

## CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

total. It will be noticed from this table that offences against the person have decreased from 15 per cent. of the whole number of convictions in 1881 to 6.4 per cent. in 1912. During the same period of 32 years offences against property with violence remained with slight variations just under 1 per cent. Offences against property without violence remained at about 7 or 8 per cent. Malicious injury to property and forgeries showed less than 1 per cent. for the period. Other felonies and misdemeanours were under 1 per cent. Breach of municipal bye-laws increased from 8 per cent. to 19 per cent. Violations of the Liquor Acts decreased from 6 to 3.8 per cent. Drunkenness increased from 32.8 to 36.3 per cent. Vagrancy and disorderly conduct and kindred offences decreased from 20 to 16 per cent. Other minor offences varied during the period from 7.6 to 9.2 per cent.

**Factors of Increase in Crime.**—With reference to the increased criminality, shown by the comparative figures here quoted, it will not be overlooked that the increase is coincident with a marked growth of the population, largely by immigration. The ratio of increase in the number of convictions in the decade 1901-11, during which the immigration into Canada assumed such large proportions, was double that of the decade 1891-1901. Experience shows that crime is more prevalent the bigger the population, and that it prevails to a greater extent in urban than in rural communities. The growth of the urban population of Canada has been phenomenal during the past two or three decades.

**Comparison with England and Wales.**—In making a comparison of the convictions for the five-year period 1908-1912 between Canada and England and Wales the figures show that in Canada there was an annual average of 179 per 100,000 for indictable offences as against 164 for the Mother Country.<sup>1</sup> The annual average for summary convictions stands as follows: Canada 1,367 per 100,000, England and Wales 1,619. The total convictions per 100,000 are: Canada 1,546, England and Wales 1,783. These figures show that Canada has a higher record of the more serious crimes; but that the number of minor offences is less than in England and Wales. It is however highly problematical as to whether the records of criminal proceedings truly indicate the actual status of a country's criminality. In thickly populated centres, for instance, it is easier for offenders to evade justice than in sparsely settled districts, and the number of crimes known to the police of London is far in excess of the number of cases actually proceeded against. Still the fact remains that in England the number of convictions per 100,000 has decreased during the above mentioned five-year period, whereas in Canada it has increased.

<sup>1</sup> The figures for England and Wales are taken from the Judicial Statistics of England and Wales, 1912, Part I. [C.d. 7,282.]