

CRIMINAL STATISTICS—ASSESSMENT APPEALS.

Brant, Frontenac, Grey, Halton, Hastings, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Northumberland and Durham, Peel, Perth and Renfrew. Seven Counties had each over 20, but not exceeding 30 cases, viz: Bruce, Kent, Lambton, Lincoln, Victoria, Wellington and Wentworth. The Counties having over 30, but not exceeding 40 cases were five, viz: Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Welland and York. Two Counties, Oxford and Waterloo, had each over 40 and not exceeding 50 cases. Three Counties, Huron, Norfolk and Ontario, had each over 50, but under 60 cases, and in two Counties only, Middlesex and Simcoe, the number of cases tried by the judge exceeded sixty. The largest number of cases so tried was in Middlesex. The smallest number in Prince Edward. It is worthy of note that the old Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Leeds and Grenville and Prince Edward, together, had not half as many cases as any of the younger Counties of Huron, Victoria, or Waterloo, and again, the smaller Counties of Elgin, Oxford and Essex, show each, more than three times as many cases as the large Counties of Hastings, Peterborough and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The populations, to a certain extent, were in accordance with the returns. The Counties with the largest populations, such as Simcoe and Middlesex, had the largest number of cases.

In the very imperfect state of the published returns at the present, there is scarcely full data to reason upon, but any analysis of the existing material will at least be interesting to those who make the subject their study, and it is with this aim the present paper has been prepared.

The subject of criminal statistics has received very little attention in Canada till of late years. The Act of 1876 for the collection of criminal statistics, however, must do much to supply this serious omission, and its complete provisions will

enable valuable information to be obtained and compiled for the information of Parliament and all concerned with the interesting subject of criminal statistics.

ASSESSMENT APPEALS.

We publish on another page some assessment cases of general interest. Those from the County of Simcoe involve highly important considerations of public policy in relation to the much-vexed subject of exemption from taxation. The judgments of the learned judge will doubtless have a tendency to change many assessments in similar cases where an erroneous impression (founded on a somewhat impudent assumption) has prevailed to the detriment of the public.

The judgment of the junior Judge of Leeds and Grenville in the other case referred to above affects a question of some practical importance; we doubt, however, whether he is right in his conclusion. The decision is to the effect that a person whose name is on the assessment roll for the year 1877, but not for 1876, is not a "municipal elector" qualified to lodge an appeal from the assessment. It is based upon the sec. 77 of 36 Vict. cap. 48, which, in speaking of those who are "the electors of every municipality," says "all which electors shall have been severally rated on the last revised assessment roll for real property in the municipality."

It must be remembered that the appeals were lodged under the Act of 32 Vict. cap. 36, sec. 60, sub-sec. 2, which provides the machinery for "working" appeals to the Court of Revision. Had these appeals been lodged before the Act of 36 Vict., reference, as to who was a municipal elector, must have been had to 31 Vict. cap. 30, sec. 9, which is an amendment of 29-30 Vict. cap. 51, sec. 75—the only amendment (needed here to be noticed), being the omission of the word "then," before "last revised assessment roll."