

classes of (1) indictable offences and (2) summary convictions, the former comprising all cases tried by police or other magistrates and the latter all cases of minor importance disposed of by justices of the peace under the Summary Convictions Act.

Indictable offences.—Table 28 shows by provinces in respect of indictable offences the number of charges and convictions and the percentage of acquittals for the years 1915, 1916 and 1917. There were 19,454 charges and 15,559 convictions for indictable offences throughout Canada during the year ended September 30, 1917, as compared with 23,942 charges and 19,160 convictions in 1916, a decrease of 4,488, or 18.74 p.c., for charges and of 3,601, or 18.80 p.c., for convictions during the year. As shown by the table, a decrease in the number of charges is found in every province except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Summary Convictions.—The number of summary convictions in 1917 was 93,452, as compared with 104,631 in 1916. This represents a decrease of 6,179, or 5.90 p.c.

Death Sentences.—During 1917, 15 persons were sentenced to death for murder, as compared with 21 in 1916. Death sentences in 1917 were carried out in 7 cases, compared with 8 in 1916, and were commuted to a term of years or life imprisonment in 8 cases in 1917, compared with 13 in 1916. One person was sentenced in 1917 to be imprisoned for life, as compared with five persons in 1916.

28.—Charges, Convictions and Percentages of Acquittals for Indictable Offences by Provinces, 1915, 1916 and 1917.

Provinces.	1915.			1916.			1917.		
	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.
	No.	No.	p.c.	No.	No.	p.c.	No.	No.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island.....	27	16	40.74	22	14	36.36	36	33	8.33
Nova Scotia.....	1,469	950	35.33	787	644	18.17	711	582	18.14
New Brunswick.....	345	278	19.42	366	296	19.12	383	332	13.32
Quebec.....	3,924	3,053	22.20	4,643	3,824	17.64	4,103	3,376	17.72
Ontario.....	10,906	8,934	18.08	9,807	7,888	19.57	8,576	6,924	19.26
Manitoba.....	1,859	1,577	15.17	1,489	1,226	17.66	1,319	1,090	17.40
Saskatchewan.....	2,754	2,022	26.58	2,305	1,729	24.99	1,420	1,065	25.00
Alberta.....	2,894	2,088	27.85	2,543	1,900	25.28	1,335	901	32.51
British Columbia.....	2,494	1,680	32.64	1,956	1,619	17.23	1,548	1,234	20.29
Yukon.....	42	27	35.47	24	20	16.66	23	22	4.35
Canada.....	26,714	20,625	22.79	23,942	19,160	19.87	19,454	15,559	20.02