

370. The following table shows the large increase in telegraphic accommodation in Canada since Confederation.

TELEGRAPHS, 1868 and 1885.

Year ended	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Offices.	Number of Messages.	Population to each Office.
31st December, 1867.....	7,227	9,040	497	600,757	7,042
31st June, 1885.....	24,100	47,288	2,415	3,896,000	1,944

CHAPTER VII.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

371. On 12th April, 1876, an Act 39 Vic., c. 13, intituled "An Act to make provision for the collection and registration of the Criminal Statistics of Canada," was assented to, by which it was ordered that all clerks of criminal courts and certain other officers should make annual returns to the Minister of Agriculture, according to forms supplied to them, of all the criminal business transacted. These returns, after being collected and arranged, are published every year as an appendix to the report of the Minister of Agriculture.

372. Though difficulty has been sometimes experienced in getting proper returns from different parts of the country, it is believed that a very fairly accurate knowledge of the amount and distribution of crime throughout the Dominion may be obtained from the following tables. For the sake of convenience, the various offences have been divided into six classes, viz. :—

Class I.—Offences against the person.

Class II.—Offences against property, with violence.

Class III.—Offences against property, without violence.

Class IV.—Malicious offences against property.

Class V.—Forgery, and offences against the currency.

Class VI.—Other offences not included in the foregoing classes.

373. And the following list gives the principal crimes and offences that are included in each class :—

CLASS I.

Offences against the person.

Murder and attempt to murder.

Manslaughter.