

85D20

AUGUST 1923

1923

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANADA  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
JUDICIAL STATISTICS BRANCH

ABSTRACT OF REPORT  
of  
CRIMINAL STATISTICS  
for  
1922

-----+ + +-----

Published by Authority of the Hon. J.A. Robb, M. P.,

Minister of Trade and Commerce.

+ + +

OTTAWA

1923



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

JUDICIAL STATISTICS BRANCH

OTTAWA.

---

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

---

Abstract of Report on Criminal Statistics for the year ended  
September 30th, 1922.

In compiling the criminal statistics for 1922 a departure from the former method has been made, by keeping the figures relating to juvenile delinquents separate from those relating to adults. The wide-spread interest that has developed in late years in child welfare and in the treatment of juvenile delinquents has suggested a change in the method of recording the statistics. It is considered that a child is not capable of committing an "indictable" offence, and that transgressions of the law by children cannot properly be classed as "crimes", nor the transgressors "criminals". Therefore statistics of juvenile offenders will in future be tabulated and classified independently. The terms "indictable" and "non-indictable" offences in this and all subsequent reports will refer to adults only.

The classification of juvenile offences is not changed materially from that of the adults but consists of two divisions designated as "major" and "minor" offences. The classification is somewhat arbitrary but is based on that used for adults and therefore comparability with former years will not be seriously interfered with.

The new system of collecting the returns is not yet complete in some provinces, but the indications are that all returns will be sent in on the proper forms next year.

In the following tables the figures for 1921 have been adjusted so that comparison may be made with those of 1922.

As in former years those under the age of 16 years are counted as juveniles and those over 16 adults.

The total number of offences tried by the various criminal courts in Canada was 163,929 as compared with 182,720 in 1921, being a decrease of 18,791 or 10.28 per cent. The convictions decreased from 177,173 to 158,339, a diminution of 18,834 or 10.52 per cent. The acquittals of indictable and major offences increased from 5,547 to 5,590 during the year. Non-indictable and minor cases dismissed are not, and never have been recorded in these tables.

The following figures show the number of convictions in the four classes of offences by provinces for the years 1921 and 1922:

CONVICTIONS

Provinces	Adults				Juveniles			
	Indictable Offences		Non-indictable Offences		Major Offences		Minor Offences	
	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922
Prince Edward Island	15	27	373	309	9	5	-	-
Nova Scotia	712	701	4,639	3,332	149	167	72	79
New Brunswick	313	322	2,680	2,281	77	45	-	7
Quebec	2,654	2,885	45,042	31,441	821	655	589	624
Ontario	7,548	7,021	63,874	63,015	1,597	1852	1,108	899
Manitoba	1,159	1,188	9,563	9,530	333	627	555	495
Saskatchewan	1,220	1,391	6,137	6,876	27	196	-	41
Alberta	1,263	1,170	8,571	7,766	13	240	-	24
British Columbia	1,282	1,004	14,460	11,720	201	278	77	64
Yukon	3	10	37	52	-	-	-	-
Canada	16,169	15,719	155,376	136,322	3,227	4,065	2,401	2233

The Increases and decreases by Provinces are shown below:

CONVICTIONS

Provinces	Adults				Juveniles			
	Indictable Offences		Non-indictable Offences		Major Offences		Minor Offences	
	Number	P.c.	Number	P.c.	Number	P.C.	Number	P.C.
Prince Edward Island	12	30.00	64	17.16	4	44.44	-	-
Nova Scotia	11	1.55	1307	23.17	18	1208	7	9.72
New Brunswick	9	2.88	399	14.88	32	41.55	7	-
Quebec	231	8.74	13,601	30.20	166	20.22	35	5.94
Ontario	527	6.98	859	1.34	255	15.96	209	18.86
Manitoba	29	2.50	33	0.34	294	88.28	60	10.81
Saskatchewan	171	14.02	734	11.93	169	62.60	41	-
Alberta	93	7.36	805	9.59	227	-	24	-
British Columbia	278	21.68	2740	18.91	77	38.30	13	16.88
Yukon	7	233.33	15	40.54	-	-	-	-
Canada	450	2.78	19,054	12.25	838	25.97	168	7.00

With respect to the variations in convictions for indictable offences shown above, the greatest percentage in decrease appears in British Columbia with 21.68 Alberta decreased 7.36 and Ontario 6.98 per cent. Saskatchewan increased 14.02 and Quebec 8.74 per cent. The variation in the other provinces was comparatively light.

