

The idea of enforcing capital punishment is that it may deter other people from committing the same crime. My hon. friend (Mr. Bickerdike) gave us a number of countries and states in which capital punishment had been abolished, and he read statements from different officials that in their opinion it had not increased the number of capital crimes. I am very sorry that my hon. friend did not give the statistics. I happen to live alongside one of the states of the Union where capital punishment has been abolished, and while I have not the statistics, yet I am satisfied that there are a great many more cases of capital crime in the state of Maine than in the two provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which have practically the same population. I live near enough to the border to know what is going on in their courts, and in my opinion there are at least three or four cases of capital crime committed in the state of Maine to one case in the Maritime provinces. I do not know if it is the result of the abolishment of capital punishment, and I am sorry to say I have not the statistics. I am only giving the House my own opinion, gained through a pretty intimate knowledge of what is going on on both sides of the line. I have also had experience in my own home, which convinces me that capital punishment is a deterrent. I do not want to go into parochial affairs, but I may say that one parish in New Brunswick furnished more criminal cases for twenty or thirty years, I believe, than any other part of Canada. About five or six years ago the death penalty was imposed in two cases of capital crime from that parish, and from that time up to the present day, there has not been a solitary criminal sent to the penitentiary from that portion of the province. Crime has practically ceased to exist in that portion of New Brunswick which was almost infamous as a result of the condition of affairs that existed prior to that time. You may say that that is only an incident, but yet it is that which I have observed and it is from our personal observations that we possibly form our conclusions.

I can agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Bickerdike), when he states that the carrying out of a sentence is always attended with gruesome scenes. He referred to the case in Paris where revolting scenes occurred and where men were betting on what the prisoner would do. I dare say that that may be true of Paris and it may be

true of certain portions of England. I do not know that it is an ennobling sight when we see a public execution in any town in Canada. The original idea was that these hangings should take place in the most public manner possible in order that the whole world might see them and benefit by the experience. In later days there has been some attempt made to conceal the actual carrying out of the sentence. It must be done in the jail yard and, I think, in every case, the actual scene is surrounded by a screen. I know that in my own town an execution took place six or seven years ago in which, I am sorry to say, a greater amount of interest was shown than I would like to have seen shown. I would be very sorry to see public executions take place in my own constituency and I do not want to see them in any other constituency in Canada. For that reason I would suggest to the Minister of Justice that he might very well take into consideration the advisability of having these unfortunate people put to death not by hanging until they are dead, but by electrocution in some central prison where these revolting scenes would not be witnessed.

Mr. BRODER: Was it a public execution?

Mr. CARVELL: Practically so. These executions are held in the jail yard, there is usually, I believe, a screen of some kind built around, but they are pretty nearly public and many more people go to see them than I think ought to be allowed to go. There are newspaper men, jurors and physicians, and I think that if these executions, or the putting to death, took place in a public institution like our penitentiaries, and that by electricity, it would be a much more humane way of carrying out the sentence of the court than this method of hanging.

I cannot bring myself to agree with my hon. friend from Montreal, that the time has come when we should abolish capital punishment. My principal reason for that, as I said before, is that capital punishment is a deterrent of crime and not a retributive measure. In a young country like Canada we are bringing in hundreds of thousands of people from every corner of the habitable globe. You may say: Well, your immigration officers ought to keep out undesirable immigrants. It is impossible to do that. In many cases men come in who may appear to be all right. They possess the necessary qualifications, they possess the necessary amount of currency, and therefore they become citizens

[Mr. Carvell.]