

ponding increase in crime, for it will be noticed that the increase is confined to minor offences, and is the consequence of the more complete returns received, particularly from Ontario and Quebec, which Provinces show a united increase of 5,179 over 1886, the improvements in the returns from Quebec having been very marked. Attention has been called in the press to the apparent excess of crime in Ontario as compared with the other Provinces, but so long as that Province continues to send in accurate returns and the other Provinces inaccurate ones, so long will it appear to have the largest proportion of criminals.

Persons convicted more than once.

667. It must be borne in mind that the number of convictions does not represent a similar number of individual criminals, because any person convicted more than once during the year, whether for the same or a different offence, is counted as a separate person for each conviction, and it is well known that for drunkenness, vagrancy and similar offences a number of persons are convicted several times every year. The police returns for the city of Toronto for 1887 furnish an apt illustration of this. Out of a total number of 10,597 persons charged, 987 were brought up twice, 520 three times, 131 four times, 87 five times, 29 six times, 17 seven times, 10 eight times, 2 nine times, 1 ten times and 1 eleven times, thus reducing the number of individual criminals from 10,597 to 7,477, a reduction of 3,120. It seems a pity that the Police Commissioners have discontinued the keeping of these statistics.

Total convictions, 1887-1888.

668. Out of the total number of convictions, 3,253 in 1887 and 3,747 in 1888 were for indictable offences, showing an increase of 494 in 1888 over 1887, but only of 238 in 1888 over 1886, which was principally in Quebec, the increase there amounting to 212. The number of summary convictions were respectively 31,200 and 33,902, being in proportion to the estimated population of 1 in 156 persons and 1 in 146 persons respectively. The proportion of indictable offences