Respecting summary convictions or non-indictable offences, the decrease in Quebec of 13,601 or 30.2 per cent is the greatest change. This decrease is made up principally in the reduction of offences against Municipal Acts and By-laws (chiefly in the traffic regulations) by 9,585; in drunkenness by 2,841; in Vagrancy by 574; and in Offences against Liquor Acts by 430. British Columbia decreased by 2,740 or nearly 19 per cent. Nova Scotia by 1,307 or 28 per cent. Increases are shown only in Saskatchewan and the Yukon.

Respecting the juvenile delinquents the figures shown for 1921 are more or less approximate as they could be extracted with exactitude from the general returns in which they were included, which fact must be recognized when making comparisons.

The following table shows the number of convictions by provinces of drunkenness, breaches of liquor acts, illicit stills and offences against the opium and narcotic drug act for 1921 and 1922.

CONVICTIONS

Provinces	Drunkenness		Offences against Liquor Acts		Illicit Stills		Offences against the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act	
	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922
Prince Edward Island	144	162	44	28	-	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	2,156	1,492	362	267	1	20	2	12
New Brunswick	1,264	1,088	419	366	14	38	29	11
Quebec	9,944	7,103	1,384	954	81	115	354	574
Ontario	14,498	10,063	4,938	3,246	59	245	312	397
Manitoba	1,429	1,623	427	392	15	51	36	23
Saskatchewan	708	816	583	708	31	121	170	69
Alberta	1,838	1,608	907	1,043	12	46	162	67
British Columbia	2,379	1,081	1,394	1,503	7	7	801	705
Yukon	2	12	2	12	-	-	-	-
Canada	34,362	25,048	10,460	8,519	220	643	1,866	1,858

The above figures show a general decrease in drunkenness. The greatest decrease was 54.6 per cent in British Columbia. Nova Scotia is next with a decrease of 30.8 per cent. Ontario is next with 30.6 per cent, then Quebec with 28.4 per cent. New Brunswick decreased 13.8 and Alberta 12.5 per cent. The other provinces; Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon show increases. The decrease for Canada being 26.8 per cent. Offences against Liquor Acts decreased in Canada by 18.5 per cent. Manitoba and the provinces eastward all show decreases with increases west of Manitoba. Illicit stills increased in every province except British Columbia which remained unchanged in this respect and Prince Edward Island and the Yukon, where there were none. Ontario leads with an increase of over 300 per cent from 59 to 245. Offences against the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act remained about the same for the whole of Canada but decreased in the western provinces and increased in Quebec and Ontario as shown above.

The following is a comparative statement of the indictable offences for the Dominion by classes for the years 1921 and 1922.

Indictable Offences By Classes

Class I, Offences against the Person

Offences	1921		1922	
	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions
Murder	76	17	55	18
Murder, attempt to commit	40	21	41	20
Manslaughter	89	39	88	45
Abortion and concealing birth of infants	27	15	39	25
Rape and other crimes against decency	621	341	650	350
Procuration	64	37	50	25
Bigamy	72	56	92	74
Shooting, stabbing and wounding	240	137	215	119
Assault on females	35	19	53	33
Assault on wife	48	31	43	31
Wife desertion	10	8	14	11
Aggravated assault	703	467	671	464
Assault on police officer	620	534	427	367
Assault and battery	1275	1007	1270	987
Refuse to support family	180	101	274	154
Various other offences against the person	131	83	141	80
<b>Totals of Class I.</b>	<b>4,231</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>2,803</b>

Class II, Offences against Property with Violence.

Offences	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions
Burglary, house, warehouse and shopbreaking	2,015	1,628	2,111	1,754
Robbery and demanding with violence	416	240	323	212
Highway Robbery	27	20	32	11
<b>Totals of Class II.</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>1,977</b>

Class III, Offences against Property without Violence.

Offences	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of
	Charges	Convictions	Charges	Convictions
	1921	1921	1922	1922
Bringing stolen goods into Canada	2	1	2	2
Embezzlement	6	6	35	19
False Pretences	851	582	987	684
Feloniously receiving stolen goods	677	432	628	418
Fraud and conspiracy to defraud	736	505	773	466
Horse, cattle and sheep stealing	118	80	82	50
Theft	8493	6359	7848	5,938
Theft of mail	37	33	25	21
Totals of Class III	10,920	8,198	10,380	7,589

Class IV, Malicious Offences against Property.

Arson	61	21	69	31
Malicious injury to horses, cattle and other wilful damage to property	238	148	246	187
Totals of Class IV	299	169	315	218

Class V. Forgery and Other Offences against the Currency.

