

CRIMINALITY IN JAPAN BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR

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I. *General Observation*

In the statistical survey of criminal phenomena, the starting point of the question, so far as the method is concerned, is what sort of data is to be taken as the subject-matter. It is right, of course, that for a juristic study, the figures of decisions in the final instance should be taken as the standard data; but for a study of empirical science, the number of cases as they arise in society should be taken if possible. If this be unavailable, the number of arrests or the number of persons arrested may be used instead. Many students use the figures condemned in the first instance, but such figures are not immediate enough for the criminal phenomena which actually arise in the community. From this point of view, the number of cases as they arise in the community is to be taken as the data of survey.

But then the increase and decrease of population must be considered. If the number of cases arising in each year as against the number of population is ascertained, the influence of population may be eliminated. In this case, the next question is, what sort of population should be taken as the object of inquiry? If the population only of responsible age (14 years and upwards) is taken without considering the total population, it would be more rational, according to some experts. But this has little relevance to the Japanese judicial praxis, for in this country there is also a Juvenile Law. The juveniles, even though they are 14 years and above, are subject to this Law (Until 1948, the law covered the juveniles under 18 years and after 1949, the juveniles under 20.). If, therefore, these juveniles should commit crimes, they will not always be punished; hence their cases will not necessarily figure in the criminal statistics.

Even if those under the responsible age are excluded, there still remains a question, namely whether the male and female populations should be lumped together. In all countries, men are much numerous than women in the criminal statistics which tendency is more pronounced in this country. During a war, when a great change takes place in the male internal population, this fact must be sufficiently taken account of. There will be then an extraordinary decrease in the male population on the one hand and an

natural increase in the female population on the other. Where the male population alone changes a great deal, as in war-time, special significance attaches to this matter. In the criminological phenomena, the decrease in the male population in such context will have about ten times the significance as the increase in the female population would have. It will be a one-sided method to lose sight of this fact and to consider only the population of the responsible age and upwards. However, the ten times above suggested is the writer's own view without international recognition for it; the use of such method in calculation, moreover, will render general understanding difficult, besides being inconvenient for purposes of comparison with foreign data. I will, therefore, return to the naive method, leaving the responsible age and the difference of sexes out of consideration and also without taking into account those who were out of the country on war service and for other reasons. The population thus defined, that is, the internal population will form the subject matter of this statistical study. This population, according to the estimate of the Welfare Ministry's Institute for the Study of Population Problems, is as given in Table I.

When the figures of crimes for each year, as shown in Tables from I to XI, are divided by the number of population for the respective year, the result will give the rate of crimes to population, which must rise and fall

Table I.

Year	Total Population (including persons under 14)	Responsible Population (excluding persons under 14)
1935	69,304	45,106
1936	70,220	45,815
1937	70,989	46,378
1938	71,207	46,521
1939	71,554	46,811
1940	72,013	47,176
1941	73,204	48,146
1942	73,806	48,582
1943	73,735	48,332
1944	72,504	46,331
1945	72,351	46,729
1946	78,303	53,234
1947	78,101	52,267
1948	80,217	53,528
1949	81,598	54,297
1950	83,158	55,518

for each year. The result of calculation so made indicates, however, no appreciable difference from the result obtained by using only the actual number of crimes (Compare the actual figures of cases arising and the rate to population, Table II.). Speaking of the trends as a whole, the two results are practically the same, because the increase and decrease of population, as compared with the rise and fall in crimes, are extremely slight. In this statistical survey, therefore, the rate of crimes in relation to population is left out for the sake of economy in space. Table I shows the increase and decrease of internal population and Table II that of the Criminal Code offences considered as a whole, other Tables giving the actual number of crimes of different categories. By so doing, it will be seen that the increase and decrease of population, in comparison with the rise and fall in crimes, are so extremely small as may be negligible for all practical purposes. As, however, the actual figures of different crimes are given, the reader, if he is interested enough, may calculate for himself the rate of crimes in relation to population.

