

CHAPTER '.

Marriage.

As will be seen by the following extracts the marriage laws of the various Provinces differ in some important points. The legal age to marry without consent of parent or guardian varies, being eighteen years or twenty-one years. The age limit to a legal marriage is, in some Provinces, twelve years of age; in others fourteen years; in others sixteen years; while in some Provinces there is no age limit, children being married as young as seven years of age.

In some Provinces marriage can only be solemnized as a religious act; in other Provinces provisions are made for civil marriage.

Marriage revokes a will, except under special circumstances, in some Provinces and does not in others.

Marriage may be annulled by the Judicial Courts in some Provinces, while in others recourse must be had to the Senate of Canada, which is so costly a procedure that unless action is taken as a pauper, only the rich can avail themselves of this way of obtaining a divorce.

In some of the Provinces marriage affects the property of the contracting parties in various ways in different Provinces, while in others it has no effect on the property of either contracting party, except in case of intestacy.

In most of the Provinces marriage deprives a woman wage earner, or a woman of property, of municipal franchise.

An unmarried mother has the absolute control of her children. The rights of a married mother in her children during the life of the father are not recognized by law in most of the Provinces.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Laws of P.E.I., Act 1832, Cap. 4.

No marriage legal without consent of both parties.

Must be before two or more adult witnesses.

Must be registered.

There is no hour of the day when it is unlawful to solemnize marriage.

Both contracting parties must be twenty-one years of age. Minors may marry with consent of parents or guardians.

Qualified clergymen may marry minors without consent of parents or guardians if none exist, but only after careful inquiry.