

152. Adding the widowers, there were 521,653 unmarried men in 1891, against 461,144 in 1881. About 40 per cent of the men of marriageable age were unmarried in 1891 and also 1881.

There does not seem to be the growing aversion to marriage on the part of the men of Canada that has been affirmed of the men of other countries.

153. Of the female population in 1891, 791,903 were wives, 129,015 were widows. As there were 1,451,851 unmarried and children, by deducting the children and married girls (latter numbering 11,428) we have 330,628 women who were spinsters on the 6th April, 1891.

154. Of the female population in 1881, 689,540 were wives, 109,435 were widows. As there were 1,336,982 unmarried and children, by deducting the children (and the 11,749 girls who had married) we have 297,847 women who were spinsters in 1881.

155. Adding the widows there were 459,643 unmarried women over twenty years of age in 1891, and 407,282 in 1881—about 36·7 per cent of the women twenty years and over were unmarried in 1891, and 37·1 per cent in 1881.

156. These figures do not support the belief that the people of Canada like those of other countries are not married and given in marriage to the same extent now as in former years.

157. The census of 1891 shows that there were 4 husbands who had attained the mature age of 14 years, and 947 between 15 and 20 years old ; and that 30 of these latter were widowers. The census of 1881 revealed 2 husbands of 14 years old, one of whom was a widower, and 849 married boys between 15 and 20 years, of whom 31 were widowers.

158. Among the females the census of 1891 showed 27 married under 15 years, three of whom wore "weeds," and 11,401 between 15 and 20 years who had taken wifely vows, of whom 129 were widows. The census of 1881 showed 44 married girls under 15, and 11,705 between 15 and 20 years ; of the latter 106 were widows.