

of the community is the highest law, and the sooner this maxim is acted on the better for all classes, including the criminals themselves.

FOREIGNERS OF THE CRIMINAL CLASS.

The assassinations of the past few days have surely made it clear that some special treatment must be meted out to those foreigners who abuse the privilege of living in Canada by perpetrating most reckless and uncalled-for homicides. Over and over again people of this class have used the knife or the pistol with fatal result in one or other of our large cities. Three such instances have occurred within a few days in Montreal, and the chances seem favorable to the perpetrators of the murders being able to evade the penalties due to their crimes.

Fortunately one may now suggest special treatment of the Italian criminals, because this has been recommended by the new Italian Consul-General for Canada. After spending some time in the United States, Dr. Seelsi is in a position to speak with knowledge based on personal observation, and he has done so without reserve for publication. He draws a sharp distinction between Italians of the criminal class and Italians who come to this country to work on railways and other public works. The latter are seldom criminals either in Italy or in America, while the former are drawn from the scum of the population of Italian cities. He says they do not often commit there such crimes as they commit here, because they are closely watched by the police. In this country, and not without reason, they think they can commit any sort of crime with impunity, believing it practically impossible for English-speaking or French-speaking people to find evidence that would secure a conviction.

Dr. Seelsi's recommendation is the employment of Italian detectives, and it seems to be based on common sense. He advises that they be well paid, so that they may not be tempted to accept bribes, and that they be physically strong, so as to be able to handle their fellow-countrymen of the criminal class. A prominent Italian layman of Montreal, who is a banker and an employer of labor, advises imprisonment and flogging instead of fines. He says the Italian criminal does not mind a fine, but imprisonment with hard labor, and flogging for a second offence, would do much to bring about the suppression of the crimes of violence. There is no reason to doubt the soundness of this opinion. The man who stabs or shoots another is almost invariably a coward, and the coward instinctively shrinks from physical pain, to say nothing of the stigma inflicted by this penalty.

Some security for society would be afforded by constraining Italians to go unarmed. In some cases the homicidal crime is due to a sudden impulse and the fact that the weapon is at hand. It may seem invidious to single out a certain class for disarmament, but something must be tried, and there is nothing better than confiscating their weapons. This is done under the laws of the Dominion and of this Province that forbid the carrying of weapons in the vicinity of public works in process of construction. The safety