

turings, and if he rebels against them he is taken to a specially-constructed cell, a hose pressure of 70 pounds is turned on the poor unfortunate wretch, and he is thrown and knocked about in the cell, until, as they say, he gives in. If that treatment sends him to the hospital, on Sunday he gets three meals, the first at nine o'clock, the next at eleven and the third at one o'clock in the afternoon, and he receives nothing more until between eight and nine o'clock the next morning. Hon. gentlemen may smile at that, but I am stating what is the fact. If the man's health breaks down after that and his treatment in the institution drives him to insanity, as is frequently the case, he is taken to the insane ward, where the last final touches are administered. Forty or fifty persons are herded together in one room, the worst cases with the milder ones, the diseased persons with those whose only defect is mental derangement. They are herded together during the day and then sent into their cells, their food is handed to them and they tear it to pieces with their fingers and teeth like wild animals. If any one of them dares to utter a protest against one of the guards or keepers, the unfortunate wretch is stripped, specially constructed harness is fastened on him, his legs are bound together and his arms fastened to his side and he is dipped into a tub of ice-cold water, being left there until, as they say, he gives in. That is how the insane are treated, or some of them at least. I am stating facts. Under this treatment the men, not merely one or two but dozens, have the life and soul crushed out of them. They become indifferent, they have no hope in this world, and are made incapable of any thought of the next. That, in my judgment, is a worse penalty than hanging.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: If the hon. member makes it much worse, I shall have to ask leave to withdraw my Bill.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am stating what I know to be facts. I repeat that in my judgment such a condition is far worse than hanging. It is a condition of affairs sanctioned apparently by organized society, and is a disgrace and scandal to this country and to all the men who keep silent in this House while this sort of thing goes on. That is how I feel. I regret that the Minister of Justice has shown an apathy in regard to this matter which to my judgment is not at all to his credit. It was three years ago

that I first directed his attention to the condition of affairs at Kingston penitentiary, and Kingston penitentiary is probably no worse than other penitentiaries in the country. It is high time that this state of affairs was remedied. It reflects little credit on the Department of Justice and on the members of this House to allow this state of affairs to continue. Later in the session I hope to call attention to it more in detail. I shall not support the Bill of my hon. friend because I believe that in hanging a man you are doing him a kindness by taking him out of Kingston penitentiary.

Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM: I shall not occupy the House very long, but I could not conscientiously let this discussion go by without expressing my opinion in favour of the measure. Since I became a man, I have always been opposed to capital punishment. I have always felt, and have no reason now to change my mind, that by legalizing the taking of the life of a fellow-being we are making ourselves familiar with the shedding of blood. I have no comment to make on the remarks of my hon. friend from Frontenac, except this: that a charge of that kind having been made publicly by a member from his seat in this House, it is the duty of the Government to look into the matter and, if conditions prevail such as have been described, to provide a remedy. Perhaps I may be considered too humane in my views concerning the duty of one man to another. I maintain that we are our brother's keeper, and no law that can be placed on the statute book of Canada or of any other country can relieve us of that obligation to our fellow-beings. Did it ever strike a member of the House who is in favour of capital punishment that he does not hob-nob with the machinery that carries out the death sentence? None of us are ever seen hob-nobbing with the hangman.

Mr BICKERDIKE: They take him to the club for lunch.

Mr. GRAHAM: Not knowingly. Another thing that strikes me as peculiar in the administration of justice is this, and it shows our inconsistency. A criminal awaiting the death sentence in one of our penitentiaries is perhaps stricken with some disease of which he might die if he were allowed to do so. But no, the greatest care is taken to keep him alive so that he may be executed a little later on. Now, if the object in the public mind was to rid society of this criminal, why not let him pass away peacefully of his disease? And the more I