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SYNOPSIS OF REPORT
OF
CRIMINAL STATISTICS
For
1920

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OTTAWA

1921

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OTTAWA

Dominion Statistician, R/H/Coats, B/A/F.S.S.
Judicial Statistician, Reginald E. Watts.

Synopsis of Report on Criminal Statistics for the year ended September 30th, 1920:

The total number of convictions given for the year ended September 30th, 1920 is 162,708, being an increase of 25 per cent over 1919. The increase of 1919 over 1918 was but 5½ per cent. The report however shows this heavy increase to be almost entirely in the non-indictable, or minor offences which increased from 111,623 in 1919 to 144,265 in 1920/

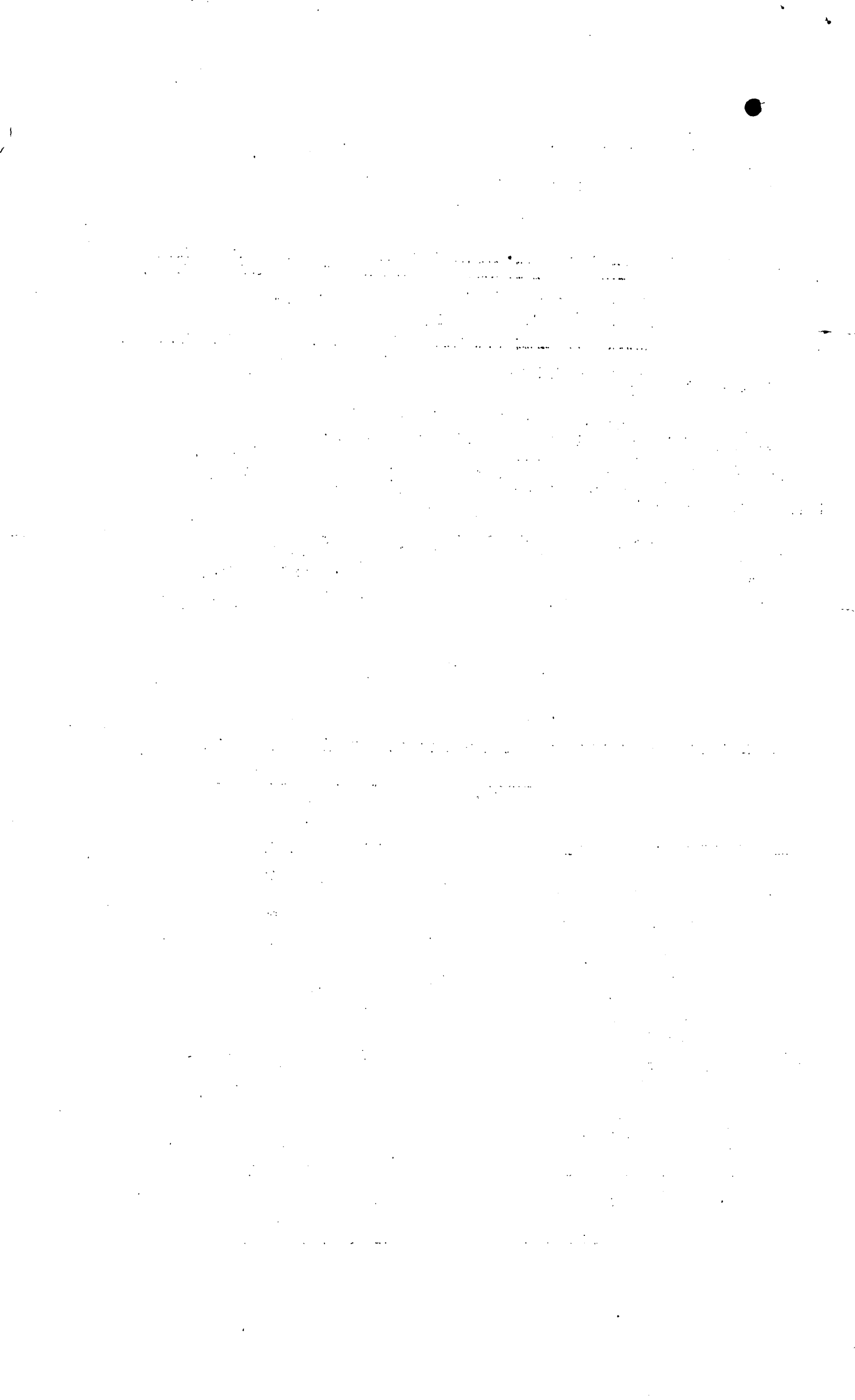
With respect to criminal cases there were 23,213 charges in 1920 as against 23021 in 1919. The number of convictions for 1920 was 18,443 and for 1919, 18,396 being but 47 of a difference/

