

ment; it was withdrawn at the close of the session instead of being crystallized into law. This is a responsibility which should peculiarly fall upon the government. I say advisedly that the people of Canada are behind other progressive nations in their legislation upon this particular question. The people of the United States are very much advance of this country in dealing with juvenile criminal legislation, and the same remark applies to England, France, Germany and other European states, which have shown very much more progressive thought in this direction than we in Canada have done. The inattention of the government to this particular subject seems most lamentable, and not to admit of any excuse whatever. The government has been not only passive, but almost criminally negligent upon the subject. There is scarcely a city in Canada, in which we do not find some philanthropic movement on the part of many men and women who have united in their desire to elevate the social and ethical conditions of the community to a very much higher plane than we now find occupied, and yet the government of Canada is taking no steps to assist practically in this sociological movement. If the government should not be moved on moral or ethical grounds in this direction it should be moved on grounds of financial consideration. Our criminal statistics show that crime is increasing more rapidly than population. I would direct attention to the statistics in the last Year-Book published by the government, in which this alarming growth may be seen. In the last Year-Book, published in 1906, we have the criminal statistics from 1901 to 1905. This is the table of convictions for indictable offences:

	Offences.
1901 . . . . .	5,634
1902 . . . . .	5,680
1903 . . . . .	6,521
1904 . . . . .	6,754
1905 . . . . .	7,624

That is to say in 1904 there was an increase of twenty per cent in the convictions for indictable offences over the year 1901, and in 1905 an increase of 35 per cent of convictions for indictable offences over the number in 1901. Thus each successive year shows an increase in convictions

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

tions of indictable offences, far in excess of our growth of population.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—That is for all ages?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—For all ages. To accentuate the importance of the subject introduced by the hon. senator from De Salaberry in connection with this Bill, let me point out some statistics—alarming statistics I might say—as to juvenile crime within the Dominion of Canada. Hon. gentlemen will keep in view that indictable offences are the more serious offences. In 1901 the convictions of children under sixteen years of age numbered 1,017. Fancy hon. gentlemen, about one-fifth of our criminal population under sixteen years of age in 1901, and there were 882 between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. These statistics, it seems to me, should impress upon the government the absolute necessity of taking some steps towards making inquiry into the necessity of adopting the most progressive legislation which can be put on our statute-books with reference to juvenile delinquents. In the United States, and in most of the progressive countries of Europe, the governments of those respective states have considered it not only desirable but absolutely necessary that royal commissions should be appointed to inquire into the best methods for the suppression and repression of juvenile crime; yet we find on the part of the Dominion of Canada, absolute inaction towards the introduction of legislation of this character. We seem to be so immersed, so absorbed in the material development of our country, in the developing of our resources, in the building of railways, in the conduct of party strife, that we are very apt to overlook entirely the moral obligations which fall upon us as a government and its administrators. I think it should be peculiarly the function of this Senate to give the very best consideration to matters of this kind, and, certainly, this branch of parliament is very much better adapted, in my judgment, to give serious consideration to questions of this kind than the House of Commons. The only regret I have about that phase of it is, that the Bill is not introduced by the government,