First of all, the Criminal Code offences will be surveyed as a whole. It will then be seen that the number of cases that arise and the number of cases under arrest are close to each other both in the increase and in the decrease (Table II). The general trend, which had its peak in 1935 and

Table II.

Year	Crime		Arrests	Arrests per cent of total crimes
	Cases	Cases per 100,000 population		
1935	1,528,188	2,205	1,464,989	96%
1936	1,306,902	1,870	1,212,652	93
1937	1,221,699	1,722	1,094,869	90
1938	1,243,635	1,764	1,122,775	90
1939	1,027,845	1,438	893,001	86
1940	1,026,955	1,427	862,290	84
1941	922,526	1,260	771,653	83
1942	890,331	1,207	691,314	78
1943	979,336	1,325	788,069	80
1944	905,836	1,247	709,596	78
1945	711,596	984	472,853	66
1946	1,387,080	1,770	803,264	58
1947	1,386,020	1,775	697,585	50
1948	1,603,265	1,995	811,907	51
1949	1,603,048	1,965	925,996	58
1950	1,469,662	1,770	999,709	68

which was declining even before the war, showed a decided fall in 1938, the year immediately after the outbreak of the Sino Japanese Affairs. However, in 1943, when the fortunes of the war were beginning to turn against Japan, a slight increase in crimes was registered, and in 1945, when the war ceased, the bottom was touched. In 1946, the year immediately after the war, however, an abrupt increase in crimes was recorded, and the number for 1948 exceeded even the highest number before the war, but again in 1950, the figures showed a sharp decline. For 1945, a large part of the data was lost on account of the confusion following the defeat in the war; therefore, the actual number for that year, it is believed, was much larger than the figures appearing in the statistics.

The general trend above is also observed in respect to the figures of those who were condemned in the first instance. It is necessary here to direct attention to the figures of arrests. These figures may be more or less inflated out of the ambition for "record" of those who were responsible for the arrests; these figures, therefore, cannot be accepted at the face value. But still in the first ten years of the *Showa* era (the era began in 1925), an extremely high rate of arrests was recorded, but this began to decline after 1936 through the war years until 1949, when the trend came to be reversed. In the war years, there was a fall in the police personnel for making arrests due to the war service and other reasons. Therefore, it is presumed that no small percentage of the crimes that arose escaped arrest. Consequently, the crimes that arose were in all probability much larger in number. Even without going to this extent, the decline in the capacity to make arrests accounted a good deal for the difference between the number of crimes that arose and the number of arrests.

The difference between the figures of crimes and the figures of arrests became more striking after the war. While on the one hand the capacity to arrest was being restored by the release of the police force from the war service, there were on the other hand an amendment of the Criminal Procedure Law, a reconstruction of the police system, and an abrupt change in many institutions of Japan, all combined to reduce the capacity to make arrests.

II. *Crimes against Interests of the State and Community*

Of the crimes against the interests of the State (Table III), those with the specific significance will here be mentioned:

(1) Offences against the Imperial Family. These crimes, during the war as compared with before the war, made an increase to a greater or less extent, which fact will perhaps reflect the policy for the period of procuratorial authorities. The statistics give the cases as they arose, but these

figures represent the offences as recognized by the said authorities and do not necessarily indicate that the crimes of this description sharply increased in war-time. During the war, the authorities, it is thought, treated trifling cases as if they were real offences; hence the increase in the criminal

Table III.

