

complying with the provisions of the Marriage Act, although at liberty to take advantage thereof. Twenty-one marriages in which both parties were Maoris were contracted in 1907 in terms of the Act: 13 by Registrars, 3 by clergymen of the Church of England, 1 by a Methodist minister, 1 by a minister of the Congregational Church, and 3 by ministers of the Church of the Latter-day Saints.

BACHELORS AND SPINSTERS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The results of three censuses in respect of the number of bachelors of 20 years and upwards, and spinsters of 15 years and upwards, show some interesting features. In 1891 there was an excess of bachelors over spinsters amounting to 3,497 men. But in 1896 not only had the preponderance of the male element been lost, but an excess of spinsters over bachelors was reported amounting to 1,786 women, while in 1901 this excess had risen to 3,572 women. The census of 1906 disclosed the fact that there was a considerable excess of bachelors, amounting to 9,633. This result, no doubt, is largely due to the arrivals from abroad of numbers of young men who have settled in New Zealand.

It is noticeable how differently the numbers for the provincial districts have been affected by the process in operation. An excess of bachelors was preserved in Auckland, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland from 1891 to 1906. In Canterbury, however, an excess of spinsters was found in 1891 of 2,516, which increased to 3,997 in 1896 and to 4,918 in 1901, but decreased to 2,117 in 1906; while in Otago an excess of 773 spinsters in 1891 increased to 2,066 in 1896, diminished in 1901, when there were 1,899 more spinsters than bachelors, and again in 1906, when the number of spinsters was 954 greater than the number of bachelors. These two important districts of the South Island have lost large numbers of bachelors by departures to the North Island. The following table exhibits the particulars for each provincial district:—

Provincial Districts.	Census, 1891.		Census, 1896.		Census, 1901.		Census, 1906.	
	Excess of Bachelors over Spinsters.	Excess of Spinsters over Bachelors.	Excess of Bachelors over Spinsters.	Excess of Spinsters over Bachelors.	Excess of Bachelors over Spinsters.	Excess of Spinsters over Bachelors.	Excess of Bachelors over Spinsters.	Excess of Spinsters over Bachelors.
Total excess	3,497	..	..	1,786	..	3,572	9,633	..
Auckland	156	..	703	..	521	..	3,383	..
Taranaki	121	..	524	..	805	..	754	..
Hawke's Bay	1,337	..	1,142	..	425	..	1,151	..
Wellington	2,129	..	637	..	232	..	4,389	..
Marlborough	644	..	183	..	158	..	532	..
Nelson	1,486	..	580	..	637	..	1,550	..
Westland	900	..	501	..	666	..	935	..
Canterbury	..	2,516	..	3,997	..	4,918	..	2,117
Otago	..	773	..	2,066	..	1,899	..	954
Chatham Islands	15	..	7	..	1	..	10	..
Kermadec Islands	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..

MARRIAGES BY MINISTERS OF VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Of the marriages in the year 1907, 24·38 per cent. were solemnised by ministers of the Church of England, 26·23 per cent. by ministers of the Presbyterian Churches, 14·95 per cent. by ministers of the Methodist Churches, 11·22 per cent. by ministers of the Roman Catholic Church, 7·99 per cent. by ministers of other denominations, and 15·23 per cent. by Registrars.

The following shows the proportions of marriages by ministers of the principal denominations in the past eight years, and the percentages of these denominations to the total population in 1907:—

Denomination.	Percentage of Marriages.								Percentage of Denomination to Total Population in 1906.
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	
Church of England	22·68	24·91	24·58	25·52	24·12	24·24	24·93	24·38	41·51
Presbyterians	26·38	24·48	25·95	25·31	25·46	26·43	25·75	26·23	22·96
Methodists	13·23	13·19	12·95	13·32	16·30	16·76	14·94	14·95	10·06
Roman Catholics	10·82	10·53	9·94	10·08	11·14	10·22	11·14	11·22	14·31
Other denominations	10·20	10·20	10·07	9·87	6·54	6·75	6·34	7·99	11·16
By Registrars	16·69	16·69	16·51	15·90	16·44	15·60	16·97	15·23	..
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·0

Marriage by Registrar is found to be less frequent than it was eight years ago, the percentage falling from 16·69 in 1900 to 15·23 in 1907.