

The proportions fluctuate considerably in some of the Provinces, though Quebec shows a gradual increase, and Manitoba and Prince Edward Island a steady decrease. There is not much doubt that the increase in Quebec is due to more complete returns, this Province having been very remiss in earlier years.

687. The total number of convictions for drunkenness during the years 1886, 1887 and 1888 were 11,156, 11,694 and 12,807, respectively, the numerical increase being apparently large, but the proportion per 1,000 persons not varying very much, the figures for each year being 2·33, 2·40 and 2·57. Improved returns again have undoubtedly to answer for some portion of the increase.

688. According to the returns for 1888, convictions for drunkenness were made in the several Provinces, in proportion to population, as follow :—

Manitoba,	1	conviction in every 284 persons
New Brunswick,	1	“ 303 “
Ontario,	1	“ 326 “
British Columbia,	1	“ 368 “
Prince Edward Island,	1	“ 420 “
Quebec,	1	“ 441 “
Nova Scotia,	1	“ 967 “

Total convictions for drunkenness, 1886-1887 and 1888.

Convictions for drunkenness by Provinces, 1888

Manitoba still heads the list, but under improved circumstances, the proportion having steadily decreased during the last four years. British Columbia stands more favourably in the list, owing probably to the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the consequent departure of numbers of navvies. Nova Scotia is still the most temperate Province, but the returns are not what they ought to be. It is most probable that there are a certain number of convictions for drunkenness in every Province, not even excepting Ontario, of which no returns are made; and such returns might change the above figures, though possibly not the order.

689. The following table gives the total number of convictions of all kinds in the several Provinces in the years 1884 to 1888, together with the kind of sentence imposed :—

Convictions of all kinds by Provinces, 1884-1888.