

Parliament of Canada to the Supreme Court of the Province there was a decrease in the number of divorces. This was occasioned by the delay between the granting of the decree nisi and the decree absolute. In 1938, however, the number of divorces granted passed the two-thousand mark which, for the most part, was occasioned by the increases in Ontario and British Columbia. From 1921 to 1941 and 1942, respectively, there were increases of 341 and 454 p.c.

Statistics of dissolutions of marriage granted were revised in 1941 through the co-operation of the provincial authorities and the Clerk of the Divorce Committee of the Senate of Canada.

15.—Dissolutions of Marriage (Divorces) Granted in Canada, by Provinces, 1941 and 1942, with Five-Year Averages, 1921-40

Year	Granted by the Dominion Parliament			Granted by the Courts						Total for Canada
	Prince Edward Island	Quebec	Ontario	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	
Av. 1921-25	Nil	10	104	34	15	91 ¹	41	105	138 ¹	539
Av. 1926-30	"	24	183	25	18	94	61	155	209	768
Av. 1931-35	1	31	319 ²	37	22	119	61	168	280	1,038
Av. 1936-40	1	56	723 ²	50	44	194	116	259	570	2,013
1941	1	48	949 ²	68	87	242	146	311	609	2,461
1942	2	71	1,185 ²	70	69	284	209	375	824	3,089

¹ Two granted by Parliament.

² Granted by the courts.

Section 3.—Deaths

Disregarding the effects of wars and their aftermath, the past century has seen a decline in the death rate in the countries of the white world. Perhaps the most impressive index of this decline is found in the mortality statistics of Sweden, where 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 11.7 in 1931-40.

In England and Wales, the crude death rate which was 18.2 per 1,000 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; in 1941 it was 12.9 and 11.6 in 1942. In Scotland the average rate was 22.1 in the 60's, 18.6 in the 90's, 15.1 in the first decade of the present century, and 13.7 in the third; it was 14.5 in 1941 and 13.3 in 1942. International comparisons of crude death rates for different countries are shown in Table 20, p. 164.

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.

Subsection 1.—General Mortality

Deaths in Canada as a whole declined steadily for the period 1931-34, but for 1935, 1936 and 1937 there were substantial increases. The figure for the latter year was 113,824, an increase of more than 9,000 over 1931. For 1938 there was a noticeable reduction to 106,817, but increases were again shown for the next three years, to 114,639 in 1941. In 1942 there was another decrease to 112,978.