

Increase in
number.

703. The number of convictions was larger by 782 than in 1888, or, indeed, in any year since the collection of these statistics was begun ; but, as has been already mentioned, the increase in the figures does not at present necessarily mean a corresponding increase in crime (though with a growing population the number of offences must be expected to increase), but is largely owing to greater accuracy and completeness in the returns. According to the figures there was a large increase in the number of offences against the person and against property, without violence. The number of offences in Class VI, which includes minor offences, was just 7 less than in 1888.

Persons
convicted
more than
once.

704. 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. Of those convicted of indictable offences, 363 were convicted twice and 172 more than twice. Similar particulars for summary convictions are not available. In the city of Montreal, however, in 1890, out of 3,531 persons committed, 324 were committed twice, 89 three times, 37 four times, 12 five times, 6 six times, 1 seven times, and 1 ten times, thus reducing the actual number of criminals to 2,927.

Convic-
tions for
indictable
offences.

705. Out of the total number of convictions, 4,208 were for indictable offences, being 461 more than in 1888, there having been an increase in every Province. In proportion to population the number of offences was one in every 1,206 persons, and one in every 90, to the total number of convictions. The number of persons charged with indictable offences was 6,314, so that 66·6 per cent. were convicted ; the proportion in 1888 was 63·8 per cent. The number of summary