

Juvenile Delinquents.—In Canada, as in other countries, the number of juvenile delinquents coming before the courts has increased very considerably in recent years. In 1920, 3,355 persons under 16 years of age were convicted of indictable offences, as compared with an annual average of 972 in the three years 1901 to 1903— an increase out of all proportion to the increase in population. Alarming conclusions have been based upon these and similar statistics of other countries, but it may be that the increase is due rather to increasing urbanization and the better enforcement of the laws than to any real lowering of the moral standards of the young. Of the 3,355 convictions in 1920, 2,211 were for theft and 801 for burglary, house and shop breaking. Of those convicted, 2,518 were let off with a warning, bound to keep the peace or allowed to go under suspended sentence.

30.—Juvenile Criminals convicted of Indictable Offences by Classes of Offence, 1920, with the total and yearly average for the period 1885-1920.

| Classes of Offence. | Under 16 years. | | 16 years and under 21. | | Totals. | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1920. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| I. Offences against the person..... | 91 | 6 | 176 | 21 | 267 | 27 |
| II. Offences against property with violence..... | 804 | 2 | 769 | 2 | 1,573 | 4 |
| III. Offences against property without violence..... | 2,161 | 102 | 1,882 | 167 | 4,043 | 269 |
| IV. Malicious offences against property..... | 124 | 2 | 42 | — | 166 | 2 |
| V. Forgery and offences against the currency..... | 9 | 1 | 113 | 7 | 122 | 8 |
| VI. Other offences not included in the above offences. | 44 | 9 | 89 | 20 | 133 | 29 |
| Total..... | 3,333 | 122 | 3,071 | 217 | 6,304 | 339 |
| Total 1885-1920..... | 47,993 | 1,959 | 46,689 | 3,662 | 94,682 | 5,621 |
| Yearly average 1885-1920..... | 1,333 | 54 | 1,241 | 102 | 2,630 | 156 |

31.—Charges, Acquittals, Convictions and Sentences in respect of Indictable Offences, 1915-1920.

| Charges and Sentences. | 1915. | 1916. | 1917. | 1918. | 1919. | 1920. |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Charges..... | 26,714 | 23,942 | 19,454 | 21,747 | 23,021 | 23,213 |
| Acquittals¹..... | 6,060 | 4,757 | 3,868 | 4,356 | 4,592 | 4,746 |
| Persons detained for lunacy..... | 29 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 33 | 24 |
| Convictions..... | 20,625 | 19,160 | 15,559 | 17,370 | 18,396 | 18,443 |
| Males..... | 19,624 | 15,486 | 13,086 | 14,871 | 16,161 | 16,722 |
| Females..... | 1,001 | 3,674 | 2,473 | 2,499 | 2,235 | 1,721 |
| First conviction..... | 17,695 | 16,806 | 13,093 | 14,310 | 15,118 | 15,096 |
| Second conviction..... | 1,776 | 1,337 | 1,373 | 1,551 | 1,641 | 1,668 |
| Reiterated conviction..... | 1,154 | 1,017 | 1,093 | 1,509 | 1,637 | 1,679 |
| Sentences— | | | | | | |
| Option of a fine..... | 5,344 | 6,786 | 4,845 | 5,106 | 5,053 | 5,447 |
| Under one year in gaol..... | 5,774 | 3,816 | 2,890 | 3,284 | 3,455 | 3,750 |
| One year and over in gaol..... | 893 | 666 | 462 | 783 | 921 | 886 |
| Two years and under five in penitentiary..... | 1,074 | 799 | 540 | 701 | 978 | 873 |
| Five years and over in penitentiary..... | 241 | 178 | 145 | 185 | 229 | 245 |
| For life in penitentiary..... | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Death..... | 34 | 21 | 15 | 20 | 28 | 26 |
| Committed to reformatories..... | 517 | 568 | 584 | 678 | 678 | 615 |
| Other sentences..... | 6,741 | 6,321 | 6,077 | 6,609 | 7,047 | 6,594 |

¹ Includes cases where proceedings were stayed, disagreement of jury, etc.