

36.—Convictions for Drunkenness for the five years 1913-1917.

Provinces.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	324	342	231	219	207
Nova Scotia.....	3,955	3,999	3,436	3,614	2,546
New Brunswick.....	2,073	1,765	1,694	1,696	1,516
Quebec.....	12,265	12,776	8,939	7,108	8,025
Ontario.....	16,236	17,703	12,553	11,728	10,945
Manitoba.....	7,493	6,193	4,154	3,114	1,085
Saskatchewan.....	2,970	2,142	1,332	1,062	770
Alberta.....	7,233	5,710	2,802	1,809	391
British Columbia.....	8,316	9,376	5,960	2,327	2,372
Yukon.....	60	61	60	53	25
Canada.....	60,975	60,067	41,161	32,730	27,882

PENITENTIARIES.

History and Progress of Canadian Penal Institutions, 1867-1917.¹

Canada is a pioneer in penological reform, being the first country to incorporate a provision in its constitution that penal-class convicts be segregated and placed under distinctly separate authority. The provision that penal-class prisoners (those serving two years or more) should be placed in institutions under federal control, while all others, including misdemeanants, prisoners awaiting trial, and parties held as witnesses, should be under provincial control, shows the wisdom and foresight of the statesmen who drafted the British North America Act. It is only of recent years that other states and countries have awakened to the necessity for like provision, and in some states and countries penal-class convicts are still herded with delinquents held for minor offences.

The number of penal-class prisoners in custody on December 31, 1867, was 972, of whom 64 were females. These were located as follows: Kingston, Ont., 907; St. John, N.B., 27; Halifax, N.S., 38. On March 31, 1917, the convict population of the four original provinces was 1,096, an increase of less than 13 p.c. in fifty years. The population of the penitentiaries of Canada on March 31, 1917, was 1,694, of whom 35 were females. In 1867 there was one convict to each 3,586 inhabitants. In 1917 there was one convict to each 4,254 inhabitants. When one realizes the extension of the country, the increased population, the influx of immigrants, many of whom were unaccustomed to rigid penal laws, the relative increase of population in cities and towns where crime is more easily accomplished, and the fact of the extension of the penal code to hundreds of acts that were formerly not illegal or punishable, the results are eminently satisfactory and are a tribute to the manner in which Canadian penal institutions have been administered.

¹From the Report for 1917 of Douglas Stewart, Inspector of Penitentiaries [No. 34, 1918].