

the masses by reason of the government's attitude toward capital sentences for some years prior to 1850, was attended by an increase in the number of the more serious crimes dating from that year.

And following the year 1863 which saw a return to the practice of systematic pardoning, the graver crimes multiplied in an alarming manner, as belief in the abolition of the death penalty became more and more fixed in the popular mind. In point of fact, from 1865 to 1880 prosecuting for murder increased from 34 to 120.

In Prussia, where for many years scarcely any executions have taken place, the criminal statistics exhibit a continual growth in the number of homicides during the period beginning with 1854 and ending with 1880: from 242 in the former year, it rose by an uninterrupted progression to 518 in the latter. In Switzerland, as a result of the abolition of the death penalty in 1874, it has been ascertained that there ensued an increase in this crime—estimated at 75 per cent for five years alone—a circumstance which decided many of the cantons to re-establish the punishment in question.

As for France, so long as capital sentences continued to be carried regularly into execution, the more serious forms of crime were on the decrease. But in 1878 President Grévy, apparently desirous of experimenting in armavill' permitted but seven executions, in 1880, but two, while in 1881 he cut the number down to one. As soon as this leniency was noticed by the criminal world, murders became more frequent. As against 31 capital sentences in 1877, there were 35 in 1880. Convictions for parricide, which had been 8 in 1878, increased to 14 in 1882. During this last-mentioned period the number of murders underwent an increase of 36. Since then, the censure of public opinion has caused the pardoning power to be exercised more sparingly. Of the criminals sentenced to death between 1886 and 1900 almost half were executed, with the result of reducing the number of murders from 224 to 175.

A correspondent writes me from Chile that with the practice there prevailing of systematically commuting the death penalty into that of 15 or 20 years of 'presidio' there has kept pace an increase of murders and culpable homicides, these crimes from 1898 to 1902 showing an annual average of 950, that is to say, 35 per 100,000 inhabitants. This extraordinary frequency of offences against human life, adds my informant, renders colonization almost impossible. The peasants are kept in a continued state of fright and their chief concern is to get away from the country districts. Yet in spite of these conditions the newspapers and politicians still make it a point to preach 'assassinophily.'

In Italy, where, except in the army, no executions have taken place since 1876, the more serious forms of crime have attained almost incredible proportions. Whereas in England the annual average of homicides is only 300, Italy, with an almost equal population, has an annual average of 3,814, of which nearly one-third are true cases of murder. Since 1892 there has been little change in the figures, the number in 1899 being 3,586.

[Mr. Nickle.]

Turning from that to the average of homicidal crimes throughout the world, we find—and I am now quoting from Modern Theories of Criminality—as follows:

Statistics show that criminality of blood leads all other forms in intensity. Below is a table giving the ratio of homicides of all degrees for every million inhabitants:

United States of America ..	120
Italy..	95 to 98
Spain..	74 to 77
Hungary..	74 to 77
Austria	23 to 26
France..	14 to 17
Belgium..	14 to 17
Switzerland..	14 to 17
Denmark..	14 to 17
Sweden	11 to 14
Germany..	3 to 11
England and Scotland....	5 to 3
Holland..	5 to 3

I think, Sir, that that amply demonstrates that capital punishment is a deterrent. England has always stood steadfast by capital punishment. She has been careful in her courts to protect the insane by the use of alienists and expert evidence, but she has manifestedly declared to her underworld that he who takes man's life, if proven guilty, shall have his life taken; and I attribute to the fearless carrying out of her laws, and the justice of her sentences, the righteousness of her people, and respect for law, and I believe that if the same steps are followed in Canada the effect will be the same. I think if we were further to regard this question from the point of view of present expediency, it would be most unwise at this time to try the experiment which the member from Montreal suggests. There never was a time in the history of this country when our shores were being flooded, as they are to-day, with the foreign element. Many of them are immigrants from Southern Europe, whose ideas of citizenship, and right, and wrong, are totally different from ours. They come from a people who believe that justice lies within the power of the individual, that 'might is right, and justice is the interest of the stronger,' that each man has a right to avenge personally the wrong he may have suffered. I think it would be a most unfortunate thing for this country, more especially for Western Canada, if those from Southern Europe should be allowed to feel that if they take the life of a fellow man they will be free from that responsibility which has prevailed in this country for so many years. I shall not take up the time of the House in explaining and enlarging