

CRIMINAL STATISTICS AND PENITENTIARIES.

The criminal statistics of Canada are collected, compiled and published annually by the Census and Statistics Office under statutory authority of the Census and Statistics Act, 1905 (4-5 Edw. VII, c. 5). They relate to the year ended September 30, and the last issued annual report is for 1914. The statistics are divided into the two classes of (1) indictable offences and (2) summary convictions, the former comprising all cases tried by police or other magistrates and the latter all cases of minor importance disposed of by justices of the peace under the Summary Convictions Act.

Indictable Offences.—Table 27 shows by provinces in respect of indictable offences the number of charges and convictions and the percentage of acquittals for the years 1913 and 1914. There were 28,007 charges and 21,438 convictions for indictable offences throughout Canada during the year ended September 30, 1914, as compared with 24,078 charges and 18,320 convictions in 1913, or an increase of 16.32 p.c. for the former and 17.02 p.c. for the latter during the year. As shown by the table, the convictions increased in every province except Manitoba, which shows a decrease of 5.56 p.c. in the number of convictions for 1914.

Summary Convictions.—The number of summary convictions in 1914 was 161,597, as compared with 154,818 in 1913. This represents an increase of 6,779, or 4.37 p.c.

Death Sentences.—During 1914, 27 persons were sentenced to death for murder, as compared with 23 in 1913. Death sentences in 1914 were carried out in 11 cases compared with 8 in 1913, and were commuted to life imprisonment in 16 cases in 1914 compared with 13 in 1913. Eight persons were sentenced in 1914 to be imprisoned for life, as compared with three persons in 1913.

27.—Charges, Convictions and Percentages of Acquittals for Indictable Offences by Provinces, 1913 and 1914.

Provinces.	1913.			1914.		
	Charges.	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Charges.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
	No.	No.	p.c.	No.	No.	p.c.
Prince Edward Island.	14	12	14.28	37	25	32.43
Nova Scotia.....	908	685	24.56	1,141	766	32.86
New Brunswick.....	218	188	13.76	273	229	16.12
Quebec.....	3,609	2,989	17.18	4,428	3,586	19.01
Ontario.....	9,763	7,403	24.17	11,263	8,932	20.70
Manitoba.....	1,810	1,582	12.60	1,733	1,494	13.79
Saskatchewan.....	2,210	1,617	26.83	2,688	1,928	28.27
Alberta.....	2,740	1,913	30.18	3,162	2,237	29.75
British Columbia.....	2,770	1,904	31.26	3,239	2,213	31.67
Yukon.....	36	27	25.00	43	28	34.88
Canada.....	24,078	18,320	23.93	28,007	21,438	23.45