

## AGE AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF PERSONS CONVICTED FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES, &amp;c., 1890.

PROVINCES.	Con- vic- tions.	EDUCATIONAL STATUS.				AGES.									
		Su- per- ior.	Ele- men- tary.	Un- able either to read or write	Not gi- ven.	Under 16 years.		16 years and under 21.		21 years and under 40.		40 years and over.		Not gi- ven.	
						M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Ontario . . . . .	2,123	12	1,768	292	51	350	14	438	32	848	57	313	32	36	3
Quebec . . . . .	1,220	9	871	282	58	171	11	179	22	635	51	99	13	35	4
Nova Scotia . . . . .	126	...	90	9	27	15	...	13	2	40	1	22	1	28	4
N. Brunswick . . . . .	79	2	57	15	5	10	1	11	1	31	5	13	7	...	...
Manitoba . . . . .	91	2	82	4	3	12	2	13	...	57	...	4	...	3	...
B. Columbia . . . . .	183	...	112	12	59	4	...	5	...	46	42	10	...	65	11
P. E. Island . . . . .	20	...	20	...	...	4	...	2	2	10	1	1	...	...	...
Territories . . . . .	92	...	28	13	51	...	...	9	...	29	1	5	...	48	...
Total . . . . .	3,934	25	3,028	627	254	566	28	670	59	1,696	158	467	53	215	22

653. The steady decrease which was apparent during the years 1884, 1885 and 1886 in the number convicted who could neither read or write has ceased, as in 1886 the proportion of these to the total number was 9.60 per cent; but in 1887 it rose to 15.24 per cent, in 1888 to 14.81 per cent, in 1889 to 14.92 per cent, and in 1890 to 15.93 per cent. When the superior educational advantages that prevail in Canada are considered, there can be little doubt that increased care in supplying particulars is the real cause of this increase. As regards ages, the proportions of those convicted were as follow:—

	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
	Percent.	Percent.	Percent.	Percent.	Percent.
Under 16 years . . . . .	11.00	12.84	16.06	16.32	15.10
16 years and under 21 . . . . .	16.64	16.78	18.55	18.42	18.53
21 years and under 40 . . . . .	50.66	48.93	46.22	48.19	47.13
40 years and over . . . . .	17.92	18.26	13.69	11.83	13.22

The above figures would seem to indicate an increase in youthful depravity which is not encouraging, more especially as the increase is corroborated by the figures for 1884 and 1885, which were 10.13 per cent and 10.24 per cent, respectively. This increase is probably due to the rapid growth of population in our larger cities, where force of example and association have more powerful influence for evil than in rural districts. Out of 594 young criminals under 16 years of age, 28 of whom were girls, convicted of indictable offences, 486, or 82 per cent, were charged with larceny. Of the latter number 24 were girls.