

Convictions for drunkenness.

725. The total number of convictions for drunkenness during the years 1886, 1887, 1888 and 1889 were 11,156, 11,694, 12,807 and 13,841 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, 2·57 and 2·72. There is however a steady, though small, increase, for some portion of which improved returns again are undoubtedly answerable.

Convictions for drunkenness by Provinces. 1889.

726. According to the returns for 1889, convictions for drunkenness were made in the several Provinces, in proportion to population as follow :—

New Brunswick,	1	conviction in every	253	persons.
Manitoba,	1	“	254	“
Ontario,	1	“	311	“
Prince Edward Island,	1	“	370	“
British Columbia,	1	“	425	“
Quebec,	1	“	440	“
Nova Scotia,	1	“	748	“

Though Manitoba no longer heads the list, having been superseded by New Brunswick, yet in proportion to population the convictions were more numerous, but New Brunswick has made the greatest stride backwards, the proportion having increased from 1 in 303 to 1 in 253. Ontario remains in the same position viz, third, while British Columbia is steadily becoming more temperate, and in 1889 not only advanced one place higher, but was the only province that showed a decreased proportion as compared with 1888. Nova Scotia still appears to be the most temperate Province, though with largely reduced figures, but the returns of this nature from this Province are not believed to be all complete. 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.

Convictions of all kinds, by Provinces.

727. The following table gives the total number of convictions of all kinds in the several Provinces in the years 1885 to 1889, together with the kind of sentence imposed :—