

CHAPTER VIII.—CRIME AND DELINQUENCY*

CONSPECTUS

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Canadian Criminal Law and Procedure.—A review of the development of the Criminal Code in Canada is given at pp. 1085-1087 of the 1934-35 edition of the Year Book; it includes a résumé of procedure and an account of the jurisdiction of the various classes of judges and magistrates.

The statistics presented in this Chapter are summarized from the "Annual Report of Statistics of Criminal and Other Offences", and are collected directly from the criminal courts in the different judicial districts throughout the Dominion. There are 148 judicial districts, including 2 sub-districts, divided by provinces as follows: Prince Edward Island 3, Nova Scotia 7†, New Brunswick 15, Quebec 26, Ontario 48, Manitoba 6, Saskatchewan 21, Alberta 12, British Columbia 8, Yukon 1, and the Northwest Territories 1.

Crime is divided into two definite classes, criminal or 'indictable' offences, which include all serious crimes covered by the Criminal Code (see pp. 277-278), and summary or 'non-indictable' offences, which comprise less serious crimes and breaches of municipal by-laws (see p. 283). Indictable offences consist of all cases proceeded against by the higher Courts of Justice—those triable before a Supreme Court Judge with jury and those triable by Judges under the Speedy Trials Act and Summary Trials[†] Act. The most serious crimes, such as murder, manslaughter, robbery with violence, etc., are triable by a Supreme Court Judge with jury, without election of the accused. Lesser indictable offences are tried by County Judges with a jury, or "Speedy Trial" (trial by Judge without jury, by election of the accused). Non-indictable offences, breaches of municipal by-laws, traffic laws, etc., are usually dealt with summarily by Police Magistrates or other Justices and Recorders under the Summary Convictions Act.

* Except as otherwise indicated, this Chapter has been revised under the direction of J. T. Marshall, Acting Director, Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, by Miss R. Harvey, Chief, Criminal Statistics Section. The 71st "Annual Report of Statistics of Criminal and Other Offences", for the year ended Sept. 30, 1946, is obtainable from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Price 50 cents.

† The 18 counties in Nova Scotia previously listed are grouped into seven Judicial Districts.