In the courts of summary jurisdiction the number of persons proceeded against for indictable offences tried summarily were: 1913, 50,758; 1914, 47,759; 1915, 49,525. Other offences tried summarily being: 1913, 680,290; 1914, 626,765; 1915, 532,444. In the Court of Criminal Appeal there were 287 applications for leave to appeal in 1915 and eighty-nine appeals actually heard or otherwise disposed of, the figures for 1914 being 497 and 160 respectively. Appeals to quarter-sessions numbered 132 in 1915 as against 100 in the previous year.

These figures may possibly be explained by the fact that a large number of the unsettled members of the community are in the army, while those who are still in civil life find plenty of honest employment. It may be hoped that the change will be permanent.

CODIFYING THE LAW.

Every now and then the voice of him who would codify the law of England makes itself heard. It is possible that if the war had not supervened, some very long steps might have been taken in this direction, but since August, 1914, the time of the legislature has been very fully occupied with emergency statutes of all kinds. The necessity for this legislation supplies a partial answer to those who would place the whole law of England upon the statute book. Suppose that had been done in as complete a form a possible in 1913, would an answer to the legal conundrums which have been propounded since the war have been found in the pre-war code? The genius of a Blackstone could not have foreseen and provided for a tithe of them! There have, however, been several recent and very successful attempts to codify the law in certain of its branches. Mention may be made in this connection of the Bills of Exchange Act, 1882, the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, the Marine Insurance Act, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the Forgery Act, 1909, and the Perjury Act, 1913, and lastly, the Larceny Act, 1916. Some of these measures have been, with great propriety, "lifted" from the English statute book and made part and parcel of the law in certain colonies and dependencies.