

## CRIMINAL STATISTICS AND PENITENTIARIES.

The criminal statistics of Canada are collected, compiled and published annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics under statutory authority of the Statistics Act, 1918 (8-9 Geo. V., c. 43). They relate to the year ended September 30, and the last issued annual report is for 1918. The statistics are divided into two 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 29 shows by provinces in respect of indictable offences the number of charges and convictions and the percentage of acquittals for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918. There were 21,747 charges and 17,370 convictions for indictable offences throughout Canada during the year ended September 30, 1918, as compared with 19,454 charges and 15,559 convictions in 1917, an increase of 2,293, or 11.78 p.c., for charges and of 1,811, or 11.64 p.c., for convictions during the year. As shown by the table, an increase in the number of charges is found in every province east of Saskatchewan and decreases in all provinces west of and including Saskatchewan.

**Summary Convictions.**—The number of summary convictions—that is, the total number of convictions for all offences less the number of convictions for indictable offences—in 1918 was 105,899, as compared with 98,452 in 1917. This represents an increase of 7,447, or 7.56 p.c.

**Death Sentences.**—During 1918, 20 persons were sentenced to death for murder, as compared with 15 in 1917. Death sentences in 1918 were carried out in 10 cases, compared with 7 in 1917, and were commuted to a term of years or life imprisonment in 10 cases in 1918, compared with 8 in 1917. Four persons were sentenced in 1918 to be imprisoned for life, as compared with one person in 1917.

29.—Charges, Convictions and Percentages of Acquittals for Indictable Offences by Provinces, 1916, 1917 and 1918.

Provinces.	1916.			1917.			1918.		
	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Charges	Convictions.	Acquittals.
Prince Edward Island.....	No. 22	No. 14	p.c. 36.36	No. 36	No. 33	p.c. 8.33	No. 42	No. 37	p.c. 11.90
Nova Scotia.....	787	644	18.17	711	582	18.14	990	717	27.58
New Brunswick.....	366	296	19.12	383	332	13.32	387	334	13.69
Quebec.....	4,643	3,824	17.64	4,103	3,376	17.72	4,631	3,747	19.09
Ontario.....	9,807	7,888	19.57	8,576	6,924	19.26	10,278	8,313	19.12
Manitoba.....	1,489	1,226	17.66	1,319	1,090	17.40	1,617	1,364	15.65
Saskatchewan.....	2,305	1,729	24.99	1,420	1,065	25.00	1,412	1,099	22.17
Alberta.....	2,543	1,900	25.28	1,335	901	32.51	1,237	889	28.13
British Columbia.....	1,956	1,619	17.23	1,548	1,234	20.29	1,138	859	24.52
Yukon.....	24	20	16.66	23	22	4.35	15	11	26.66
<b>Canada.....</b>	<b>23,942</b>	<b>13,160</b>	<b>19.97</b>	<b>19,454</b>	<b>15,559</b>	<b>20.92</b>	<b>21,747</b>	<b>17,370</b>	<b>20.13</b>