

Decrease of Drunkenness.—The number of summary convictions for drunkenness in Canada was 27,882 in 1917, as compared with 32,730 in 1916, a decrease of 4,848, or nearly 14·81 p.c. Table 35 shows the number of convictions by provinces for the two years, and it will be seen that drunkenness has decreased during the year in every province excepting Quebec and British Columbia, the former province showing an increase of 917, or nearly 13 p.c. in the number of convictions and the latter a smaller increase of 45, or close on 2 p.c. The ratio of decrease is most marked in Alberta, 78 p.c., in Manitoba 65 p.c. and in the Yukon, 53 p.c. In the other provinces the percentage decreases range from 29½ p.c. in Nova Scotia to 5½ p.c. in Prince Edward Island. Table 36 gives the convictions for drunkenness by provinces over a period of five years ended September 30, 1917. From this table it will be observed that the number of convictions for drunkenness throughout the whole of Canada fell from 60,975 in 1913 to 27,882 in 1917, being a decrease of 33,093, or 54·27 p.c. during the five years, and by provinces in the order of the greater decrease per cent: Alberta from 7,283 to 391, or 94·63 p.c., Manitoba from 7,493 to 1,085, or 85·52 p.c., Saskatchewan from 2,970 to 770, or 74·07 p.c., British Columbia from 8,316 to 2,372, or 71·48 p.c., Yukon from 60 to 25, or 58·33 p.c., Prince Edward Island from 324 to 207, or 36·11 p.c., Nova Scotia from 3,955 to 2,546, or 35·63 p.c., Quebec from 12,265 to 8,025, or 34·57 p.c., Ontario from 16,236 to 10,945, or 32·59 p.c. and New Brunswick from 2,073 to 1,516, or 26·87 p.c. From these figures it will be noticed that the eastern provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, with a total number of 34,853 convictions for drunkenness in 1913, and 23,239 in 1917, show a decrease of 11,614, or 33·32 p.c., for five years, while the western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon, with a total number of 26,122 convictions in 1913 and 4,643 in 1917, show a decrease of 21,479, or 82·23 p.c., during the same period.

35.—Convictions for Drunkenness 1916 and 1917.

Provinces.	Number of convictions.		Increase (+)	Decrease (—)
	1916.	1917.	numerical.	per cent.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	219	207	—12	—5 48
Nova Scotia.....	3,614	2,546	—1,068	—29 55
New Brunswick.....	1,696	1,516	—180	—10 61
Quebec.....	7,108	8,025	+917	+12 90
Ontario.....	11,728	10,945	—783	—6 67
Manitoba.....	3,114	1,085	—2,029	—65 16
Saskatchewan.....	1,062	770	—292	—27 50
Alberta.....	1,809	391	—1,418	—78 38
British Columbia.....	2,327	2,372	+45	+1 93
Yukon.....	53	25	—28	—52 83
Canada.....	32,730	27,882	—4,848	—14 81