

**Delinquents Brought Before the Courts.**—The statistics for 1946 show that the decline in juvenile delinquency, first noted in 1943, is continuing. Children brought before Canadian courts during 1946 numbered 8,707 as compared with 9,756 in 1945, a decrease of 10·8 p.c. The number of young offenders charged with major offences decreased from 6,121 in the previous year to 5,409 in 1946, or 11·6 p.c. The number of juveniles charged with minor offences which were disposed of by the courts was 3,298 during 1946 as against 3,635 in the preceding year, a falling-off of 9·3 p.c.

Table 1 shows the number of cases brought before the courts, by provinces, from 1942 to 1946. In 1946 a decrease was apparent in each of the provinces, except New Brunswick and British Columbia, as compared with the previous year.

**1.—Juvenile Offenders Brought Before the Courts, by Provinces, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1942-46**

Province	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Percentage Change, 1945-46
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island.....	103	89	109	118	63	-46·6
Nova Scotia.....	555	715	689	598	491	-17·9
New Brunswick.....	352	430	475	341	385	+12·9
Quebec.....	4,284	3,373	2,621	2,390	2,183	-8·7
Ontario.....	5,835	5,573	5,388	4,190	3,684	-12·1
Manitoba.....	649	467	445	366	344	-6·0
Saskatchewan.....	483	429	437	339	203	-40·1
Alberta.....	908	493	599	563	455	-19·2
British Columbia.....	633	656	791	851	899	+5·6
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>13,802</b>	<b>12,225</b>	<b>11,554</b>	<b>9,756</b>	<b>8,707</b>	<b>-10·8</b>

The peak in delinquency among girls was reached in 1943, a year later than for boys, followed by a decline in numbers for both sexes. The ratio between boys and girls charged in court shows a gradual up-grading for the girls, though the actual number of girls appearing in court in 1946 was the lowest since 1939.

**2.—Ratio of Boys and Girls Brought Before the Courts, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1937-46**

Year	Boys		Girls		Total Charges No.
	No.	p.c.	No.	p.c.	
1937.....	8,886	91·8	789	8·2	9,675
1938.....	8,086	90·6	843	9·4	8,929
1939.....	8,514	89·6	983	10·4	9,497
1940.....	8,857	88·8	1,119	11·2	9,976
1941.....	10,812	89·1	1,325	10·9	12,137
1942.....	12,388	89·8	1,414	10·2	13,802
1943.....	10,795	88·3	1,430	11·7	12,225
1944.....	10,274	88·9	1,280	11·1	11,554
1945.....	8,599	88·1	1,157	11·9	9,756
1946.....	7,617	87·5	1,090	12·5	8,707