

that for the Canadian population the combined influences of age of the population, age of the married females, and proportion of females married has become steadily more favourable to the birth rate from 1871 to 1921 but that, since the latter date, the trend has been less favourable.

The economic and social aspects of conjugal condition are important for all sections of the population—for the single, widowed and divorced equally with the married. The causes behind the variation in conjugal condition for the population generally hinge largely on changes in these economic and social conditions. Thus, it is common experience that marriages in western countries tend to increase in good times: when times are difficult, many, especially within the earlier marriageable ages, are obliged to postpone marriage until conditions improve. Wars not only stimulate marriage but are usually followed by increased rates for the widowed and divorced and bring in their wake far-reaching social changes.

**Trends in Conjugal Condition since 1871.**—There are definite advantages of stability and progress that accompany the marriage state. It is the condition into which about 75 p.c. of the population born alive enter, and therefore the normal state. The following statement appears to show that, during the past 70 years, the advantages marriage brings have been increasingly enjoyed by the Canadian people.

PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION MARRIED, 1871-1941

Census	P.C. in the Married State		P.C. Sometime Married	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1871.....	30.70	31.42	32.78	35.95
1881.....	31.55	32.28	33.87	37.41
1891.....	32.36	33.37	34.91	38.81
1901.....	33.76	34.51	36.45	40.29
1911.....	35.11	37.08	37.52	42.47
1921.....	37.57	38.39	40.30	44.04
1931.....	37.89	38.74	40.75	44.58
1941.....	40.06	40.89	43.68	48.13

It should be noted that over the 70-year period the population as a whole has become 'older' (see under age distribution p. 94) and to this fact must be attributed one of the reasons for the increase shown, although against this must be weighed the general retardation of early marriage. When these facts are considered, the variation is shown to have been relatively slight—for both males and females it was actually downward from 1871 to 1901, upward until 1921, downward again for 1931 and upward for 1941.\*

The effects of immigration and emigration on conjugal condition are also significant. Prior to 1901 the movement of people into and out of Canada was, on balance, an outward movement to the United States but it was not a movement of single adults. Statistics show that at this time the proportion single was not reduced but rather increased. This process continued until about 1896 when the European immigration to Canada on a large scale began. These immigrants were preponderantly single adult males, young but unable to marry until they had established themselves, and their presence caused at first a sagging in the proportion of married persons in Canada. But, after the first decade of the century, when the movement came to an abrupt stop and this section of the immigrant population had settled, there was a high marriage rate extending over a period of years. The First World War brought about an exodus of single males of a different age class.

\*For more detailed analyses see Census Vol. I, 1931, pp. 205-209.