Year	Offences against the Imperial Family	Offences against internal safety of the state	Crimes relating to foreign aggression	Crimes relating to international intercourse	Obstructing the performance of official duties	Prisoner's escape	Harbouring offenders etc.	Perjury	False accusation	Abuse of official authority	Bribery
1935	20				741	61	316	356	807	118	3,089
1936	39			1	858	46	123	386	619	129	4,471
1937	28			1	479	46	111	305	633	250	2,469
1938	61			1	397	41	89	277	403	46	2,365
1939	66				373	28	64	210	264	29	1,774
1940	42	5			299	42	81	174	310	17	2,128
1941	60				286	41	99	156	338	35	2,722
1942	0				232	26	189	112	225	45	3,299
1943	90				181	53	145	82	182	19	6,166
1944	79				148	67	139	41	161	17	3,273
1945	27	5	6	13	128	128	35	18	43	10	2,343
1946	3			1	495	326	51	23	188	19	1,403
1947				1	673	368	86	36	159	49	2,489
1948					1,552	445	288	59	154	251	4,119
1949					2,617	498	368	98	235	225	8,941
1950					2,938	419	402	73	265	83	5,363

statistics, these statistics include perhaps crimes which cannot be regarded as such except by unreasonable application of the law. This circumstance does not, however, appear in the statistics, but judging from the actual cases reported during the period, there is little doubt that there was some such circumstance.

(2) Crimes against the Existence of the State. Offences against internal safety of the state, offences relating to foreign aggression, and crimes relating to international intercourse are rare crimes in any case, but the offences against internal safety of the state occurred 5 times in 1945, offences relating to foreign aggression 5 times in 1940 and 6 times in 1941. Of the crimes relating to international intercourse, there were 13 cases in 1945, the year when the war ceased, 1 case in 1946, and 1 case in 1947. It will be noticed that the said crimes occurred rather frequently after or immediately after the war.

(3) Crimes against the Functions of the State and Local Public Entities. When the crimes of these categories, that is, the crimes of obstructing the

performance of official duties, crimes of prisoners' escape, harbouring offenders including suppressing evidence, perjury, false accusation, abuse of official authority, and bribery are considered as a whole, it is seen that only the three categories, crimes of prisoners' escape, crimes of harbouring offenders, and crimes of the abuse of official authority, showed little change in the statistics until the close of the war (be it remarked, however, that the two categories of prisoners' escape and of harbouring criminals made a temporary increase before the war). All these categories made a sharp increase after the war. This abrupt increase in the crimes of prisoners' escape was due to relaxation of gaolers' supervision after the erroneous spread of human rights ideas. The sharp increase in the crimes of the abuse of authority is accounted for by the fact that while formerly a slight abuse of authority would not be treated as a crime, this came to be regarded as a crime on account of the strengthened sense of human rights, which fact had clearly the effect of increasing the crimes of this category in the statistics. When the actual individual cases of the abuse of authority are considered, it will be seen that many of these cases are trifling matters, this indicating the popular resentment against authority. However, for the increase after the war in the crimes of harbouring offenders there are no ready explanations.

The curve of these crimes was the lowest in 1945, the year when the fighting ceased, and has since been rising, but the cases of official corruption are an exception to this trend. In fact, bribery cases were pretty many before the war, and the number has not gone down to the pre-war level even after the war. There is an increase or decrease in this crime from year to year, depending, it is presumed, upon procuratorial policy. In any case, so long as economic control was in force, there was a high rate in this crime.

The war-time fall and post-war rise in the crime of obstructing the performance of official duties will perhaps require an explanation. The war-time fall is accounted for largely by the fact that the hot-blooded young men who often make themselves guilty of this offence were out of the country on war service, while the post-war rise in this offence may perhaps be explained by the same factors responsible for an increase in the crime for the abuse of official authority.

