

642. The foregoing figures relate only to those persons who received sentences of imprisonment for two years or over, and were therefore sent to the penitentiaries, while the following tables, which include the above, are compiled from the criminal statistics collected by the Dominion Government, which embrace all classes of offence. The Act authorizing their collection came into operation in 1876, and the results at first were meagre. The returns, however, are now much more accurate and complete, though still some considerable distance from perfection. Extreme accuracy is most desirable, for statistics of crime, when they can be depended on, are not only valuable indications of the social condition of a country, but are also of much importance both in the making of laws, civil and criminal, and in illustrating the working of them. Comparisons also between provinces, which would be interesting, are deprived of value, owing to the uncertainty of the completeness of the returns, and it may be that the provinces supplying the fullest particulars will appear to have the largest proportion of crime. The returns of indictable offences are supposed to be complete from all the provinces, but, except from Ontario, and perhaps Quebec, it is certain that those of minor offences are deficient.

The criminal statistics.

643. The various indictable offences, which comprise the more serious crimes, are divided into six classes, as follow :—

Classification of offences.

- Class
- I. Offences against the person.
 - II. Offences against property, with violence.
 - III. Offences against property, without violence.
 - IV. Malicious offences against property.
 - V. Forgery, and offences against the currency.
 - VI. Other offences not included in the foregoing classes.

And the following list gives the principal crimes and offences that are included in each class :—

CLASS I.—OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

Murder and attempt to murder.
 Manslaughter.
 Shooting, stabbing, wounding, &c.
 Rape and other offences against females.
 Unnatural offences.
 Bigamy.
 Abduction.
 Assault, aggravated and common.
 Other offences against the person.

CLASS II.—OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, WITH VIOLENCE.

Robbery, with violence.
 Burglary, house and shop-breaking.
 Other offences against property, with violence.

CLASS III.—OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY, WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

Horse, cattle and sheep-stealing.
 Larceny.
 Embezzlement.
 Felonious receiving.
 Fraud.