

zation stands far below the worst of them all in its horrible record of crime." In support of this terrible indictment the following figures are given, the city of London being taken as the standard of comparison: "In proportion to population, homicides in New England are 12 times as numerous as they are in London; in California they are 75 times as numerous as in London; while in Nevada they are about 245 times as numerous as in London. That is to say, New England, with nearly a million less inhabitants than London, has 254 homicides annually, while London has only 24; California, with less than one-fourth the population of London, has 422 homicides against 24 in London."

These figures seem scarcely credible, but they have been compiled by the Alabama State Bar Association, and must be accepted as reliable. They refer only to cases of homicide, and we need not assume that the same proportion exists as regards crimes of less serious character. How will this country stand the test of a similar comparison? Taking the criminal statistics of the Dominion officially published for the year 1905, the only ones available, we find that in that year the number of cases of murder which came to trial was 40, and the number of cases of manslaughter was 29. Putting these together under the American designation of homicide we can show 69 cases against 24 in London, the population in each case being sufficiently near for the purpose of comparison. Thus in this favoured country, with all our material prosperity, our freedom from poverty and all such incentives to crime, and our common boast of the law-abiding character of our people, we have to admit a record of this particular crime nearly three times as numerous as that of London with its poverty, degradation, and enormous population of recognized criminals.

From the province of Ontario, in which we have a more settled state of affairs than in the Western provinces, the figures for the years 1905 and 1906 are as follows: cases of murder, 40, and of manslaughter, 29, the numbers of both class of crimes being more numerous in the former year than in the latter.