(4) (a) Crimes against the Interests of the Community. The crimes concerning riot, arson, fire caused by negligence, flood and water utilization, destruction of road and traffic, etc. (Table IV) will now be considered as a whole. After the war, riot began to occur on a large scale, and the number arrested made a large increase. In 1948, for instance, as many as 1,746 were arrested. Crimes in the two categories of arson and fire caused by negligence fell in war-time, but are now gradually reverting to the former level, though they are still less frequent. As to the cause, it is said that the objects to be destroyed were fewer after the war-time conflagrations and

that, because of the progress of inflation, the arson with the intention of taking insurance money has largely lost its meaning. But it is doubtful

Table IV

Year	Crime	Riots	Arson	Fire caused by negligence	Flood and water utilization	Destruction of road and traffic
1935		15	2.262	12.843	194	919
1936		2	1.918	11.820	166	782
1937		2	1.598	10.907	214	860
1938		0	1.491	11.373	102	865
1939		2	1.312	11.707	140	643
1940		5	1.238	12.642	70	574
1941		14	1.064	9.872	70	502
1942		3	1.068	10.033	56	543
1943		9	1.113	10.158	46	558
1944		4	1.011	8.246	59	489
1945		5	553	6.711	11	365
1946		9	697	8.424	20	197
1947		6	807	9.333	13	215
1948		41	940	8.694	34	379
1949		3	1.395	8.837	53	1,683
1950		5	1.905	9.124	67	1,169

whether this explanation is correct. The crimes concerning flood, water-utilization, and destruction of road and traffic also declined in war-time but are now reverting to their former state. As the statistics show, the war-time fall and the recovery after the war are the common trend of those Criminal Code offences, and the tendency above noticed is believed to be a part of the general trend.

(b) Crimes of Money-Counterfeiting, Forgery of instruments, valuable Securities and Seals. These crimes will next be considered as the crimes damaging the credit of the community (Table V). The trend of these crimes agrees with the general tendency noted above; but for one reason or another, the crimes of forging instruments have not reverted to the position before the war. The crimes of money-counterfeiting decreased both during and after the war, reflecting the dearth of supplies in war-time and the decline in the value of currency in the post-war inflation, only that in 1946 these crimes showed a sharp rise. It is interesting to recall that in February, 1946, a new yen note was issued replacing the old yen note, and the male-

factor was quick to see the chance; hence the rise in that year in the curve of the crimes of this category.

(c) Crimes against the Public Hygiene (Table VI). As such crimes,

Table V

Crime Year	Money-counter- feiting	Forgery of instruments	Forgery of valuable securities	Forgery of seals
1935	1,578	16,817	1,587	3,245
1936	1,214	17,515	3,037	5,736
1937	642	12,237	966	2,809
1938	406	13,162	1,176	1,718
1939	315	10,842	965	718
1940	180	8,750	975	871
1941	94	9,673	774	717
1942	49	6,642	1,107	340
1943	68	4,909	444	445
1944	55	5,442	320	333
1945	84	2,269	206	61
1946	894	3,672	380	198
1947	147	4,120	219	310
1948	133	5,695	558	610
1949	68	6,492	1,233	699
1950	74	7,746	1,390	921

Table VI

Crime Year	Opium-eating	Pollution of drinking water etc.
1935	67	65
1936	15	44
1937	23	38
1938	16	33
1939	78	92
1940	1	96
1941	5	64
1942	134	55
1943	100	40
1944	19	25
1945	1	24
1946	11	37
1947	42	29
1948	5	24
1949	42	23
1950	6	34

there are offences relating to the eating of opium and offences relating to drinking water, but there is little to report regarding these crimes. The crimes concerning opium-eating fell in number after the war, but there is a special law for the control of narcotics, to which are subject many of such crimes, which are increasing in frequency. Only that the statistics for Criminal Code offences have not been increased in relation to opium.

