

Out of the total number of persons convicted, 5·7 per cent were female offenders in 1899 against 6·0 in 1898, and the number of young offenders under 16 years of age was 16·4 per cent in 1899, against 14·4 per cent in 1898.

The educational status of the convicted in 1899 was represented by the following figures:—Unable to read and write, 12·4; elementary education, 76·1; superior education, 2·3; against 14·3, 74·5 and 1·8 respectively, in 1898.

The use of liquor amongst the convicted is represented as follows:—moderate, 57·1 per cent, and immoderate, 33·1 per cent in 1898; against 55·9 and 33·5 respectively, in 1899.

Out of the total number of persons convicted in 1899, 79·3 per cent were convicted for the first time; 10·3 per cent for the second time, and 10·4 per cent were convicted three times and over; against 78·9, 11·07 and 9·3 respectively, in 1898.

The following table gives the number of sentences for the years 1898 and 1899:—

SENTENCES.	1898.	1899.
Sentenced to jail with the option of a fine	825	870
" for less than one year	2,540	2,332
" for one year and less than two	323	245
" penitentiary for two years and under five	369	428
" " five years and over	189	162
" " life	1	2
" reformatories	231	252
" death	13	13
Other sentences, such as bound to keep the peace, sentence deferred, &c.	1,296	1,409
Totals	5,737	5,713

INDICTABLE OFFENCES BY CLASSES.

In class I, "Offences against the person," including the higher crimes, such as murder, manslaughter, assault, &c., there was an increase of 17 convictions during the year; 1,180 in 1899, against 1,163 in 1898. Thirteen persons instead of eleven—as indicated on page 2 of the present report—have been convicted of murder during the year. The two additional cases being accounted for by the delay of two clerks of the Crown in sending in their returns, one from Ontario and the other from British Columbia. The increases in this class are to be found in Quebec, Manitoba, New Brunswick and the Territories, while all the other provinces show decreases.

In class II, "Offences against property with violence," which includes burglary house and shopbreaking, &c., the number of convictions has decreased by 96 during the year, from 540 in 1898, to 444 in 1899.

Class III, "Offences against property without violence," comprising larceny, horse and cattle stealing, embezzlement, fraud and false pretences, &c., shows an increase of 14: 3,673 in 1899, against 3,659 in 1898; the larger increase in this class being in Quebec.