

Through the system of suspended sentence and probation supervising, many young offenders receive another chance to make good and reformatory training gives others an opportunity to better their employment possibilities. It is interesting to note that 32.6 p.c. of the young male offenders in 1953 were recorded as labourers, indicating 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 24.1 p.c. Those recorded as students made up 3.8 p.c. of the youths and 5.1 p.c. were reported as unemployed as compared with 1.3 p.c. of the older men. Approximately two of every three lived in urban centres.

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 12.6 p.c. to 1,763,622 in 1953 from 1,565,707 in 1952. Increases were general in all provinces except Prince Edward Island.

15.—Convictions for Non-indictable Offences by Province 1944-53

Note.—Figures for years before 1951 are for the 12 months ended Sept. 30, 1951; 1952 and 1953 figures are for the calendar year. Statistics for the intervening months, October-December 1950, are given in DBS report, *Statistics of Criminal and Other Offences*. Figures for 1900-43 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1933 edition.

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1944.....	...	1,287	8,760	9,533	146,593	199,938	22,602	7,788	11,950	21,866	336	74	430,727
1945.....	...	1,394	9,786	9,818	158,580	209,713	22,820	8,996	11,576	22,887	312	36	455,918
1946.....	...	2,715	12,915	13,925	176,996	354,154	36,014	13,985	16,289	32,203	234	242	659,672
1947.....	...	2,806	12,019	14,097	188,835	407,334	47,170	15,263	18,696	45,585	328	325	752,458
1948.....	...	2,696	13,699	12,189	228,502	445,911	52,783	15,488	19,748	85,006	385	238	876,645
1949....	...	3,118	12,617	13,131	232,132	510,837	72,023	16,465	25,551	94,326	232	57	980,489
1950.....	...	2,095	13,137	21,732	280,868	617,565	79,079	22,717	28,344	117,729	553	172	1,183,991
1951.....	5,022	2,195	14,850	25,660	267,648	671,893	118,217	22,467	39,956	139,304	950	304	1,308,466
1952.....	6,191	2,578	14,977	31,905	312,892	819,253	135,034	31,618	50,443	158,967	1,342	507	1,565,707
1953.....	6,315	2,529	17,292	33,308	352,009	960,764	135,757	34,764	57,463	161,382	1,432	607	1,763,622

In considering statistics of summary convictions it should be remembered that such convictions are greatly influenced by the customs of the people and by the application and degree of enforcement of municipal regulations. These differ from place to place and from year to year and affect non-indictable offences more than they do indictable crimes.

In 1953 increases appeared in convictions for driving while intoxicated, dangerous and reckless driving, petty thefts and in convictions for offences against the Food and Drugs Act, the Inspection and Sale Act, the Railway Acts, the Master and Servant Act and the Highway Traffic Act. Offsetting these increases was the considerable decline under the item "Radio without a licence", a requirement no longer in effect. Decreases were also shown for offences against the Wartime Prices and Trade Board Act, which should decline yearly, the Weights and Measures Act and the Prairie and Forest Act.