

15 have been extensively revised through the co-operation of the provincial authorities concerned.

### 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 <sup>1</sup>	2 <sup>1</sup>	65	114
1919.....	"	4	46	36	13	88 <sup>2</sup>	3	36 <sup>2</sup>	147	373
1920.....	"	9	89	45	15	42	26	112 <sup>3</sup>	136	474 <sup>5</sup>
1921.....	"	10	96	41	13	122	50	89 <sup>5</sup>	128	549 <sup>5</sup>
1922.....	"	6	61	35	12	97	37	129	138	545
1923.....	"	10	102	22	19	81	41	88 <sup>5</sup>	139 <sup>2</sup>	502 <sup>5</sup>
1924.....	"	13	113	42	15	77 <sup>3</sup>	28	118	136 <sup>2</sup>	542
1925.....	"	13	119	30	15	79	42	101	150	549
1926.....	"	10	111	19	12	85	48 <sup>2</sup>	154	167	606
1927.....	"	13	181	29	17	101	60	148	197	746
1928.....	"	24	213	28	13	79	55	173 <sup>5</sup>	203	788 <sup>5</sup>
1929.....	"	30	207	30	21	89	69	147	222	815
1930.....	"	41	204	19	27	114	62	151	255	873
1931.....	1	38	91 <sup>4,5</sup>	36	20	94	51	157 <sup>6</sup>	208	696 <sup>5</sup>
1932.....	Nil	27	343 <sup>4,5</sup>	35	26	114	61	150 <sup>5</sup>	245	1,001 <sup>5</sup>
1933.....	"	24	307 <sup>4,5</sup>	27	12	116	48	138 <sup>5</sup>	258	930 <sup>5</sup>
1934.....	"	38	365 <sup>4,5</sup>	33	17	126	62	170 <sup>5</sup>	306	1,117 <sup>5</sup>
1935.....	2	28	491 <sup>4,5</sup>	52	36	145	60	225 <sup>5</sup>	384	1,423 <sup>5</sup>
1936.....	Nil	40	519 <sup>4,5</sup>	41	38	179	79	218 <sup>5</sup>	462 <sup>5</sup>	1,576 <sup>5</sup>
1937.....	2	43	607 <sup>4,5</sup>	36	53 <sup>5</sup>	200	109	259 <sup>5</sup>	533 <sup>5</sup>	1,842 <sup>5</sup>
1938.....	2	83	824 <sup>4,5</sup>	51	39	205	122	271 <sup>6</sup>	647 <sup>5</sup>	2,244 <sup>5</sup>
1939.....	Nil	50	747 <sup>4,5</sup>	64	40	181	132 <sup>5</sup>	272 <sup>5</sup>	602 <sup>5</sup>	2,038 <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Granted by Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> One granted by Parliament.

<sup>3</sup> Two granted by Parliament.

<sup>4</sup> Granted by the courts.

<sup>5</sup> Revised since the publication of the 1940 Year Book.

## Section 3.—Deaths

Disregarding the effects of wars and their aftermath, the past century has seen a decline in the death rate in countries of the white world. Perhaps the most impressive testimony regarding this decline in the death rate is furnished by the mortality statistics of Sweden, where vital statistics have been kept with great accuracy for the whole nation ever since 1750. There, the crude death rate declined from an average of 27.4 per 1,000 in the decade 1751-60 to 14.3 in the decade 1911-20 and to 11.5 in 1938.

Similarly, in England and Wales, the crude death rate, which was 18.2 in the 90's of the past century, declined to 15.4 in the first decade of the present century and 12.1 in the third; it was 11.6 in 1938. In Scotland, again, the average rate was 22.1 in the '60's, 21.8 in the '70's, 18.6 in the '90's, 13.9 in 1921-25, 13.6 in 1926-30, and 12.6 in 1938.

There will always be years of specially high mortality, for instance 1918, when the death rate in Ontario, the most populous of the provinces of Canada, was 15.3 per 1,000, owing to the influenza-pneumonia epidemic, as against 12.0 in 1917 and 11.9 in 1919. Over a period, however, these abnormalities are reduced to negligibility.

As for Canada, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short to establish a definite downward trend, the rate of 12.4 per 1,000 for that year, in the eight provinces then included in the registration area, was substantially higher than in any subsequent year. A decided improvement is shown in the deaths and death rate of Quebec for the years 1933-36, although for 1937 the rate increased to 11.3; but for 1938 and