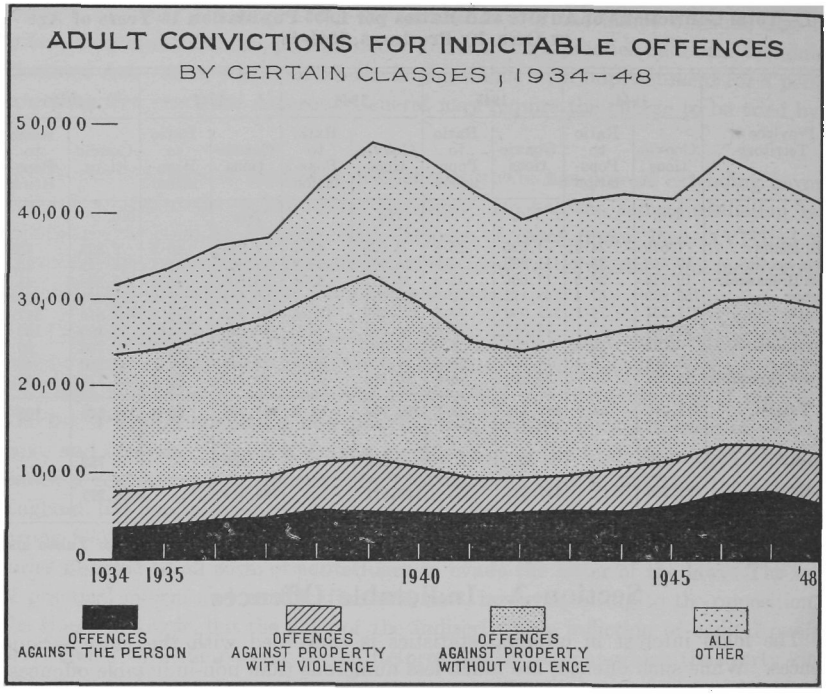

1947, the greater part of which was accounted for by fewer convictions for non-support and desertion, probably due to the fact that Family Courts handled many of these cases summarily rather than on indictment.

Classes II, III, IV and V each showed an increase in convictions over 1947. In Class III convictions for false pretences increased, but the figure was affected by multiple convictions; 1,626 persons had 3,667 convictions and 500 of these had an average of five convictions each. Fewer cases of car theft partly accounted for the decrease in thefts. However, the indications are that, to avoid the heavy penalty of not less than one year in gaol for theft of a motor-vehicle, the charge of "taking a car without the owner's consent" was resorted to, convictions for the latter offence increasing from 167 in 1947 to 823 in 1948. Offences against the currency (Class V) were also affected by multiple convictions; there were fewer persons with more convictions than in 1947.

Convictions for miscellaneous offences (Class VI) were 16 p.c. lower than in 1947. There were fewer convictions for driving offences but the decrease in convictions on indictment for driving a car while drunk is rather misleading since 504 cases were tried as summary convictions. The drop in convictions under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act was the first since 1943. Of these, 83 p.c. were against Canadians, 6 p.c. were against persons born in other Commonwealth countries, and 5 p.c. against persons born in the United States. Most of the convictions were in British Columbia and Ontario.