

MARRIAGES.

The marriages for 1911 show an increase on the number for the previous year. The number was 8,825, or 589 more than in 1910. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 8·70, as against 8·30 in 1910. 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 fifteen 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	1899	5,461	7·28	109
1887	3,563	5·97	89	1900	5,860	7·67	115
1888	3,617	5·97	89	1901	6,095	7·83	117
1889	3,632	5·93	89	1902	6,934	8·01	120
1890	3,797	6·12	92	1903	6,748	8·23	123
1891	3,805	6·04	90	1904	6,983	8·26	124
1892	4,002	6·23	93	1905	7,200	8·28	124
1893	4,115	6·22	93	1906	7,592	8·48	127
1894	4,178	6·15	92	1907	8,192	8·91	133
1895	4,110	5·94	89	1908	8,339	8·82	132
1896	4,843	6·85	103	1909	8,094	8·33	125
1897	4,928	6·83	102	1910	8,236	8·30	124
1898	5,091	6·91	103	1911	8,825	8·70	130

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. Forty-five marriages in which both parties were Maoris were contracted in 1911 in terms of the Act, the greater portion (27) being solemnized before Registrars. In addition, the Registrar-General received returns of 228 marriages solemnized under the provisions of section 191 (1) (b) of the Native Land Act, 1909.

*Ages of Persons Married.*

Of the persons married in 1911, 172 bridegrooms and 1,326 brides were under 21 years of age. Of the bridegrooms, two were between 17 and 18, and sixteen between 18 and 19. Of the brides, ten were between 15 and 16, and forty-nine 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 1911 numbered 9,534, a rate of 9·39 in every 1,000 persons living, as against 9·71 in 1910. This is below the average of the previous ten years, 9·83 per 1,000.