

The following table shows the number of prisoners in the common jails and prisons under provincial jurisdiction, at the dates mentioned :—

PERSONS CONFINED IN PROVINCIAL PRISONS IN CANADA.

PROVINCES.	Number of Jails.	Date.	NUMBER CONFINED.		Total.
			Males.	Females.	
Ontario.	*57	June 30, 1896.	1,033	232	1,265
Quebec	25	Dec. 31, 1895.	422	159	581
Nova Scotia.	†31	June 30, 1896.	136	8	144
New Brunswick.	12	" 30, 1896.	53	17	70
Manitoba†.	3	Dec. 31, 1896.	379	58	437
British Columbia.	4	Oct. 31, 1895.	171
Prince Edward Island	3	June 30, 1896.	19	2	21
The Territories (Regina)	1	" 30, 1896.	23	6	29

*Including 12 lock-ups. Central Prison and Mercer Reformatory, Toronto, and Ontario reformatory, Penetanguishene.

†Including 7 lock-ups.

‡Total number confined during the year.

The provincial governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick do not publish any returns of persons in their prisons, consequently application was made to the sheriffs of the several counties, almost all of whom responded, and thanks are due to them for their attention. Three counties (Carleton, Gloucester and Westmoreland) in New Brunswick, made no returns.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The judicial system of Canada has been described on pages 18 and 19.

The Act authorizing the collection and compilation of Criminal Statistics came into operation in 1876. The returns are yearly becoming more valuable, greater care being exercised in the collection. The whole system has been reviewed since the year 1893, with the result of adding to the returns the criminals dealt with by the North-west Mounted Police.

The returns are compiled under two headings: "Indictable Offences" and "Summary Convictions." The first includes all felonies and misdemeanours tried by the competent courts and juries, whether following the general procedure in accordance with Chap. 174, R.S.C, or the summary procedure applicable to certain cases as provided by the Acts relating to "Speedy Trials," "Summary Trials by Consent" and "Juvenile Offenders," Chaps. 175, 176 and 177, R.S.C. The second includes all minor offences tried by justices of the peace, police magistrates or stipendiary magistrates under Chap. 178, R.S.C.