The following is a comparative statement of the indictable offences by classes for the years 1919 and 1920.

Indictable Offences By Classes

Class I Offences against the Person

Offences	1919		1920	
	Number of Charges	Number of Con- victions	Number of Charges	Number of Con- victions
Murder	79	28	57	26
Murder attempt to commit	34	22	36	19
Manslaughter	62	32	84	43
Abortion and concealing birth of infants	10	8	20	11
Rape and other crimes against decency	516	311	532	293
Procuration	39	23	40	27
Bigamy	92	71	88	71
Shooting, stabbing and wounding	182	109	282	183
Assault on females	29	22	97	70
Aggravated assault	711	471	698	455
Assault on police officer	554	503	628	578
Assault and battery	1109	852	1205	934
Refuse to support family	114	85	149	110
Various other offences against the person	753	77	113	76
Totals for all Canada	2,684	2,614	4,029	2,901



Class II Offences against Property with Violence.

Offences	1919		1920	
	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions
Burglary, house, warehouse and shopbreaking	2,717	2,420	2,317	2,073
Robbery and demanding with violences	348	164	366	227
Highway Robbery	27	22	26	10
Totals for Canada	3,092	2,606	2,709	2,310

Class III Offences against Property without Violence

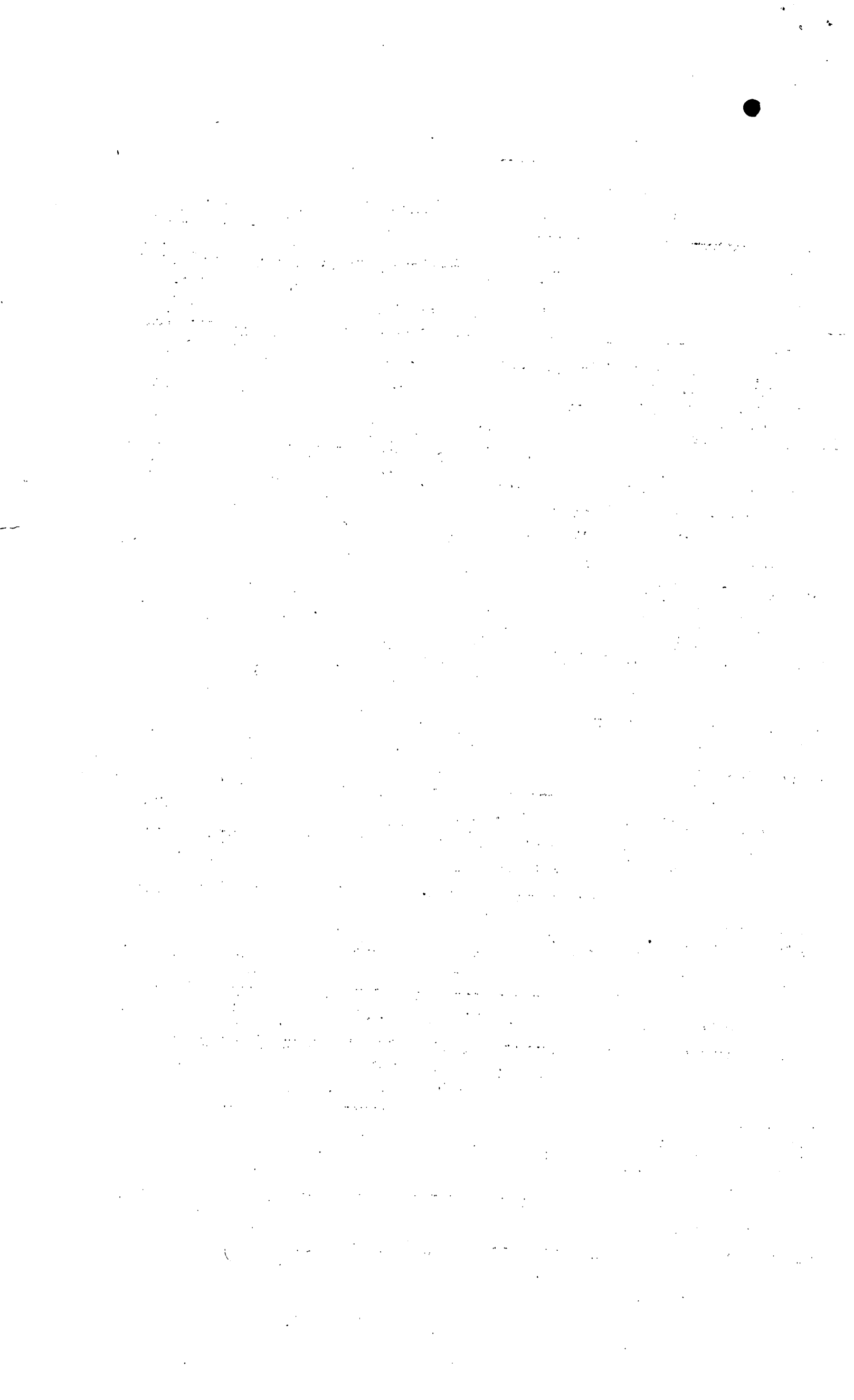
Bringing stolen goods into Canada	12	12	1	1
Embezzlement	11	7	8	4
False Pretences	579	406	693	473
Feloneously receiving stolen goods	536	373	652	430
Fraud and conspiracy to defraud	499	366	576	436
Horse, cattle and sheep stealing	90	68	73	51
Theft	10,613	8,651	10,478	8,605
Theft of mail	32	28	24	22
Totals for Canada	12,372	9,911	12,505	10,022

Class IV Malicious Offences against Property:

Arson	73	43	78	34
Malicious injury to horses, cattle and other wilful damage to property	450	327	415	294
