

Offences Against the Liquor Acts.—Until the War of 1914-18, alcoholic liquors were generally sold under specified conditions by licensed hotels or licensed shops. Offences against the Liquor Acts usually represented a breach of the conditions of sale. During that War, prohibition was generally established but, in more recent years, the Provincial Governments have taken over the sale of liquor through commissions. Eight of the nine provinces now have such Liquor Commissions, Prince Edward Island being the only province in which prohibition prevails. In 1945, the number of convictions for offences against the Liquor Acts reached the highest figure on record, 22,237, an increase of 30 p.c. over 1944. All the provinces contributed to this increase—Ontario's share was numerically the highest though Quebec more than doubled the number of its convictions and those for Prince Edward Island were two and three-quarter times higher than in 1944.

14.—Convictions for Offences Against the Liquor Acts, by Provinces, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1936-45

NOTE.—Figures for 1900-20 are given at p. 1022 of the 1933 Year Book, for 1921-30 at p. 915 of the 1942 edition and for 1931-35, at p. 1114 of the 1946 edition.

Year	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1936.....	37	698	610	1,252	4,185	940	570	784	965	24	8	10,073
1937.....	166	706	596	1,376	4,788	849	734	1,018	874	28	7	11,142
1938.....	333	794	487	1,837	5,873	886	606	810	793	16	7	12,442
1939.....	230	1,181	619	2,423	5,144	1,052	593	913	1,307	24	27	13,513
1940.....	215	1,149	379	2,102	5,372	997	927	831	903	37	34	12,946
1941.....	250	1,273	431	3,206	6,346	624	894	1,298	994	25	28	15,369
1942.....	188	1,323	477	3,037	6,901	1,130	982	1,294	1,508	24	34	16,898
1943.....	118	1,369	473	2,070	6,751	1,086	1,099	1,106	944	47	36	15,099
1944.....	56	2,240	814	1,287	8,332	1,057	1,010	1,108	1,047	119	23	17,093
1945.....	155	2,324	911	2,626	10,655	1,429	1,416	1,454	1,215	39	13	22,237

Breaches of Traffic Regulations.—At the beginning of the present century, when the motor-car was scarcely known and to-day's speeds even for freight movement were unheard of, convictions for breaches of traffic regulations numbered only 185 for all Canada. By 1942 the total convictions had risen to 399,957, the highest number ever recorded, and accounted for 69 p.c. of all non-indictable offences in that year.

A strong influence in reducing convictions under breaches of traffic regulations in 1943 and 1944 was the removal, owing to wartime restrictions, of a large number of private and passenger vehicles from the highways. The number of convictions in 1943 (274,573) was the lowest since 1936 (237,183). The 270,021 convictions for 1944 was a further decline, representing a decrease of 33 p.c. from the peak year of 1942. However, 1945 showed an increase of 6.2 p.c. over 1944. With the lifting of tire and gasoline restrictions, a further increase in the infringement of traffic regulations may be anticipated.