(d) Crimes against Good Manners (Table VII). As the crimes belonging to these categories, the crimes of indecency, rape and bigamy, gambling and lotteries, abandonment of deceased person, etc. will now be treated as a whole. In war-time, the crimes concerning the sex declined in general, which fact may perhaps be ascribed to the fact that the young men were out of the country on war service, affecting the composition during the war of the population. But the crimes of rape increased during the war though not to such an extent as to affect the statistics of the sex crimes as a whole. Some of the German and Austrian criminologist ascribed the fall during World War I in the crimes of rape partly to malnutrition, but during the late war so far as our country is concerned, the same crimes increased in number for one reason or another. It is a plain fact that these crimes increased after the war. As a reaction of war-time repression, there was a

Table VII

Crime Year	Indecency	Rape etc.	Bigamy,	Gambling	Lottery	Abandonment of deceased person etc.
1935	2,439	1,598	401	47,512	9	437
1936	2,230	1,548	369	44,163	58	334
1937	1,817	1,286	340	39,647	9	277
1938	1,826	1,223	327	44,019	10	235
1939	1,562	1,134	426	63,693	3	187
1940	1,359	1,018	384	50,620	41	164
1941	1,691	1,159	269	54,848	11	153
1942	1,512	1,589	195	38,986	169	103
1943	1,294	1,624	212	63,809	8	126
1944	780	1,318	228	43,412	7	89
1945	333	650	52	29,435	3	29
1946	238	611	163	29,508	25	59
1947	290	863	201	28,133	16	38
1948	1,205	1,936	87	20,742	59	114
1949	1,473	2,732	27	14,960	10	181
1950	2,326	3,558	61	9,538	7	252

relaxation in this matter after the war, which was undoubtedly the principal factor; but it is presumed that the restoration of physical vitality, demobilization, and acts of foreign soldiers at least in the early stage of the Occupation had an evil influence upon good manners of the people. As crimes of gambling and lotteries are offences difficult of detection and arrest, the figures in this regard indicate procuratorial policy rather than ups and downs in the crimes themselves. In 1939, these crimes were the highest in number, but at that time, the Sino-Japanese affairs was in progress, and on that account procuratorial policy was tightened up in regard to these crimes, looking upon such offences as the acts of lawless elements on the home front. As a mirror of this policy, the statistics of these offences reached the peak. The increase of the same crimes during the late war had the same meaning; but after the war the figures of these crimes declined as a matter of statistics. With the Government itself issuing various lottery tickets, the general attitude of regarding such speculative acts as criminal offences largely disappeared, while procuratorial policy came itself to be relaxed. The figures given as arising do not indicate the extent of offences that arose actually in the community; for, as everybody knows, gambling acts of one kind or another abounded in post-war society. The figures as mentioned in statistics do not portray the real condition in the community.

The figures of crimes of abandonment of deceased person etc. show the same ups and downs as the Criminal Code offences in general, indicating a decline in war time and reverting to the pre-war figures after the war. In this respect, there is little to record.

III *Crimes against Interests of Individuals*

(1) Table VIII shows as a whole the five categories of the crimes of homicide, simple assault, infliction of bodily injury, infliction of bodily injury by negligence, abortion, and abandonment. The categories of homicide, simple assault, and infliction of bodily injury are alike to each other in their trend; all these crimes, which had been declining from before the war, continued the same trend in war-time, but have been reverting to the former position after the war. As for homicide, the crimes have just reverted to the pre-war position, but the crimes of simple assault and bodily injury have far exceeded the level before the war. The war-time decline in these crimes was due, it is believed, to the fact that the young men, who often commit these crimes, were out of the country on war service; while the post-war increase is accounted for by their return on demobilization, especially by the bloody and rough habits of war-time, which are the key-note, it is believed, of the phenomenon.

Crimes of inflicting bodily injury by negligence (including death caused

Table VIII

Crime Year	Homicide	Simple assault	Bodily injury	Injury by negligence	Abortion	Abandon- ment
1935	2,484	1,553	29,290	1,237	1,008	435
1936	2,491	1,282	27,556	1,413	913	430
1937	2,226	1,051	25,592	1,492	452	345
1938	1,957	873	23,115	1,203	531	330
1939	1,692	732	21,651	1,141	641	256
1940	1,513	586	18,221	1,134	464	257
1941	1,424	525	17,114	965	387	276
1942	1,175	405	13,414	886	241	232
1943	1,112	333	11,196	830	383	204
1944	933	205	7,885	717	294	217
1945	919	207	4,493	432	145	159
1946	1,791	410	8,427	659	145	429
1947	1,938	720	11,865	1,052	182	362
1948	2,495	5,796	21,432	2,523	639	437
1949	2,716	11,851	32,627	2,030	522	467
1950	2,892	19,730	42,769	1,787	465	554

by such injury) and the crimes of abandonment follow the settled type of war-time decrease and post-war reversion to the former position; these crimes, therefore, have nothing worth special description.