Offences against currency	13	9	18	12
Forgery and uttering forged documents	600	529	532	453
Totals of Class V.	613	538	550	465

Class VI, Other Offences not included in the Foregoing Class

Attempt to commit suicide	45	32	52	41
Carrying unlawful weapons	251	232	151	127
Criminal Negligence	66	42	75	44
Conspiracy	46	24	62	33
Driving automobile while drunk	147	142	234	202
Forcible entry	4	2	-	-
Indecent exposure and other offences against public decency	103	81	141	121
Intimidation	60	31	31	21
Keeping bawdy houses and inmates thereof	1033	956	682	599
Offences against gambling and lottery acts	351	283	458	389
Offences against Revenue Laws	80	63	76	70
Illicit stills	233	220	686	643
Perjury and subornation of perjury	116	44	144	62
Prison breach and escape from prison	164	154	140	128
Riot and affray	62	48	67	49
Sedition	2	1	3	3

Class Vi. Other Offences not included in the Forgoing Class - Conc.

Offences	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions	Number of Charges	Number of Convictions
Sodomy and bestiality	77	54	84	64
Various other misdemeanours	90	54	111	62
<b>Totals of Class VI.</b>	<b>2,930</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>2,658</b>
<b>Totals of Indictable Offences</b>	<b>21,451</b>	<b>16,169</b>	<b>21,031</b>	<b>15,719</b>

SUMMARY CONVICTIONS BY POLICE MAGISTRATES AND OTHER JUSTICES

Offences	Totals for Canada		Increase	Decrease
	1921	1922		
Assault.....	3,261	2,999	-	262
Carrying fire-arms & unlawful weapons	717	585	-	132
Contempt of Court .....	11	24	13	-
Cruelty to animals.....	584	554	-	30
Disturbing religious and like meetings	28	19	9	-
Fishery and Game Acts, offences against.....	874	1,435	561	-
Gambling Acts, offences against.....	4,961	3,563	-	1,398
Immigration Acts, offences against...	174	58	-	116
Incorrigibility.....	38	35	-	3
Inspection and Sales Acts, offences against.....	82	28	-	54
Adulteration of Food.....	232	148	-	84
Weights and Measures Acts, offences against.....	129	88	-	41
Larceny of dogs, birds, trees, fruits, etc.....	150	99	-	51
Liquor, Prohibition & Temperance Acts, offences against.....	10,458	8,519	-	1,939
Malicious or wilful damage to property	874	691	-	183
Masters' and Servants' Acts, offences against.....	185	210	25	-
Non-payment of wages.....	793	1,002	209	-
Medical and Dentistry Acts, offences against.....	38	53	15	-
Militia Acts, offences against.....	13	44	31	-
Miscellaneous minor offences.....	1,213	797	-	416
Municipal Acts and By-laws, breach of various .....	16,244	14,620	-	1,624
School Act, breach of.....	1,383	924	-	459
Exercising various callings without licenses.....	1,917	2,761	844	-
Health By-laws, breach of.....	1,507	1,116	-	391
Street and traffic regulations, breach of various.....	13,333	16,151	2,818	-
By Motor Vehicles exceeding speed limit.....	-	9,844	9,844	-
By Motor Vehicles, various.....	33,641	19,700	-	13,941
By bicycles.....	362	1,052	690	-
By cabs and drays.....	128	115	-	13
Obstructing street and sidewalk.	4,322	1,115	-	3,207
Provincial Acts, breach of various....	429	543	114	-
Causing prairie fires.....	28	68	40	-
Herd and branding, offences relating to.....	25	55	30	-
Stray and impounded animals, offences relating to.....	564	593	29	-
<b>Totals of Municipal and Provincial Acts</b>	<b>73,683</b>	<b>68,657</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,226</b>
Non-support of family and neglect of children.....	1,227	814	-	413
Contributing to delinquency of children.....	137	169	32	-



SUMMARY CONVICTIONS BY POLICE MAGISTRATES AND OTHER JUSTICES -con.

