

ADMINISTRATION.

Course of Crime, 1880-1912.—A study of the annual returns of criminal statistics since 1880, when they were first collected under statutory authority (39 Vict., c. 13), reveals a marked increase of crime in Canada during the last 33 years. This is apparent from Table 35 which shows the number of convictions by classes of offences annually since 1880 both absolutely and relatively per 100,000 of the population. The course of crime, as revealed by these statistics, is also illustrated graphically by the diagram facing page 624. It shows per 100,000 of the population the total number of convictions and the convictions for five different categories of crime (felonies and misdemeanours; offences against property; offences against the person; drunkenness; and violations of municipal acts and other minor offences) during the 33 years 1880 to 1912.

In 1881, according to Table 36, the number of total convictions recorded was 29,225, or 676 per 100,000 of the population; in 1891 the figures stood at 37,617, or 776 per 100,000; in 1901 the figures were 42,148, or 780 per 100,000; in 1911 the convictions had increased to 113,260, or 1,572 per 100,000, and in the following year (1912) to 146,527 convictions, or 1,962 per 100,000. The foregoing figures include all classes of offences. By dividing the offences into two groups, viz., (1) criminal cases proper, including offences against the person, malicious and violent offences against property, etc., and (2) minor cases such as breach of bye-laws, liquor laws, drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, etc., as is done in the table, practically the same ratio of augmentation exists in both. The first mentioned group increased from 100 to 301 per 100,000 from 1881 to 1912, and the second group increased from 576 to 1,661 per 100,000 in the same period.

Comparison of Crime by Provinces.—Analysis of the figures by provinces, as in Table 37, shows that the criminality for the same period has been greater in the west than in the east. In 1912 the several provinces stood in order of demerit as follows: British Columbia, 4,333 convictions per 100,000; Alberta, 3,979; Manitoba, 3,199; Ontario, 1,901; Saskatchewan, 1,891; Nova Scotia, 1,343; Quebec, 1,318; Yukon, and other Territories, 1,100; New Brunswick, 890; and Prince Edward Island, 478. This order has been maintained with slight variation for the past thirty years. That criminality should be greater in the western provinces is what might be expected, seeing that those provinces are being newly peopled with a large proportion of immigrants from foreign countries who apparently have less regard for law than British subjects. Alberta and Saskatchewan, taken together, in 1881 had but 361 convictions per 100,000 and in 1891 only 564, while during the next ten years the proportion rose to 872 and eleven years afterwards (1912) to 2,695 convictions per 100,000; British Columbia shows an increase of from 912 to 4,333 per 100,000 in the same period. The increases in the other provinces were: Nova Scotia, 272; New Brunswick, 54; Quebec, 180; Ontario, 114 and Manitoba, 88 per cent. In Prince Edward Island there was no change.

Nature of Crimes.—Table 38 shows the number of convictions by classes of offences and the proportions per cent. of each class to the