Totals for Canada	523	370	493	328

Class V/, Forgery and other Offences against the Currency.

Offences against currency	-	-	14	11
Forgery and uttering forged documents	466	377	559	419
Totals for Canada	466	377	573	430



Class VI. Other Offences not included in the foregoing Classes.

Offences	1919		1920	
	Number of Charges	Number of Con- victions	Number of Charges	Number of Con- victions
Attempt to Commit suicide	28	20	42	33
Carrying unlawful weapons	98	91	156	144
Criminal Negligence	-	-	67	50
Conspiracy	21	6	101	58
Driving automobile while drunk	-	-	48	48
Forcible Entry	12	2	4	3
Indecent Exposure and other offences against public morals	153	140	187	170
Intimidation	-	-	32	19
Keeping bawdy houses and inmates thereof	1,340	1,239	927	823
Offences against gambling and lottery acts	332	296	361	303
Offences against Revenue Laws	312	292	122	114
Illicit stills	-	-	251	239
Perjury and subornation of perjury	94	41	106	34
Prison breach and escape from prison	177	169	155	147
Riot and affray	75	65	101	94
Sedition	37	19	12	8
Sodomy and bestiality	83	54	104	85
Various other misdemeanours	122	84	128	80
Totals for Canada	2,884	2,518	2,904	2,452
Grand Totals for All Canada	23,021	18,396	23,213	18,443

In the main there is not much change in these figures. In Class I murder charges decreased considerably, but the convictions were almost the same. Charges and convictions for manslaughter increased. Burglaries (Class II) show a substantial decrease. In Class III the crimes under the several headings of theft show a decrease. In Class VI criminal negligence, driving automobile while intoxicated and intimidation shown in 1920 were included in various other misdemeanours previously. Illicit stills were formerly included in revenue laws.