Offences	Totals for Canada		Increase	Decrease
	1921	1922		
Opium and Drug Act, various				
against.....	1,516)	159)		
Keeping opium resort.....	35)	33)		
Frequenting opium resort.....	265)	463)		8
Selling narcotic drugs.....	-)	125)		
Possessing narcotic drugs.....	-)	1072)		
Pharmacy Acts, offences against...	21	17	-	4
Profanation of Lord's Day.....	868	851	-	17
Railway Acts, offences against....	535	619)	739	-
Trespass on Railway.....	-	655)		
Revenue Laws, offences against....	573	720	147	-
Seaman's Acts, offences against...	11	20	9	-
Threats and abusive language.....	334	330	-	4
Trespass.....	1,543	920	-	623
Vagrancy.....	5,154	4,530	-	624
Drunkenness.....	34,358	25,048	-	9,310
Indecent exposure.....	295	216	-	79
Insulting, obscene and profane language.....	329	286	-	43
Keeping, frequenting bawdy houses and inmates thereof....	3,088	3,318	230	-
Loose, idle, disorderly and breach of the peace.....	5,986	5,925	-	61
Insanity.....	353	418	65	-
Totals.....	155,376	136,322	-	19,054

Juvenile Delinquents.

Table showing number of major offences proven in Canada for 1921-1922 by classes.

Class I.

Offences against the Person.

	1921	1922
Assault Common.....	54	39
Assault aggravated.....	26	27
Assault on Police.....	2	-
Assault indecent.....	12	25
Wounding.....	8	2
Carnal Knowledge and attempt.....	8	27
Rape and attempt.....	1	3
Incest.....	-	1
Libel.....	-	1
Endangering Railway Passengers.....	15	47
Total Class I.....	122	172

Class II.

Offences against Property with Violence.

	1921	1922
Burglary house and shopbreaking.....	706	741
Warehouse and freight car breaking.....	6	49
Church breaking.....	-	15
Robbery.....	9	1
<b>Total Class II.....</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>806</b>

Class III.

Offences against Property without Violence

False Pretences.....	7	23
Fraud.....	10	7
Receiving stolen goods.....	47	58
Theft of horses and cattle.....	3	5
Theft of automobiles.....	-	15
Theft of bicycles.....	-	37
Theft of mail.....	2	12
Theft of various articles.....	2254	2403
<b>Total Class III.....</b>	<b>2,323</b>	<b>2,560</b>

Class IV.

Wilful Offences against Property

Arson.....	5	12
Damage to property.....	123	429
Cases of damage to property included in summary convictions, or minor offences in 1921.....	217	
<b>Total Class IV.....</b>	<b>345</b>	

Class V

Forgery and Offences against the Currency

Forgery .....	4	13
---------------	---	----

Class VI

Other Offences not included in the Foregoing Classes.

Immorality.....	-	35
Indecency.....	33	11
Gross Indecency.....	-	3
Sodomy.....	8	8
Escape from detention.....	9	9
Various other misdemeanours.....	9	7
<b>Total Class VI.....</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>73</b>

<b>Total Major Offences .....</b>	<b>3,574</b>	<b>4,065</b>
-----------------------------------	--------------	--------------

Including 20 cases of common assault, 27 cases of indecent exposure, 83 cases of petty larceny and 217 cases of wilful damage to property that were included with the summary convictions in 1921.

Minor Offences

	1921	1922
Breach of municipal by-laws.....	405	640
Breach of the peace and disorderly conduct.....	369	382
Breach of the Lord's Day Act.....	14	28
Breach of Game and Fishery Act....	2	7
Gambling.....	95	57
Incorrigibility.....	206	146
Disobedience.....	-	73
Trespass.....	291	75
Trespass on Railway.....	-	172
Truancy and breach of School Act..	171	206
Vagrancy.....	414	267
Abusive, insulting and obscene language.....	11,	8
Various other minor offences.....	76	172
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>2,233</b>

The total number of cases tried and the number of convictions by sexes and groups of offences is shown below for the years 1921 and 1922.

Adults.

Indictable Offences:	1921	1922
Number of cases tried.....	21,452	21,031
Number dismissed.....	5,283	5,312
Number convicted, males.....	14,404	14,110
Number convicted, females.....	1,765	1,609
Number Convicted, total.....	16,169	15,719

Non-Indictable Offences:

Number convicted, males.....	147,696	129,188
Number convicted, females.....	7,680	7,134
Number convicted, total.....	155,376	136,322

Juveniles

Major Offences:

Number of cases tried.....	3,491	4,343
Number of cases dismissed.....	264	278
Number convicted, males.....	3,097	3,901
Number convicted, females.....	130	164
Number convicted, total.....	3,227	4,065

Minor Offences:

Number convicted, males.....	2,161	1,954
Number convicted, females.....	240	279
Number convicted, total.....	2,401	2,233

This abstract precedes the full Annual Report of Criminal Statistics for 1922 which soon goes to press, a copy of which will be forwarded on application to

R.H.Coats, B.A., F.S.S.,  
Dominion Statistician,  
Dominion Bureau of Statistics,  
Ottawa, Canada.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010483144