

MARRIAGES.

The marriages for 1913 show a decrease on the number for the previous year. The number was 8,813, or 336 less than in 1912. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 8·25, as against 8·81 in 1912. It is shown by the table following that there has been considerable increase in the marriage-rate, which has been above the standard during each of the last eighteen years :—

Marriages, Number and Rate.

Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.		Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.	
		Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.			Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.
1882-86	3,663	6·68	100	1900	5,860	7·67	115
1887	3,563	5·97	89	1901	6,095	7·83	117
1888	3,617	5·97	89	1902	6,934	8·01	120
1889	3,632	5·93	89	1903	6,748	8·23	123
1890	3,797	6·12	92	1904	6,983	8·26	124
1891	3,805	6·04	90	1905	7,200	8·28	124
1892	4,002	6·23	93	1906	7,592	8·48	127
1893	4,115	6·22	93	1907	8,192	8·91	133
1894	4,178	6·15	92	1908	8,339	8·82	132
1895	4,110	5·94	89	1909	8,094	8·33	125
1896	4,843	6·85	103	1910	8,236	8·30	124
1897	4,928	6·83	102	1911	8,825	8·70	130
1898	5,091	6·91	103	1912	9,149	8·81	132
1899	5,461	7·28	109	1913	8,813	8·25	124

The marriage-rate, measured by the total population, does not show the true position when, as in the case of New Zealand, the age-constitution of the people fluctuates considerably. A more satisfactory standard is found in the number of persons of marriageable age, defined as meaning the unmarried and widowed of males aged 20 years and upwards and of females aged 15 years and upwards. The rates are given for six census years :—

Year of Census.	Proportion of Unmarried per 1,000 of Total.		Proportion of Marriages per 1,000 of the			
	Males.	Females.	Marriageable Men.	Marriageable Women.	Marriageable Persons.	Total Population.
1886	235·0	238·2	47·32	54·56	25·36	5·99
1891	238·2	268·5	47·78	47·97	23·94	6·04
1896	258·8	308·9	50·14	47·00	24·26	6·85
1901	275·5	331·8	54·11	49·78	25·93	7·83
1906	291·3	328·2	54·36	54·93	27·72	8·48
1911	286·5	314·9	57·60	58·38	28·99	8·70

The total number of marriages solemnized does not include marriages where both parties are of the aboriginal Native race, such persons being exempted from the necessity of complying with the provisions of the Marriage Act, although at liberty to take advantage thereof. Thirty-four marriages in which both parties were Maoris were contracted in 1913 in terms of the Act.

Ages of Persons Married.

Of the persons married in 1913, 159 bridegrooms and 1,394 brides were under 21 years of age. Of the bridegrooms, two were between 16 and 17, and one between 17 and 18, and eleven between 18 and 19. Of the brides, seven were between 15 and 16, and forty between 16 and 17 years of age. The proportion of men married is greatest at the ages of 25 to 30, and of women at from 21 to 25 years.

DEATHS.

The deaths in 1913 numbered 10,119, a rate of 9·47 in every 1,000 persons living, as against 8·87 in 1912.