The minor offences, or summary convictions by police or other magistrates are summarised for the two years as follows.



Offences	Number		Variation
	1919	1920	
Assault and other offences against the person	5,116	5,334	218
Trespass and other offences against property	3,070	2,486	- 584
Breach of Provincial and Municipal by-laws	39,593	59,378	19,785
Breach of liquor laws	7,383	10,247	2,864
Drunkenness	24,217	39,769	15,552
Vagancy, disorderly and frequenter of bawdy houses	10,921	10,739	- 182
Offences against Militia and War Measure Acts	6,082	1,047	- 5,035
Miscellaneous offences (Minor)	15,241	15,265	24
Total	111,623	144,265	32,642

The most notable changes shown in the above table are the large increases in breaches of municipal by-laws, liquor acts and drunkenness. The decrease in Militia Acts is due to the cessation of military operations. The increase in breaches of Municipal by-laws which is almost 50 per cent is principally in cases relating to highway offences of various kinds. The increase in offences relating to the temperance legislation is 39 per cent over 1919, and convictions for drunkenness have increased 64 per cent, since the previous year. The number of cases of drunkenness for 1920 -39,769 is the highest since 1915, when it was 41,161.

The number of persons fined for drunkenness in 1920 was 36,009, and the fines paid amounted to \$315,099., unpaid fines totaled \$65,294. The figures for 1919 were 21,975 persons fined, \$186,176. fines paid and \$39,763 unpaid. For breaches of prohibition and other liquor regulations the number of persons fined in 1920 was 9,674 who paid \$1,442,754. in fines and refused to pay \$244,676. The figures for 1919 were 7,079 persons fined, \$930,947. in paid fines and \$247,995. in unpaid.

These figures do not include actions taken against illicit stills which are indictable offences and are given in those tables.

In Juvenile crime there is a decrease of 2.3 per cent from the previous year.

A series of retrospective tables in ratios show that the percentage of convictions with respect to total number of charges for indictable offences is increasing year by year, but at the same time the sentences are becoming less and less severe. The number of habitual criminals which has been on the decrease is again rising.

A new feature in the report is a series of tables of police statistics. Eighty-eight cities and towns made returns out of one hundred and four of over 4,000 population (1911) to which questionnaires were sent. The principal object being to procure from the



police, statistics showing the gross number of offences that were known to have been committed whether the cases were brought to court or not. The tables in the criminal report on Criminal Statistics show only those cases dealt with in the courts, and in the case of non-indictable offences convictions only have been collected and recorded, whereas complete reports from the police of all crimes known to them would more correctly show the criminality of the country.

The number of police on the forces of the eighty-eight places reporting was 3,614. The number of offences reported to, or known to the police in 1920 was 183,126, 151,468 persons were arrested or summoned to stand trial, leaving 31,658 offenders undiscovered. The number of thefts known to have been committed was 22,820, whereas the number of charges before the courts for thefts total 10,575, and the convictions 8,678. There were 5,655 burglaries and house and shop breaking committed, the charges and convictions being 2,317 and 2,073 respectively. Highway robberies to the number of 663 were reported, yet the number of all cases of robbery dealt with in the courts was but 332 with 237 convictions.

The number of automobiles reported stolen was 3,682 valued at \$4,762,043. Of these the police recovered 3,534 valued at \$4,535,458. leaving 148 not recovered. The number of bicycles reported stolen was 4,814, and those recovered amounted to 2,624. In addition the police found 2,325 bicycles that were not reported stolen and found claimants for 2,151 of these. The value of other articles reported stolen was \$2,325,755. and of this \$1,336,027 was recovered.

Photographs of prisoners were taken to the number of 5,217. Finger prints taken numbered 12,499 and 1,724 identifications were established. Street accidents reported numbered 13,766. Doors of doors of premises carelessly left unlocked numbered 10,509. During the year the police gave shelter to 22,927 persons and recovered 5,212 children that had strayed away.

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