

remembered that as time goes on more courts are established and the added returns may exaggerate an apparent increase in delinquency or may under-estimate a decrease.

Thirdly, although the figures refer to offenders rather than offences, they do not represent the number of delinquent juveniles because some children may be brought to court more than once within a year, and in the tables of the report such children are recorded as separate individuals each time they appear on a new complaint.

Lastly, the number of delinquency cases reported by the courts is affected, to a considerable extent, by variations in the policies of the courts in the disposition of cases. Some courts handle certain cases unofficially, that is, in these cases legal papers are not prepared and the case is adjusted by the judge or other officer of the court without a formal court hearing. Although some of the courts report the cases as adjourned *sine die*, others consider the interview as an "occurrence", meaning that the case is not recorded as a charge.

Reports of juvenile offences were received in 1946 from 137 Judicial Districts. Yukon and the Northwest Territories were not included. Twenty Districts reported no offences, while one District failed to report. The reporting area for 1946, as for earlier years, is particularly representative of cities and towns, and includes 109 urban centres in Canada with populations of 4,000 or over.

Subsection 1.—Total Juvenile Offences

The terms 'indictable' and 'non-indictable' are applied only to offences of adults. Similar offences committed by juveniles are termed 'major' offences and 'minor' offences, respectively.

