

Indictable Offences.—Table 27 shows by provinces in respect of indictable offences the number of charges and convictions and the percentages of acquittals for the years 1918, 1919 and 1920. There were 23,213 charges and 18,443 convictions for indictable offences throughout Canada during the year ended September 30, 1920, as compared with 23,021 charges and 18,396 convictions in 1919, an increase of 191 or 0·83 p.c., for charges and of 47 or 0·25 p.c., for convictions over the previous year.

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 1920 was 144,265, as compared with 111,623 in 1919. This represents an increase of 32,642 or 29·24 p.c.

Death Sentences.—During the year ended September 30, 1920, there were 26 persons sentenced to death for murder as compared with 28 in 1919. The number of commutations of death sentences in 1920 was 13 to imprisonment for life and 1 for fifteen years, compared with 6 to imprisonment for life and 1 for twelve years in 1919.

Police Statistics.—In the annual report of Criminal Statistics for the year ended Sept. 30, 1920, are given for the first time statistics of the total number of offences “known to the police”, supplementing the previous figures of cases dealt with by the courts. It is clear that an increase or decrease in the number of offences committed cannot be accurately indicated by the number of actual prosecutions, and with a view to collecting as complete data as possible, detailed information relative to police activities has been obtained for the calendar year 1920 from 88 of the largest cities and towns in the Dominion.

The number of police in the 88 cities and towns making returns was 3,614. The number of offences reported or known to the police during the year was 183,126; 151,468 persons were arrested or summoned to stand trial, the perpetrators of over 31,000 offences remaining undiscovered. The number of thefts known to have been committed was 22,820, whereas the number of charges for theft total 10,575, and the convictions 8,678. There were 5,655 burglaries and house and shop breakings, the charges and convictions being 2,317 and 2,073 respectively. Highway robberies to the number of 663 were reported, yet the number of all cases of robbery dealt with by the courts was but 332, with 237 convictions. Automobiles numbering 3,682 of a value of \$4,762,043 were reported stolen, of which 3,534 were recovered. The number of bicycles reported stolen was 4,814 and of those recovered 2,624. In addition the police found 2,325 bicycles which had not been reported stolen, and found claimants for 2,151 of these. The value of all other articles reported stolen was \$2,325,755, and of this amount \$1,336,027 was recovered. Photographs of prisoners taken totalled 5,217, finger prints, 12,499 and identifications established, 1,724. Street accidents reported numbered 13,766. Shelter was given to 22,927 persons and 5,212 children were found and returned to their homes.