

TOTAL Number of Convictions, 1880 to 1884.

Offences.	Convictions for the Years ended 30th September.				
	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Class I.—Offences against the person	4,507	4,353	4,667	4,845	4,284
Class II.— do do property, with violence.....	176	144	173	132	228
Class III.— do do property, without violence..	2,380	2,094	2,190	2,003	3,286
Class IV.—Malicious offences against property.....	638	499	655	584	274
Class V.—Forgery and offences against the currency....	41	35	22	25	20
Class VI.—Other offences, not included in the above classes.....	20,467	22,100	23,598	25,799	21,459
Total	28,209	29,225	31,305	33,388	29,551

375. It will be seen that the figures for 1884 show a large decrease as compared with those of the two preceding years; the number was less than that of 1883, by 3,837, being a decrease of 11.49 per cent., and as compared with 1882, the decrease was 1,754 or 5.60 per cent. The decrease was principally in Class I, "offences against the person," which were fewer than in any other year during the period; and in Class VI, "other offences."

376. There was a large increase in offences against property, without violence, being as much as 64.50 per cent.; the average number of convictions for offences of this description during the previous four years, was 2,166, which makes the number in 1884, 1,120 above the average. The continued increase in the number of offences in this class is very serious, and calls for special legislation to devise some means of checking it.

377. It must be remembered that any person convicted more than once during the year, whether for the same or for a different offence, is counted as a separate person for each conviction; it is well known that for drunkenness, vagrancy and offences of that description, many persons are convicted several times every year. The following figures from the Police returns for the city of Toronto for 1885, will be found to illustrate this very well. Out of a total of 7,954 persons charged, 887 were brought up twice, 312 three times, 137 four times, 57 five times, 22 six times, 21 seven times, 17 eight times, 2 ten times, 1 eleven times, and 1 thirteen times.

378. In only one year, viz., in 1884, the year under review, have the indictable offences, or offences tried in the higher courts, been kept separate from summary convictions by Police Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and others, under the Acts