

The proportion of criminals under 20 years of age fell from 18.35 per cent. in 1887 to 15.04 per cent. in 1888. The number of Canadians remains about the same, the proportion for the last three years having been 64.68 per cent., 63.60 per cent. and 64.34 per cent. As regard the amount of education possessed by the criminals of 1888, 60 per cent. could read and write, 11 per cent. could not read, and of no less than 25 per cent. particulars were not given. Roman Catholics numbered 176; Protestants of some denomination 178, and those of no religion 5. The labouring class contributed 35 per cent., the industrial 25 per cent., and of 19 per cent. the occupation was not given.

661. The number of deaths during 1888 was 13, being just a little over 1 per cent., which is a very low average, especially when the physical condition of many of the offenders is considered, and makes it evident that the prisoners are well attended to.

Number of
deaths.

662. A block of cells is about to be built at Kingston, for the purpose of trying the experiment of isolation or cellular confinement both on incorrigible and habitual criminals, as well as on those newly received, and good results are expected in both cases.

Cells for
isolation.

663. The foregoing figures relate only to those persons who received sentences of imprisonment for two years or over, and were therefore sent to the penitentiaries, while the following tables are compiled from the Criminal Statistics collected by the Dominion Government, which embrace all classes of offence. The Act authorising their collection came into operation in 1876, and the results at first were meagre. The returns, however, are now much more accurate and complete, but are yet some considerable distance from perfection. It is much to be regretted that this should be the case, for statistics of crime, when they can be depended on, are not only valuable indica-

Criminal
Statistics.