

The sentences meted out to these young people varied somewhat from those given to offenders of over 24 years of age. A higher proportion of them in 1951 were given suspended sentences, put on probation or sent to reformatories while a lower proportion were fined or given gaol or penitentiary sentences.

#### 14.—Disposition of Sentences for Indictable Offences, Year Ended Dec. 31, 1951

Disposition of Sentences	Males		Females	
	16-24 Years	25 Years or Over	16-24 Years	25 Years or Over
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Suspended sentence.....	16.4	10.5	22.4	18.4
Probation.....	10.3	2.8	17.6	7.8
Fined.....	23.9	34.5	17.8	35.2
Gaol.....	34.2	41.2	30.0	32.2
Reformatory.....	8.6	3.9	10.1	3.1
Penitentiary.....	6.6	7.0	2.0	3.2
Death.....	0.01	0.1	—	0.1

Through suspending sentence and probation supervising, many of these young offenders received another chance to make good, while reformatory training gave others an opportunity to better their employment possibilities. In this connection it is interesting to note that 30.3 p.c. of the males were recorded as labourers, which indicates that they had no particular skill by which to earn a living; the proportion of male offenders over 25 years of age recorded as labourers was 21.8 p.c. Four percent of the youths were students and another 5.2 p.c. were unemployed as compared with 2 p.c. of the older men. Three out of four of them lived in urban centres.

Of the young female offenders, 35.3 p.c. were not gainfully employed; domestic or personal service was the occupation of 37.5 p.c. and 83.5 p.c. lived in urban centres.

Since those convicted of non-indictable offences are not reported by age of offender, it is not possible to segregate young people of 16 to 24 years of age who have had summary convictions.

#### Subsection 3.—Convictions for Non-indictable Offences

Non-indictable offences—those not expressly made indictable—include all offences against provincial statutes and municipal by-laws. Non-indictable offences are triable by magistrate or justice of the peace under Part XV of the Criminal Code or under the provincial summary convictions Acts, as the case may be.

It is debatable how far summary convictions are of a criminal nature and how much their increase indicates an increase in crime. Many are breaches of municipal by-laws and contrary to public safety, health and comfort as, for example, parking violations or exercising callings without licence, but they do not involve violence, cruelty or serious dishonesty. On the other hand, offences as serious as cruelty to animals and contributing to juvenile delinquency are included under this classification and such indictable offences as common assault and driving with ability impaired may be tried on summary conviction.

Summary convictions increased by 10.5 p.c. to 1,308,466 in the calendar year 1951 from 1,183,991 in the year ended Sept. 30, 1950. Increases were general in all provinces except Quebec and Saskatchewan.