

In Table 12, appreciable decreases are indicated in certain types of non-indictable offences in recent years. For instance, "exercising various callings without licence" has decreased steadily during the past three years. Summary convictions for offences against gambling Acts were only one-third of the number in 1944. Possession of a radio without licence decreased somewhat in 1948 as compared with 1947 but was still high as compared with 1944. The sharp decrease in convictions for vagrancy in 1948 was probably accounted for by the increase in convictions for disturbing the peace.

On the other side of the picture, convictions against bawdy-house frequenters jumped from 373 in 1947 to 1,111 in 1948, the highest since 1943. This increase was almost entirely recorded in the Province of Quebec. As mentioned on pp. 259-60, many cases of non-support and neglecting children are now tried in the Family or Domestic Courts as summary convictions rather than on indictment. As a result, summary convictions for this offence increased by 55 p.c. in 1948 over 1947. Breaches of municipal by-laws have grown steadily during the past five years, being 75 p.c. higher in 1948 than in 1944. Breaches of the Game and Fishing Acts also increased 91 p.c. in the five-year period and breaches of the Lord's Day Act and the Railway Acts by over 50 p.c. each.

12.—Convictions for Non-Indictable Offences, by Types, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1944-48

Offence	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Increase or Decrease 1947-48
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Assault (common).....	3,248	3,887	4,640	4,543	4,416	-127
Disturbing the peace.....	2,241	2,557	2,399	4,438	7,544	+3,106
Drunkenness.....	41,521	46,745	64,076	70,868	70,542	-326
Loose, idle and disorderly conduct.....	4,883	6,623	6,751	4,210	1	...
Vagrancy.....	9,200	7,679	15,212	11,694	9,051	-2,643
Damage to property.....	1,310	1,560	1,661	1,544	1,537	-7
Gambling Acts, offences against.....	16,283	16,626	8,254	5,215	5,523	+308
Bawdy houses (frequenting).....	634	802	591	373	1,111	+738
Non-support and neglecting children.....	2,442	3,148	3,359	2,928	4,524	+1,596
Contributing to delinquency.....	1,066	1,095	1,085	1,212	1,272	+60
Traffic regulations.....	270,021	286,825	453,630	537,519	649,599	+112,080
Provincial and Federal Acts—						
Game and Fishing Acts.....	2,485	2,297	3,597	4,423	4,753	+330
Indian Act.....	2	2	2	2	1,570	...
Liquor Control and Temperance Acts.....	17,093	22,237	33,362	28,486	27,744	-742
Lord's Day Act.....	627	764	572	1,235	1,428	+193
Radio without a licence.....	7,194	7,534	10,867	12,477	10,693	-1,784
Railway Acts.....	782	671	1,346	1,586	1,735	+149
Revenue Laws.....	1,058	1,656	2,179	2,430	2,690	+260
Other provincial and federal Acts.....	7,887	9,769	10,529	15,610	23,006	+7,396
Municipal by-laws, breaches of.....	23,200	24,787	25,499	34,354	40,552	+6,198
Exercising various callings without licence.....	3,551	1,074	3,266	2,096	1,178	-918
Other offences.....	14,041	7,582	6,797	5,217	6,177	+960
Totals.....	430,727	455,918	659,672	752,458	876,645	+124,187

¹ Included with vagrancy.

² Included with Liquor Control and Temperance Acts and drunkenness.

Breaches of Traffic Regulations.—Each year convictions for breaches of traffic regulations constitute a greater proportion of the total convictions for non-indictable offences; in 1948 they amounted to 74 p.c. The 21 p.c. increase in convictions for breaches of traffic regulations in 1948 over 1947 accounted to a great extent for the over-all increase in convictions for all non-indictable offences.