

Events of this sort do not give the public confidence in jury trials for murder cases. It is within the memory of almost everyone how case after case has gone by the board. It is such widespread views that no doubt influenced a recent grand jury to find as follows:

"We recommend that consideration be given to the abolishing of trial by jury in cases where capital punishment might apply, in order that the evidence may be weighed by those most capable of judging as to the guilt or otherwise of the accused, thus furthering the proper ends of justice."

In the analysis of motive in murder we find the following facts standing out:

1. Those who are insane when they do the deed.
2. Those who do it in a fit of passion or excitement.
3. Those who do it while drunk, or in a drunken row.
4. Those who do it as an act of revenge.
5. Those who do it for gain, as in the act of robbing one.

If capital punishment is kept on the statute books as a deterrent of murder we fear it will fail in the future as it has failed in the past. The foregoing analysis of the motives shows that some do not know the nature of the crime, others for the moment forget it, and others calculate to escape.

THE CRIMINAL CLASS.

There is, we fear, a tendency for many people to run too far in the direction of sympathy towards the criminal class, and to show too much kindness towards them in looking after them in jails and prisons. No wonder should be said against every well meant effort at the reformation of the unfortunate persons, but that reformation may sometimes come through the instrumentality of the strap rather than the well-intentioned exhortation.

Dr. Gilmour, of the Central Prison, has had many years of experience in dealing with a very hardened class, and we can say that he has made good use of his opportunities for observation and the testing of the different methods of dealing with these cases. At the recent meeting of the Canadian Conference on Charities he expressed his views as follows:

"We could do infinitely better work than we are doing if the laws of the land permitted, but they do not. The Ontario Government has no power to grant pardons to people in its own penitentiary, and that is the reason why we have to go to Ottawa for instructions. I do not blame the Judges or Magistrates in these cases, they no doubt acted according to their light, but that light was very dim. We should call a con-