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DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA

in

1936

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OTTAWA

1937

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL STAFF

DIVISION OF GENERAL STAFF

1930

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1930

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
GENERAL STATISTICS BRANCH
OTTAWA

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DIVORCES IN CANADA, 1936.

There were 1,526 divorces granted in Canada in the calendar year 1936, 1,486 being granted by the courts of seven provinces, while 40 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 four to wives residing in Ontario whose husbands were residents of Quebec.

As compared with 1935 there was an increase of 150 divorces, or 10.9 per cent. Ontario recorded 511 as against 463 for the previous year. All the other provinces, except Nova Scotia and Alberta, also showed increases. Table 1 shows the divorces granted, by provinces, in each of the twenty-four years from 1913 to 1936.

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 p.c. and 58.4 p.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. In 1935 the proportion dropped to 61.6 p.c., rising again in 1936 to 64.0 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 1935, wives received 52.8, 57.3, 56.3, 58.0, 55.7, 56.5, 56.5 and 54.1 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 p.c. of the total respectively.

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 remarried are, of course, recorded in the census as married.

Remarriage of Divorced Persons.— An interesting side light on the divorce question is afforded by the figures of divorced persons who remarried in the years 1926 to 1935, 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 1931 to 1935.

1. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1913 - 1936.

(Final Decrees)

Note. - In Prince Edward Island, one divorce was granted in 1913, one in 1931, and one in 1935.

| Year | N.S. | N.B. | QUE. | ONT. | MAN. | SASK. | ALTA. | B.C. | Total for 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 | 51 | 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 |
| 1935 | 52 | 36 | 26 | 463 | 145 | 60 | 209 | 384 | 1,376 |
| 1936 | 41 | 38 | 36 | 511 | 179 | 79 | 209 | 433 | 1,526 |

2. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1934 - 1936, BY PROVINCES
AND SEX OF PLAINTIFF

(Final Decrees)

| | To Husbands | | | : | To Wives | | | : | Total | | |
|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|------|------|
| | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | : | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | : | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 |
| P. E. I.... | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| N. S. | 10 | 21 | 24 | 23 | 31 | 17 | 33 | 52 | 41 | | |
| N. B. | 8 | 16 | 13 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 17 | 36 | 38 | | |
| Que..... | 7 | 6 | 11 | 29 | 20 | 25 | 36 | 26 | 36 | | |
| Ont. | 104 | 167 | 172 | 254+ | 296++ | 339+++ | 358+ | 463++ | 511+++ | | |
| Man. | 38 | 76 | 78 | 88 | 69 | 101 | 126 | 145 | 179 | | |
| Sask. | 23 | 26 | 39 | 39 | 34 | 40 | 62 | 60 | 79 | | |
| Alta. | 62 | 74 | 74 | 106 | 135 | 135 | 168 | 209 | 209 | | |
| B. C. | 96 | 143 | 138 | 210 | 241 | 285 | 306 | 384 | 433 | | |
| CANADA | 348 | 529 | 549 | 758 | 847 | 977 | 1,106 | 1,376 | 1,526 | | |

+ Two granted by Dominion Parliament. ++ Three granted by Dominion Parliament.
+++ Four Granted by Dominion Parliament.

3. DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRIED, BY SEX, 1926 - 35.

| Year | Males | Females |
|------------|-------|---------|
| 1926 | 484 | 512 |
| 1927 | 586 | 522 |
| 1928 | 749 | 739 |
| 1929 | 756 | 703 |
| 1930 | 759 | 668 |
| 1931 | 669 | 589 |
| 1932 | 661 | 579 |
| 1933 | 654 | 606 |
| 1934 | 741 | 660 |
| 1935 | 814 | 696 |

4. DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRIED, BY PROVINCES, 1931 - 35.

Note. - The number of divorced men who married divorced women was 101 in 1931, 73 in 1932, 63 in 1933, 85 in 1934 and 94 in 1935.

