

5.—Divorces in Canada.

For many years subsequent to Confederation, the number of divorces granted in Canada was very small, 1883, with 13 divorces, being the first year in which the number attained two figures, while 1903, with 21 divorces, was the record year up to that time. Thereafter the numbers grew more rapidly, 1909 showing 51 divorces and 1913, the last pre-war year, 60 divorces. This number was, however, less than one per 1,000 of the marriages contracted in Canada in these years.

The effect of the war was to increase very greatly the number of divorces granted in Canada. The causes may be found in the generally unsettling psychological effect of the war period, and the long separations between men on active service and their wives. The provision of new facilities for divorce is also to be considered; owing to a decision of the Imperial Privy Council, divorces in the Prairie Provinces have subsequently to 1918 been granted by the courts of these provinces, so that Ontario and Quebec are now the only provinces in which the applicant for divorce must secure a special Private Act of Parliament.

The above-mentioned causes have tended to produce the recent increase in the number of divorces granted in Canada, which have grown from 114 in 1918 to 551 in 1925, these numbers being those of final decrees, which alone really constitute divorces. The declines in 1922 to 1924 may possibly indicate that the wave of divorces due to the war has passed its highest point. The statistics of divorces granted in the years from 1901 to 1925 inclusive will be found in Table 40. (For divorces in the years prior to 1901 see 1921 Year Book, p. 825).

40.—Statistics of Divorces Granted in Canada, 1901-1925.

NOTE.—In Prince Edward Island only one divorce was granted from 1868 to 1924; this was in 1913. In consequence of a decision of the Imperial Privy Council, divorces in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have subsequently to 1918 been granted by the courts of these provinces.

| Years. | Granted by the Dominion Parliament. | | | | Granted by the Courts. | | | Total for Canada. |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Ontario. | Quebec. | Northwest Territories. | Manitoba. | Nova Scotia. | New Brunswick. | British Columbia. | |
| 1901..... | 2 | — | — | — | 10 | — | 7 | 19 |
| 1902..... | 2 | — | — | — | 9 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| 1903..... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 21 |
| 1904..... | 5 | 1 | — | — | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 |
| 1905..... | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 35 |
| | | | Alta. Sask. | | | | | |
| 1906..... | 10 | 3 | 1 | — | 5 | 1 | 17 | 37 |
| 1907..... | 3 | 1 | — | — | 8 ¹ | 3 | 9 | 25 |
| 1908..... | 8 | — | — | — | 5 | 5 | 12 | 30 |
| 1909..... | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 ¹ | 5 | 22 | 51 |
| 1910..... | 14 | 2 | — | 1 | 13 ¹ | 6 | 12 | 51 |
| 1911..... | 13 | 4 | 2 | — | 10 ¹ | 6 | 19 | 57 |
| 1912..... | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 ² | 11 | 35 |
| 1913..... | 20 | 4 | 4 | 1 | — | 4 | 20 | 60 ⁴ |
| 1914..... | 18 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 70 |
| 1915..... | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 16 | 53 |
| 1916..... | 18 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 18 | 67 |
| 1917..... | 10 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 23 | 54 |
| 1918..... | 10 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 10 | 65 | 114 |
| 1919..... | 49 | 4 | 36 ³ | 3 | 36 | 13 | 147 | 376 |
| 1920..... | 91 | 9 | 64 ⁴ | 26 ⁴ | 45 | 15 | 136 | 429 |
| 1921..... | 101 | 9 | 84 ⁴ | 50 ⁴ | 41 | 13 | 128 | 548 |
| 1922..... | 90 | 6 | 129 ⁴ | 37 ⁴ | 35 | 12 | 138 | 544 |
| 1923..... | 105 | 11 | 87 ⁴ | 41 ⁴ | 22 | 19 | 139 ³ | 505 |
| 1924..... | 114 | 13 | 118 ⁴ | 28 ⁴ | 77 ^{4,5} | 15 | 136 ³ | 543 |
| 1925..... | 121 | 13 | 101 ⁴ | 42 ⁴ | 30 | 15 | 150 | 551 |

¹ Includes one judicial separation. ² Includes one not effective till court costs are paid. ³ One by Parliament. ⁴ Granted by courts. ⁵ Two granted by Parliament. ⁶ Includes one in P. E. Island.