

bridegroom's age was thus 4.0 years. It may be noted in Table 11 that when the contracting parties are grouped by age of bridegroom, the average difference in age is less for the younger groups, grooms under 20 being 0.2 years younger than the brides, while the excess of the average bridegroom's age was 1.5 years in the group 20-24, and steadily increased for each quinquennial age group until it was 11.4 years for the bridegrooms 50 years or over in 1938. On the other hand, when the parties are grouped by the age of the bride, the same regularity is not shown. In the case of brides in the age groups 25-29 years and 30-34 years, the bridegrooms approximate most closely in age to their brides. Since these tables are based upon all marriages contracted during the year, the figures given should not be understood to signify the average ages at *first* marriage. Out of each 1,000 bridegrooms in 1939, 949 were bachelors, 41 widowers, 10 divorced men; out of each 1,000 brides, 964 were spinsters, 27 widows, 9 divorced women. The first year in which as many as 1 p.c. of those marrying had previously been divorced was 1928. The comparison between the figures of divorces granted, as shown in Table 15 of this chapter, and the number of divorced persons re-married is of some interest. Thus 2,082 divorces were granted in 1939, while 1,039 divorced males and 973 divorced females married again. This, of course, does not mean that these were the same persons as were divorced in 1939.

11.—Differences in Ages of Bridegrooms and Brides, 1938

| Age Group of Bridegrooms | Average Age of Bridegrooms | Average Age of Brides | Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms | Age Group of Brides | Average Age of Brides | Average Age of Bridegrooms | Excess of Average Age of Bridegrooms |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| All bridegrooms... | 29.3 | 25.3 | 4.0 | All brides..... | 25.3 | 29.3 | 4.0 |
| Under 20 years..... | 19.1 | 19.3 | -0.2 | Under 20 years.... | 18.5 | 24.8 | 6.3 |
| 20-24 years..... | 23.0 | 21.5 | 1.5 | 20-24 years..... | 22.5 | 26.7 | 4.2 |
| 25-29 years..... | 27.3 | 23.9 | 3.4 | 25-29 years..... | 27.1 | 29.9 | 2.8 |
| 30-34 years..... | 32.1 | 26.4 | 5.7 | 30-34 years..... | 32.1 | 34.5 | 2.4 |
| 35-39 years..... | 37.2 | 29.1 | 8.1 | 35-39 years..... | 37.2 | 40.2 | 3.0 |
| 40-44 years..... | 42.3 | 32.8 | 9.5 | 40-44 years..... | 42.3 | 46.7 | 4.4 |
| 45-49 years..... | 47.4 | 36.5 | 10.9 | 45-49 years..... | 47.4 | 52.1 | 4.7 |
| 50 years or over.... | 59.8 | 48.4 | 11.4 | 50 years or over.... | 58.9 | 61.4 | 2.5 |

Nativity of Brides and Bridegrooms.—The majority of marriages contracted in the western provinces in past years were between persons born outside Canada. This condition, however, is being quickly changed and such percentages in all the western provinces show a general reduction over the past few years. (See Table 12.) Both Canadian-born brides and bridegrooms are now in the majority in each province and in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec they show a marked predominance. Taking Canada as a whole, 85 p.c. of all grooms and 90 p.c. of all brides in 1939 were born in Canada; these are the highest percentages shown for the period covered by the statistics.