

14.—Crude Marriage Rates of Various Countries of the World and of Provinces of Canada in Recent Years

Country or Province	Year	Crude Marriage Rate per 1,000 Population	Country or Province	Year	Crude Marriage Rate per 1,000 Population
Union of South Africa (Whites)	1938	11.0	Czechoslovakia	1937	8.3
United States	1937	11.0 ¹	Norway	1938	8.3
New Zealand	1938	10.1	Bulgaria	1937	8.1
Japan	1937	9.5	Chile	1938	8.1
Roumania	1937	9.5	Poland	1937	8.0
Canada	1939	9.2	Scotland	1938	7.8
Manitoba	1939	10.6	Belgium	1937	7.6
British Columbia	1939	10.2	Netherlands	1937	7.6
Alberta	1939	9.9	Lithuania	1939	7.5
Ontario	1939	9.2	Switzerland	1939	7.5
Nova Scotia	1939	9.1	Italy	1938	7.4
Quebec	1939	9.0	Newfoundland and Labrador	1938	7.3
New Brunswick	1939	8.3	Northern Ireland	1939	7.1
Saskatchewan	1939	7.7	Austria	1937	6.9
Prince Edward Island	1939	6.7	Uruguay	1937	6.7
Australia	1938	9.1	Greece	1937	6.6
Germany	1937	9.1	France	1938	6.5
Sweden	1938	9.0	Ceylon	1938	6.1
Denmark	1938	8.9	Spain	1935	6.1
Hungary	1937	8.9	Iceland	1937	5.5
England and Wales	1938	8.7	Ireland (Eire)	1939	5.2
Estonia	1937	8.5	Panama	1937	4.8
Finland	1937	8.5	Jamaica	1937	4.6
Latvia	1938	8.5	Salvador	1936	3.5
British Isles	1938	8.4			

¹ Estimated rate.

Subsection 2.—Divorces*

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.

One effect of the War of 1914-18 was to increase divorce. The causes were the generally unsettling psychological influences 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 British Privy Council, divorces in the Prairie Provinces, have, subsequently to 1918, been granted by the courts of these provinces, so that Ontario and Quebec have since then been the only provinces in which the applicant for divorce must secure a special private Act of Parliament. In 1930, however, an Act of the Dominion Parliament (20-21 Geo. V, c. 14) gave jurisdiction in divorce cases to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

The above-mentioned causes tended to increase the number of divorces granted in Canada; these grew steadily from 114 in 1918 to 873 in 1930. These numbers are those of final decrees, which alone really constitute divorces. In 1931 the number decreased to 696, 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 200 p.c. in the total number of divorces granted. In 1938 the number passed the two-thousand mark for the first time, owing largely to the increases in Ontario and British Columbia. Since the publication of the 1940 edition of the Year Book, the statistics of Table

* The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes a bulletin on Divorce showing the sex of applicants and the number of persons re-married, together with comparisons with certain other countries.