On the contrary, the crimes of abortion after a war-time decline rose sharply in 1948, but are declining again. After the war, there has been a wide spread of contraception; therefore, the need of abortion ought to be small, in spite of the decline in sex morality. At the same time, as our country is burdened with over-population, and we are under the influence of opinion urging abolition of the provision relating to abortion, the procuratorial policy on this matter has been considerably relaxed; consequently, the figures of abortion that appear in the criminal statistics are small in comparison with the number of abortions that actually take place. Notwithstanding this fact, the crimes of abortion much higher than the level of 1944 were reported for 1950. The extent of abortions that actually take place in post-war society is a matter of conjecture, but journalism places the number at a million, which is of course a rough indication. Legislation concerning this crime is isolated from the actual state of society; in this regard it must be said that the statistics conceal behind them a goodly number of unreported cases.

(2) Crimes against Freedom. Table IX treats of the crimes of unlawful

arrest and confinement, threat and coercion, abduction and kidnapping, violation of domicile peace, and secrecy violation.

The two categories of unlawful arrest and confinement, and threat and coercion have similarities with simple assault and bodily injury in the personality of the perpetrators, the movement of figures before and after the war showing extreme similarities. These crimes follow the type of war-time fall and post-war rise in figures, but in the case of unlawful arrest and confinement, and threat and coercion, the post-war statistics not only reverted to the pre-war position but far beyond it. The explanation for these phenomena will be about the same as that for simple assault and bodily injury. As for abduction and kidnapping, and secrecy violation, these crimes have again increasing after the war, but not to the extent before the war. There is apparently no particular reason for these phenomena.

The crimes of violation of domicile peace showed a trend all their own; for these crimes sharply rose in war-time. This had connection, it is believed with the crime of adultery. At that time, the Japanese Criminal Code still had a clause punishing as a criminal offence both parties to an act of adultery, the prosecution requiring a complaint from the husband, who, however, was away from home on war service and did not know of the

Table IX

Year \ Crime	Unlawful arrest and confinement	Threat and coercion	Abduction and kidnapping	Violation of domicile peace	Secrecy violation
1935	222	3,456	1,254	10,390	107
1936	199	2,950	1,079	10,445	58
1937	125	2,220	898	9,448	57
1938	148	1,971	806	9,495	52
1939	82	1,697	690	11,083	53
1940	78	1,337	648	8,696	46
1941	94	1,183	555	8,833	31
1942	55	869	341	12,027	45
1943	48	880	239	15,976	26
1944	54	461	131	14,507	44
1945	40	314	23	6,949	7
1946	254	1,017	100	2,599	12
1947	80	1,538	62	2,604	12
1948	128	3,104	143	4,283	20
1949	234	4,144	360	7,719	51
1950	357	6,373	457	10,076	45

misconduct of his wife; but if he knew, there was still a difficulty in the way of communication, etc. So the offenders of this crime were often overlooked unpunished. Infidelity behind the back of the husband was, however, not to be tolerated on the home front in war-time. In order to circumvent the difficulty attending fulfilment of the conditions of prosecution on complaint, the procuratorial authorities resorted to a make-shift, pretending that the adulterer had violated the domicile peace of another person. This was the chief reason, it is believed, that the crimes increased during the war time. According to our impression received in everyday life, it was very clear that adultery much increased during the war time, and it is natural to conceive that the longer the war continued, the more the adultery increased. As a matter of statistics, however, the peak was reached in 1943, after which date there was some fall in figures. Anxious of the effect on the morale at the front, procuratorial policy was gradually modified in favour of a policy to act only in glaring instances. Hence a decline in the figures of adultery, but this conceals a goodly number of unreported cases.

