

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS TO EACH CONVICTION.

PROVINCES.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Ontario.. .. .	423	342	371	329	311	295	320	426	539
Quebec.	862	653	602	488	432	429	370	355	393
Nova Scotia.	751	579	668	967	893	683	700	710	668
New Brunswick.	229	247	249	318	282	232	206	197	249
Manitoba.	83	141	175	224	264	229	298	300	262
British Columbia	263	613	182	291	220	337	199	153	177
Prince Edward Island.	443	332	304	398	380	330	380	351	362
Territories	5,460	1,600	1,483	1,337	826	656
Average for Canada	454	404	411	397	366	342	341	373	430

1498. In Canada, under the Union Act, 1867, divorce is one of the subjects assigned to the Federal Parliament. As, however, some of the provinces had established Divorce Courts before Confederation, they have been permitted to continue the jurisdiction which was conferred upon their courts. These provinces are: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. A Divorce Court was first established in Nova Scotia, in 1739. It consisted of the Governor or Commander in Chief and the members of Executive Council. By Act, 1866, the Judge in Equity became Judge Ordinary of the Court. One of the assistant judges of the Supreme Court is now at the head of this Court. The Court has jurisdiction to declare any marriage null and void for impotency, adultery, cruelty or kindred within the prohibited degrees.

In New Brunswick, a Divorce Court was established in 1791, and consisted of the Governor and five members of the Executive Council. In 1835 a judge of the Supreme Court was added, and in 1860 a Court of Divorce and Matrimonial Causes was created.

Prince Edward Island, in 1836, received a Court of Divorce, composed of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

British Columbia exercises the power of granting divorces under an ordinance passed in 1867, after the union of the two colonies of Vancouver Island and the Mainland, which enacted that the civil and criminal laws of England, as they existed on the 19th November, 1858, were in force in all parts of British Columbia.

For Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the North-west Territories the Federal Parliament constitutes a Court of Divorce, proceedings being begun in the Senate, by arrangement.