

Indictable offences are classified according to the main sources of the criminal law—the Criminal Code and Federal Statutes. Indictable offences under the Criminal Code are grouped into six classes as shown in Table 2. In 1958 persons convicted of assaults of various kinds and obstructing police represented 77.5 p.c. of Class I, which covers offences against the person. In that year 16 persons were convicted of murder, 11 of attempted murder and 82 of manslaughter as compared with 8, 10 and 110, respectively, in 1957.

Classes II to V deal with offences against property. Thefts predominate among the offences in these classes, and breaking and entering and robbery, serious crimes which involve acts of violence, are the next most numerous. In Class VI, which includes miscellaneous offences, the most numerous convictions are for offences connected with the improper operation of motor vehicles. In 1958 there were 488 offenders under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, of whom 397 were convicted of possessing heroin and 61 of trafficking; 334 were males and 442 were born in Canada. British Columbia courts convicted 61.7 p.c. of the drug offenders and Ontario courts 29.5 p.c.

