

under extenuating circumstances, or for the first time committed, is not unnatural.

But, ordinarily, there is too much leniency shown to crime, too little regard for the welfare and safety of society; and it would not be difficult to name instances where the trivial sentence unwillingly pronounced, against a flagrant outrage, seems to offer inducement to crime, rather than terror for its commission.

An effective law against the carrying of concealed weapons is loudly called for. It is an offence that ought to be punished with a severity that will abolish this pernicious custom, which offers constant temptation to, and the ready means of, murder or deadly brawl; upon every occasion where men are excited by drink, or passion, or the heat of political opposition.

The frauds upon the elective franchise form a common subject of complaint in different parts of the State. The provisions of the Constitution and the Statute Book are found insufficient to prevent, what ought undoubtedly to be regarded as, one of gravest offences against the sovereignty of the State and the highest rights of the citizen.

It is unquestionable that in those counties bordering upon neighboring States, and in our large and populous city, as in every other in the country, which is without proper safeguards, fraudulent votes have been cast, at all our elections, by some dishonest persons who are residents; and by non-residents who, of course, are not by law competent to vote, and who take their chances for security or impunity in the great crowd, or in the fact of their residence beyond our jurisdiction.

It has always been thus, and so it will continue to be, a growing evil of great enormity, until some thorough, efficient remedy shall cut up the root of it—shall prevent the use of money or intimidation at our elections; shall precisely define those who alone are competent to exercise the elective franchise, and shall deter, by adequate punishment, any attempt by those not so ascertained, to defeat and defraud the just expression of the popular will. To these should be added, if the remedy is to be co-extensive with the evil, provisions for the ascertainment of residents within each election district, ward or precinct; for closing, on days of election, under penalty of a fine and the annulment of its license, each place for the sale of spirituous and intoxicating liquors; and which should provide for the instantaneous arrest and *detention* of all who should be shown to exhibit arms or deadly weapons near any place of voting, or who should attempt to hinder or obstruct free access thereto.

The condition of the arms and weapons of war belonging to the State, which have been from time to time received in