(3) Crimes against Reputation, and Credit and Business.

Table X gives the statistics of these two categories. These crimes belong to the type which declines in war time and reverts after the war to the position before the war. There is little to be said on these offences.

Table X

Year \ Crime	Slander and libel	Offences against credit and business
1935	1,750	885
1936	1,358	726
1937	1,178	545
1938	1,017	403
1939	849	403
1940	627	312
1941	522	159
1942	415	118
1943	317	140
1944	194	228
1945	61	30
1946	234	97
1947	387	103
1948	605	370
1949	854	550
1950	938	666

(4) Crimes against Property.

Statistics of the crimes of theft, robbery, fraud, extortion, embezzlement, abuse of confidence, offences relating to stolen objects and injury to property are given in Table XI.

Of these crimes, only the crimes of injury to property is plainly not a mercenary offence. These crimes are similar to the simple assault in respect of the personality of offender. And as might be expected, in the annual increase or decrease of these two categories of crime their trends approximate to each other, decreasing in war-time and sharply rising after the war, now far above the pre-war level. As to the falling trend in war-time, the phenomena already appeared pretty clearly during the Sino-Japanese Affairs.

Theft, the typical crime against property, fell, though slightly, both at the commencement of the Affairs and at the beginning of the Pacific War, but had almost recovered the pre-war level toward the end of the war. The increasing tendency, however, commenced with the war's end and the figures rose with alarming rapidity. The principal cause thereof was the extreme shortage of supplies as a result of the prolonged war. Particularly the acute shortage of food was responsible for these phenomena,

Table XI

Year	Theft	Robbery	Fraud	Extortion	Embezzlement	Abuse of confidence	Offences relating to stolen objects	Injury to property
1935	674,893	2,215	371,317	32,173	250,960	9,748	16,425	2,733
1936	648,860	1,975	240,305	14,329	211,626	5,381	16,194	2,361
1937	633,534	1,930	217,444	9,589	190,655	7,145	15,695	2,044
1938	634,341	1,461	244,057	8,712	185,208	4,463	23,027	1,736
1939	554,237	1,279	157,285	7,866	144,291	2,014	17,648	1,507
1940	573,225	1,232	181,177	7,608	114,314	2,255	17,580	996
1941	554,143	1,148	111,629	6,360	97,415	1,550	16,700	907
1942	587,616	1,390	82,695	5,373	91,454	1,374	12,507	1,175
1943	649,367	1,210	94,663	5,246	75,885	2,217	18,341	482
1944	660,842	1,258	67,195	5,677	51,017	2,445	18,395	302
1945	561,537	1,474	33,574	3,319	38,115	348	11,312	185
1946	1,155,392	9,120	84,101	11,205	31,397	540	26,453	500
1947	1,141,294	9,186	90,279	15,283	34,801	618	24,006	1,270
1948	1,246,445	10,854	133,666	25,691	47,087	1,391	39,713	2,688
1949	1,165,605	8,780	161,047	29,550	60,296	2,242	45,879	4,851
1950	782,341	7,821	187,528	32,740	65,616	2,258	38,234	6,559

as may be seen from the frequent theft committed on the vegetable gardens attached to the houses. The shortage of food led to psychological tension even within the families themselves, and was the cause not infrequently of murder being committed. As regards other supplies besides food, there were many instances of theft, for which dearth was responsible. After the war, however, with reviving economy, production increased; and as the acquisition of supplies became easier, cases of such a kind of theft became rare. These facts are an eloquent indication that such cases are environmental in character.

Other crimes against property, that is, the three categories of fraud, extortion, and abuse of confidence exhibit the same trend, declining in war-time and increasing after the war; but these crimes have not yet reverted to the pre-war level.

