

by the Minister of Justice when satisfied that the prisoner could be released without danger to society. Sections 418 and 952 of our Code are intended for cases of such criminals but do not solve this problem.

Admittedly, however, it is difficult to ascertain conclusively whether a criminal is incorrigible or not. Some of the criminals who were granted a ticket-of-leave in Canada, and whose records might induce some people to believe that they were incorrigible, have kept from violation of law since their release. The ticket-of-leave system has not been in operation sufficiently long in Canada to justify anyone in forming a conclusive opinion as to its merits, but it is confidently claimed by its advocates to have had beneficial results. Necessarily, however, a long period of years must pass before it can be possible to say that permanent reform of criminals is obtained under this corrective system. It is difficult to obtain reliable evidence of reformation, although there seems ground for believing that many of the criminals released with tickets-of-leave are reformed, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say in some cases, are more cautious in their transgressions.

The last report of the Minister of Justice shows that, during the previous year, 199 tickets were issued and only 4 of these were revoked for misconduct during the year. This statement and previous statistics afford ample justification for the adoption of the system.

7. Crime resulting from weak or irrational nature.—Having referred to the incorrigible or professional criminal, something also might be said in regard to that other type of criminal whose conduct is due rather to weak or irrational nature than to downright depravity. Is it not also in the interests of society that such unfortunates after committing one offence should be deprived of their liberty permanently? About ten years ago the writer defended a woman who shot and slightly wounded a man who was in a crowd just leaving a railway station. The act seemed motiveless as the man had never seen the woman before, but it was impossible to establish the insanity of the woman. Indeed she was not legally insane. The judge sentenced her to fourteen years in the penitentiary. The sentence at the time seemed to her counsel extremely severe, but a closer study of the principles which should guide in such cases justifies the view that the protection of the community requires that such unfortunates