

The Parole Act (S.C. 1958, c. 38) was passed to implement certain recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1953 under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Justice Fauteux, to inquire into the principles and procedure followed in the Remission Service of the Department of Justice. The Act repeals the Ticket of Leave Act and provides for the establishment of a National Parole Board. It is to come into force on proclamation and will have considerable effect on the administration of the penal provisions of the criminal law. However, it does not directly affect the Criminal Code except in so far as it will empower the Board to revoke or suspend a sentence of whipping or an order made under the Criminal Code prohibiting a person from operating a motor vehicle, and will transfer to the Board the powers, functions and duties of the Minister of Justice in relation to the review of sentences of preventive detention.

Section 2.—Adult Offenders and Convictions

The main interest in adult criminal statistics is concerned with those persons guilty of the more serious crimes. Such offenders are fewer than those who commit summary conviction offences but, from the standpoint of the protection of society, they are more important.

Statistics of indictable crimes are based on *persons*. When a person is prosecuted at the same hearing for several offences, one of those offences is selected for tabulation. The rule followed is to select the offence for which the proceedings were carried to the furthest stage—to conviction and sentence if the prisoner were tried on several charges; if there were several convictions, the offence selected is that for which the heaviest punishment was awarded; if the final result of proceedings on two or more charges were the same, the most serious offence (as measured by the maximum penalty allowed by the law) appears in the tables. Where a person was prosecuted for one offence and convicted of another (e.g., charged with murder and convicted of manslaughter), the case appears only under the offence for which he was convicted. Statistics of summary conviction offences are based on *convictions*.

The figures include only cases finally determined within the year. Those not entirely disposed of within the year (e.g., tried but sentence postponed) are held over for the next year's report.

The new Criminal Code, which became law in 1954 (S.C. 1953-54, c. 51), necessitated the alteration of certain statistical classifications. For instance, in the classification of indictable offences regroupings have been made and some items added and others dropped. Also, indictable offences under the Criminal Code are now shown separately from those under federal statutes. Summary convictions are now classified under offences under the Criminal Code, federal statutes, provincial statutes and municipal by-laws, and methods of trial have been arranged to conform with the provisions of the new Criminal Code. Thus, any comparisons between these data for 1956 and 1957 and the data published for previous years should be made with care. Each table in the following statistical analysis in which revision of classification occurs carries a headnote to that effect.

Subsection 1.—Adults Convicted of Indictable Offences

During 1957 the courts of Canada dealt with 35,458 adults charged with 61,964 indictable offences, of whom 31,765 were found guilty of 54,900 offences. These figures show an increase over those of 1956 when 30,838 adults were charged with 52,541 indictable offences and 27,413 were found guilty of 45,913 offences.