The offences relating to stolen objects makes the same ups and downs, on the long view, with the theft above mentioned, but the decrease of this category of crime in war-time was more slight than that of theft, perhaps because the second-hand articles in general rose in price, being affected by the want of supplies and especially the need of military supplies; hence such a professional mercenary crime was little affected by the war situation.

Extortion and robbery are no mere mercenary crimes, but possess factors common with threats and coercion, and simple assault. In this sense, extortion and robbery, as contrasted with theft and fraud, might be expected to show the same ups and downs with threat and coercion, and simple assault. What was the statistical result? The two categories of extortion and robbery made a fall in war-time, but sharply increased after the war; robbery in particular rose after the war nearly to ten times the number for the year 1941, that is, five times the number for 1935, which was the highest before the Sino-Japanese Affairs. These trends exhibit the same type of curve as the crimes of simple assault, and threat and coercion. However, extortion did not increase so prominently as robbery after the war as compared with the pre-war figures, but, it shows the highest after the war, excepting for the year 1935, which shows figures approximating to those for 1950, the same type of curve is clearly shown as simple assault, and threat and coercion.

IV *Conclusions*

The Criminal Code offences as a whole declined in war-time, reaching the lowest point in 1945, and began to rise after the war, reverting roughly to the pre-war period. The declining trend, however, appeared even before the Sino-Japanese Affairs. Looking over each categories of crime, we see that many of the crimes show the same curves as the Criminal Code offences as a whole, but some exhibit particular aspects, which will be noted in the

following paragraphs.

1. The crimes which increased during the war were the offences against the Imperial Family and the offences of violation of domicile peace. With respect to the former, procuratorial policy was tightened under the influence of ultra nationalism, the result being that the figures of this category rose; while as regards the latter, the figures increased, reflecting, as has already been explained, the unfaithfulness on the part of the wife after the husband was away from home on war service.

2. The cases of bribery, which were increasing before the war, rose in figures in the post-war period. The principal explanation is that with the increase of economic control, the sphere of official authority became widened, hence greater temptation.

3. In the post-war period, a number of crimes have made a prominent increase, attracting much attention. After the war, the social phenomena associated with foreign relations have become many-sided, and the crimes relating to international intercourse, which were rare before, have appeared pretty often, and with the strengthening of the ideas of human rights, various forms of prisoners' escape, abuse of official authority, obstruction of the performance of official duties, riots, etc. have greatly increased. The crimes of harbouring offenders (including the suppression of evidence), though they cannot be treated as originated from the same cause as the preceding, have also sharply increased. In post-war moral decadence, crimes concerning the sex also rose in figures. The post-war atmosphere being a continuation of the wild manners of war, the crimes of violence (simple assault, bodily injury, injury to property and unlawful arrest and confinement) have sharply risen in figures. With the hardship of life, crimes from poverty or greed have multiplied. The theft and the offences relating to stolen property, etc. have multiplied. Also the crimes of robbery and extortion, coupled with simple assault and threat and coercion, have made a noteworthy increase after the war. These crimes, which fell in war-time, have not only reverted to the old level but far beyond it.

4. The crimes which decreased both before the war and after is the money-counterfeiting, the cause of this phenomenon being the currency depreciation. But this crime made a sharp increase as an exception, when the old yen was replaced by the new, there being at that time an extreme shortage of currency.

5. The crimes which made a singular decrease after the war are the offences of abortion and gambling. These crimes have certainly fallen statistically, but this does not correspond to the realities. The facts of abortion and gambling, on the contrary, have greatly increased. The former comes, consciously and unconsciously, from the general desire for a restricted population after the defeat in the war; while latter is stimulated, directly or indirectly, by the lotteries of various descriptions issued by the Government

in order to relieve finance. From similar considerations, the policy of control has been relaxed. The cases are therefore rather rare that enter into statistics.