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DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA

in

1938



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DIVORCES IN CANADA, 1938.

There were 1,883 divorces granted in Canada in the calendar year 1938, 1,798 being granted by the courts of seven provinces, while 85 were granted by the Dominion Parliament. These latter have been allotted to provinces according to the legal domicile of the petitioner, 83 being in the province of Quebec, and two in Prince Edward Island.

As compared with 1937 there was an increase of 13 divorces, or 0.7 p.c. There was no change in Prince Edward Island, decreases were recorded in British Columbia and New Brunswick - that of 280 divorces, or 47.5 p.c., in the former province being particularly noteworthy - while increases were shown for the remaining provinces, that of 217, or 36.4 p.c., of Ontario being the greatest. Table 1 shows the divorces granted, by provinces, in each of the 21 years from 1918 to 1938.

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 successful petitioners with 50.6 p.c. From 1926 to 1933 wives received between 50 and 60 p.c. of the divorces granted. From 1934 to 1938 they received 68.5, 61.6, 64.0, 63.4, and 63.6 p.c., respectively. In New Zealand wives received between 50 and 60 p.c. of the divorces granted between 1928 and 1936, while in the United States they received from 70.5 to 73.5 p.c. of the petitions granted in the years 1927 to 1932.

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 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 1937, 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 1933 to 1937.

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1. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1918 - 1938.

(Final Decrees)

Note. - In Prince Edward Island, one divorce was granted in 1931 and two in 1935, 1937, and 1938.

Year	N.S.	N.B.	QUE.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	Total for Canada
1918	24	10	2	10	-	1	2	65	114
1919	36	13	4	46	88	3	36	147	373
1920	45	15	9	89	42	26	65	136	427
1921	41	13	10	96	122	50	84	128	544
1922	35	12	6	91	97	37	129	138	545
1923	22	19	10	102	81	41	87	139	501
1924	42	15	13	113	77	28	118	136	542
1925	30	15	13	119	79	42	101	150	549
1926	19	12	10	111	85	48	154	167	606
1927	29	17	13	181	101	60	148	197	746
1928	28	13	24	213	79	55	168	203	783
1929	30	21	30	207	89	69	147	222	815
1930	19	27	41	204	114	62	151	255	873
1931	36	20	38	90	94	51	154	208	692
1932	35	26	27	338	114	61	149	245	995
1933	27	12	24	303	116	48	135	258	923
1934	33	17	38	356	126	62	168	306	1,106
1935	52	36	28	460	145	60	209	384	1,376
1936	41	38	40	507	179	79	209	433	1,526
1937	36	54	43	596	200	109	241	589	1,870
1938	51	39	83	813	205	120	261	309	1,883

2. DIVORCES GRANTED IN CANADA, 1936 - 1938, BY PROVINCES

AND SEX OF PLAINTIFF

(Final Decrees)

	To Husbands			To Wives			Total		
	1936	1937	1938	1936	1937	1938	1936	1937	1938
P. E. I.	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	2	2
N. S.	24	18	19	17	18	32	41	36	51
N. B.	13	23	15	25	31	24	38	54	39
Que.	11	8	18	29	35	65	40	43	83
Ont.	172	205	288	335	391	525	507	596	813
Man.	78	79	82	101	121	123	179	200	205
Sask.	39	44	42	40	65	78	79	109	120
Alta.	74	102	103	135	139	158	209	241	261
B. C.	138	205	118	295	384	191	433	589	309
CANADA	549	685	685	977	1,185	1,198	1,526	1,870	1,883

3. DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRIED, BY SEX, 1926 - 37.

Year	Males	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
1934	741	660
1935	814	696
1936	851	727
1937	895	731

4. DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRIED, BY PROVINCES, 1933 - 37.

Note. - The number of divorced men who married divorced women was 63 in 1933, 85 in 1934, 94 in 1935, 104 in 1936, and 110 in 1937.

Provinces	1933		1934		1935		1936		1937	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
P. E. I.	4	-	-	1	3	2	-	2	7	1
N. S.	22	25	37	24	47	26	37	29	49	30
N. B.	22	18	38	23	30	25	37	18	39	21
Que.....	50	43	47	43	56	48	64	47	71	59
Ont.	213	177	249	186	279	162	238	174	127	84
Man.	67	62	55	56	79	83	84	84	134	85
Sask.	41	29	39	32	44	38	41	37	65	45
Alta.	88	101	94	103	106	116	126	123	132	133
B. C.	147	151	162	192	170	196	224	213	271	273
Total	654	606	741	660	814	696	851	727	895	731

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 1.36 p.c.; in Australia from 1.53 p.c. to 4.15 p.c.; in New Zealand from 2.41 p.c. to 6.15 p.c.; and in Canada from 0.1 p.c. to 2.13 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

	England and Wales		Australia		New Zealand		Canada	
	No. of Mar- riages	No. of Di- vorces	No. of Mar- riages	No. of Di- vorces	No. of Mar- riages	No. of Di- vorces	No. of Mar- riages	No. of Di- vorces
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+	373
1920	379,658	3,090	51,552	1,152	12,175	469	80,931	427
1921	320,852	3,522	46,869	1,480	10,635	511	69,732	544
1922	299,524	2,588	44,731	1,326	9,566	522	64,420	545
1923	292,408	2,667	44,541	1,460	10,070	522	66,463	501
1924	296,416	2,286	45,869	1,528	10,259	526	65,129	542
1925	295,689	2,605	46,899	1,844	10,419	612	64,644	549
1926	279,860	2,622	47,865	1,632	10,680	614	66,658	606
1927	308,370	3,190	49,033	1,899	10,478	540	69,515	746
1928	303,228	4,018	48,593	1,829	10,537	572	74,311	783
1929	313,316	3,396	47,500	2,036	10,967	635	77,288	815
1930	315,109	3,563	43,255	1,783	11,075	620	71,657	873
1931	311,847	3,764	38,882	1,938	9,817	591	66,591	692
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	2,357	12,187	653	76,893	1,376
1936	354,644	4,057	58,709	-	13,808	849	80,904	1,526
1937	359,160	4,886	-	-	-	-	87,800	1,870

+ Estimated.

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