

When any one sends to the President, the Governor, Mayor, or any prominent citizen, threatening letters, or repeatedly utters threatening words, or attempts to injure such persons, or is unreasonably insistent in demanding to see them personally, such individual should be detained at least a few hours and thoroughly studied by the scientific experts in criminal anthropology, psycho-physics and social pathology.

By such study of dangerous, unbalanced and often illusioned persons, who may be called mattoids, their eccentricities and peculiar behavior under varied conditions can be determined to such an extent that we may detect them in advance. At present it is almost impossible to do this, because of little or no knowledge concerning them. This ignorance is due to want of systematic scientific sociologic investigation.

Millions of dollars are annually expended by Governments for the scientific investigation of the antecedents, peculiarities and behavior of some bacillus, causing the death of plants or animals, but little or nothing is given for a similar study of the larger human bacillus, which has caused nations to suffer losses beyond human calculation.

Who can estimate the injury and cost to the world of the assassination of rulers or attempts to assassinate them? Shall we wait until more Kings, Presidents, Governors, Mayors, or other distinguished citizens lose their lives at the hands of assassins, before we begin scientific study of such dangerous individuals?

I would suggest, therefore, that all nations adopt some such plan as is indicated in enclosed leaflet, so that there may result an international protection from criminals, especially those dangerous to rulers and other prominent persons.

I shall be very grateful for anything you can do to further this plan, and should be glad if you will honor the work by publishing this letter in your Journal.

Trusting that such work meets your approval, I have the honor to remain,

Most respectfully,

ARTHUR MACDONALD.

"The Congressional,"  
Washington, D.C.,  
November 1st, 1912.