

Some thirty years ago, at the Cobourg Assizes, a man was tried for murder. Two raftsmen had a physical discussion, which ended in the murderer being defeated. Matters seemed to end satisfactorily. After a short time one of the men, who was in such good health that he got the better of his burly opponent, arose and started away from the camp. He was followed by the other, who had in his hands an iron-shod handspike. The pursuer overtook his opponent and struck him on the head one or more blows with this dangerous weapon, shattering his skull so that a large part of his brain was knocked out of it. The one receiving the blows died instantly. The evidence clearly proved that the murderer was the aggressor all through, and that he had no reason to fear any injury from the man he followed. There was evidence, by a doctor of standing, that death resulted instantaneously from the blows on the skull. I was sitting beside Mr. Hector Cameron, K.C., who acted for the prisoner, when Mr. Justice Gwynne called for "the defence." Mr. Cameron said to me in a *sotto voce*, "Yes, defence, what the devil is the defence?" He decided as his only chance, to raise the objection that there had been no post mortem examination to shew that the murdered man had not died of some organic disease. The presiding judge said: "If I were a jurymen I would not hang a dog on such evidence," and straight way withdrew the case from the jury because no post mortem had been made. I have frequently wondered what the judge would have said if a man had been tried for throwing a man into a lime kiln or a furnace where the body had been so burned that a post mortem examination could have been of no service.

Every time a man is charged with murder, a County Attorney ought to stay by the job and see that every vital organ is examined, and where poison is suspected, that the proper disposition is made, then and there, for preserving organs for examination. In the somewhat recent case of Archie McLachlan, of Uxbridge, tried for the murder of his wife and two children, the crime was so heinous and the supposed character of