

are those of final decrees, which alone really constitute divorces. In 1931 the number decreased to 692, this being due largely to the transfer of jurisdiction in Ontario divorces from the Parliament of Canada to the Supreme Court of the Province, with the consequent delay between the granting of the decree *nisi* and the decree absolute. Since 1931 there has been an increase of 193 p.c. in the total number of divorces granted. In 1939 the number passed the two-thousand mark for the first time, owing largely to the increase in British Columbia, where divorces granted almost reached the record established in 1937.

15.—Divorces Granted in Canada, by Provinces, 1918-39.

NOTE.—In consequence of a decision of the British Privy Council, divorces in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta have, subsequently to 1918, been granted by the courts of these provinces. For divorces in each year prior to 1918, see the 1921 Year Book, p. 825.

Year.	Granted by the Dominion Parliament.			Granted by the Courts.						Total for Canada.
	P.E. Island.	Quebec.	Ontario.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Manitoba.	Saskatchewan.	Alberta.	British Columbia	
1918.....	Nil	2	10	24	10	Nil	1 ¹	2 ¹	65	114
1919.....	"	4	46	36	13	88 ²	3	36 ²	147	373
1920.....	"	9	89	45	15	42	26	65	136	427
1921.....	"	10	96	41	13	122	50	84	128	544
1922.....	"	6	91	35	12	97	37	129	138	545
1923.....	"	10	102	22	19	81	41	87	139 ²	501
1924.....	"	13	113	42	15	77 ²	28	118	136 ²	542
1925.....	"	13	119	30	15	79	42	101	150	549
1926.....	"	10	111	19	12	85	48 ²	154	167	606
1927.....	"	13	181	29	17	101	60	148	197	746
1928.....	"	24	213	28	13	79	55	168	203	783
1929.....	"	30	207	30	21	89	69	147	222	815
1930.....	"	41	204	19	27	114	62	151	255	873
1931.....	1	38	90 ⁴	36	20	94	51	154	208	692
1932.....	Nil	27	338 ⁴	35	26	114	61	149	245	995
1933.....	"	24	303 ⁴	27	12	116	48	135	258	923
1934.....	"	38	356 ⁴	33	17	126	62	168	306	1,106
1935.....	2	28	460 ⁴	52	36	145	60	209	384	1,376
1936.....	Nil	40	507 ⁴	41	38	179	79	209	433	1,526
1937.....	2	43	596 ⁴	36	54	200	109	241	589	1,870
1938.....	2	83	813 ⁴	51	39	205	122 ²	261	309	1,885 ²
1939.....	Nil	50	743 ⁴	64	40	181	124	266	554	2,022

¹ Granted by Parliament.

² One granted by Parliament.

³ Two granted by Parliament.

⁴ Granted by the courts.

² Revised since the publication of the 1939 Year Book.

Section 3.—Deaths.

Within the past century, and more especially within the past generation, there has occurred throughout the countries of the white world a notable decline in the death rate, except where man has brought death upon himself through wars and the aftermath of wars. How far this decline has been due to advances in medical science, how far to better sanitation, and how far to the improvement in the general conditions of living, as a result of the increase in the productive power of humanity, is in dispute, but concerning the facts there is no doubt.