| Provinces | 1931 | | 1932 | | 1933 | | 1934 | | 1935 | |
|---------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| P. E. I. | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| N. S. | 28 | 27 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 25 | 37 | 24 | 47 | 26 |
| N. B. | 25 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 22 | 18 | 38 | 23 | 30 | 25 |
| Que. | 68 | 52 | 69 | 44 | 50 | 43 | 47 | 43 | 56 | 48 |
| Ont. | 174 | 137 | 198 | 154 | 213 | 177 | 249 | 186 | 279 | 162 |
| Man. | 73 | 43 | 59 | 51 | 67 | 62 | 55 | 56 | 79 | 83 |
| Sask. | 43 | 47 | 53 | 35 | 41 | 29 | 39 | 32 | 44 | 38 |
| Alta. | 102 | 107 | 88 | 103 | 88 | 101 | 94 | 103 | 106 | 116 |
| B.C. | 155 | 152 | 148 | 151 | 147 | 151 | 182 | 192 | 170 | 196 |
| Total. | 669 | 589 | 661 | 579 | 654 | 606 | 741 | 660 | 814 | 696 |

Note. - The number of divorced men who married divorced women was 101 in 1931, 73 in 1932, 63 in 1933, 85 in 1934 and 94 in 1935.

| Provinces | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| P. A. I. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| N. B. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| N. D. | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Que. | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Ont. | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| Man. | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 |
| Sask. | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 |
| Alta. | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| B. C. | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| Total | 601 | 601 | 601 | 601 |

Note: The number of divorces in 1931 was 13 in 1931, 13 in 1932, 13 in 1933, 13 in 1934 and 13 in 1935.

| Provinces | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| P. A. I. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| N. B. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| N. D. | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Que. | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Ont. | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| Man. | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 |
| Sask. | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 |
| Alta. | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| B. C. | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| Total | 601 | 601 | 601 | 601 |

Note: The number of divorces in 1931 was 13 in 1931, 13 in 1932, 13 in 1933, 13 in 1934 and 13 in 1935.

| Provinces | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|
| P. A. I. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| N. B. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| N. D. | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Que. | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Ont. | 137 | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| Man. | 51 | 51 | 51 | 51 |
| Sask. | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 |
| Alta. | 107 | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| B. C. | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| Total | 601 | 601 | 601 | 601 |

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In Table 5 are given comparative figures of divorces and marriages in England and Wales, Australia, New Zealand and Canada 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 England and Wales to have increased during these years from 0.35 p.c. to 1.16 p.c.; in Australia from 1.53 p.c. to 4.43 p.c.; in New Zealand from 2.41 p.c. to 5.36 p.c.; and in Canada from 0.1 p.c. to 1.98 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, 165,096 in 1923, 170,952 in 1924, 175,449 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 p.c. of the total granted, as compared with 72.8 p.c. in 1931.) No statistics of divorces granted in the United States have been published since those for 1932, but estimates would indicate that there were some 165,000 divorces granted in 1933, 204,000 in 1934 and 218,000 in 1935. The estimated percentages of divorces to marriages were 15.0 p.c., 15.7 p.c. and 16.4 p.c. in the same three years.

5. 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 Mar-riages | No. of Di-vores | No. of Mar-riages | No. of Di-vores | No. of Mar-riages | No. of Di-vores | No. of Mar-riages | No. of Di-vores |
| 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 | 1,111 | 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 | 409 | 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 | 9,576 | 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 | 46,899 | 1,844 | 10,419 | 612 | 64,644 | 551 |
| 1926..... | 279,860 | 2,622 | 47,863 | 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 | 71,657 | 875 |
| 1931..... | 311,847 | 3,764 | 38,882 | 1,938 | 9,817 | 591 | 66,591 | 684 |
| 1932..... | 307,184 | 3,894 | 43,634 | 1,680 | 9,896 | 612 | 62,531 | 995 |
| 1933..... | 318,191 | 4,042 | 46,595 | 1,948 | 10,510 | 648 | 63,865 | 923 |
| 1934..... | 342,307 | 4,287 | 51,465 | 2,282 | 11,256 | 683 | 73,092 | 1,106 |
| 1935..... | 349,536 | 4,069 | 56,826 | - | 12,187 | 653 | 76,893 | 1,526 |

+ Estimated.

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