

Convictions for All Offences.—Total convictions in 1942 increased by 31,919 or 5.3 p.c. as compared with 1941. Of the total convictions, 11,758 were cases in which juveniles were found guilty of major or minor offences, an increase of 1,448 or 14.0 p.c. as compared with 1941.

Ontario led the provinces in convictions per 100,000 population during 1942, the ratio being 7,966; Quebec was second and Manitoba third.

Adults.—Alberta led in the rate of convictions for indictable offences, Ontario was second and British Columbia third, with Manitoba a close fourth. Ontario's rate of 7,457 convictions for non-indictable offences per 100,000 population was the highest. Quebec was second in this respect and Manitoba third.

Juveniles.—The ratios for juvenile crime are, of course, relatively small, but they are very important from a sociological standpoint. Ontario is clearly in the lead as regards major offences and Quebec as regards minor offences.

CONVICTIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION BY TYPE OF OFFENCE, FOR EACH PROVINCE,
1942

Province or Territory	Indictable	Non-Indictable	Total Adult	Major	Minor	Total Juvenile	Grand Total
Prince Edward Island.....	214	1,584	1,798	62	43	105	1,903
Nova Scotia.....	280	1,769	2,049	37	23	60	2,109
New Brunswick.....	229	1,757	1,986	60	15	75	2,061
Quebec.....	303	5,772	6,075	48	72	120	6,195
Ontario.....	394	7,457	7,851	80	35	115	7,966
Manitoba.....	328	4,364	4,692	68	13	81	4,773
Saskatchewan.....	289	943	1,232	44	8	52	1,284
Alberta.....	397	1,806	2,203	59	45	104	2,307
British Columbia.....	338	3,019	3,357	36	38	74	3,431
Yukon and Northwest Territories..	182	1,041	1,223	Nil	Nil	-	1,223
CANADA.....	337	4,988	5,325	59	42	101	5,426

War-Time Trends.—During the three-year period from Sept. 30, 1939, to Sept. 30, 1942, convictions for all crime in Canada increased from 484,328 to 632,431 or by 30.6 p.c. During a similar period preceding the War, 1936-39, the increase was 15.0 p.c.—from 420,975 cases to 484,328 cases. Thus the total number of convictions has increased twice as fast during the first three war years as it did during the three years immediately preceding the War. As noted under the respective headings below, increased rates of convictions during the war years have occurred in both adult and juvenile crime. It is significant that at no time since statistics of juvenile crime have been compiled separately (1922) has any period shown such a marked acceleration in the juvenile crime rate as the first three years of war.

In using the statistics of Table 1, it should be remembered that, while the Criminal Code undergoes little change over periods of time, the figures for summary convictions are greatly influenced by the changing customs of the people, and show a strong tendency to increase with the increasing urbanization of the population. Non-indictable offences as a class have shown an increase in proportion to all offences during the past three years, this increase being the result, mainly, of the application of the 40 miles an hour speed law throughout Canada, the addition of National Registration Acts, the stricter enforcement of the Radio Licence Act and other extensions of the field of non-indictable offences under war-time regulations.