882 | 1,938 | 9,817 | 591 | 66,591 | 684 |
| 1932 | .... | 307,184 | 3,894 | 43,634 | - | 9,896 | 612 | 62,531 | 995 |
| 2933 | .... | 318,191 | 4,042 | 46,595 | - | 10,510 | 648 | 63,865 | 923 |


[^0]:    + Two granted by Dominion Farliament.

