

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

that which merely involves a thoughtful consideration and reasoning upon controverted facts in evidence before them—a reluctance in some cases to draw a conclusion from facts and circumstances proved, particularly in cases where intention may be inferred from circumstantial evidence. The true causes of difference in result referred to, must after all, in the absence of full facts, be left to the domain of conjecture.

With respect to the *nature* of the cases, owing to the defect already referred to, some 321 of the offences charged cannot be classified; of those that remain and were tried by the judges, no less than 459 were offences of fraud *without violence*, as ordinary larcenies, embezzlement, false pretences, &c. The offences of fraud *with force*, as robbery, burglary, &c., amounted to 55. The offences *purely of force*, as felonious and other assaults, unlawful wounding, stabbing, &c., numbered 93. The offences *against authority*, as rescue, escape, assault on constable, &c., were only 8 in number. Offences touching social relations, as bigamy, child desertion, concealing birth, &c., numbered 9. Miscellaneous cases include 8 cases of arson, 1 of bestiality, one of counterfeiting coin, 3 of malicious injuries of property, and one of sending threatening letter. In all 14 cases.

In looking at this rough analysis, the number of larcenies and of kindred offences of fraud appear to be very large in a new country like ours, with a not over crowded population, and where there is generally work of some kind for all; and the same may be said of offences of fraud with violence. The more serious crimes of violence and force may to some extent be accounted for by our mixed population, and by the moving portion of it, transitory persons, using the great highway through the country; but still they are deplorably large. The recent act against carrying firearms, will, it is be-

lieved, tell favourable on this item in future returns. A very prominent and gratifying feature is presented in the few cases of offences against authority, numbering only 8 for the whole Province, seeing that criminal police is executed mainly by the old fashioned sessions-appointed constable in all the rural parts of the country, that only in our cities the modern and improved organized system of police constabulary prevails. The small number of cases of the class referred to tell unmistakably of the respect to law and authority pervading the inhabitants of this free country. It is noteworthy, too, that offences touching natural and social relations, so numerous in other countries, are almost unknown in this Province, only 4 of the 9 cases under this head being of a serious character.

Under the head of miscellaneous offences are 8 cases of arson, a crime almost unknown amongst us a few years ago, but markedly on the increase. Whether this is due to the restless canvass of agents in the keen competition amongst the fire insurance offices from other countries, with the temptations to fraud in cases of over insurance, it is not easy to say, but the fact remains. The crime of arson is on the increase, and it is believed that only a small proportion of such cases come before the courts.

The whole number of cases is by no means equally distributed over the Province or amongst the counties, and population, situation, or age of the counties, gives little clue to an estimate of crime in each. In some counties the cases have been numerous, in others very few. Thus, in seven Counties, namely: Carlton, Lennox and Addington, Peterborough, Prescott and Russel, Prince Edward, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and Algoma (District), the cases in each, tried by judge without a jury, did not exceed 10 in number. Eleven Counties had each over ten, but not exceeding 20 cases, viz :