

In the United States the number of capital crimes has been reduced in recent years to only four, and the following states have abolished the death penalty: Maine, where it was abolished in 1876, restored in 1883, and finally abolished in 1887, on the recommendation of the governor of the state; Rhode Island, in 1853; Wisconsin, in 1853; and Kansas, in 1901, but there have been no legal executions in Kansas since 1872; Michigan, in 1847.

I now propose to repeal the law of blood and vengeance in Canada, and to make life imprisonment the maximum punishment. The two main objects in enforcing our criminal laws are, first, to protect society; secondly, to reform the criminal. Some would add a third reason, namely, to punish the criminal himself, but in this day of brotherly love, when we are taught to love our enemies, and when charity and love have triumphed over vengeance and hatred, no one would seriously insist that this country has any more right to kill a man, in order to avenge the death of his victim, than has an individual.

Every man will agree with me on this one point, that, if social conditions will not be made worse by the abolition of the death penalty, then it should be abolished. The only way to determine this question is to compare the statistics of the states with and without the death penalty. The statistics are rather voluminous. I will just read a few of them, and, with the permission of the House, will hand the rest to the "Hansard" reporter.

Mr. SPEAKER: It cannot get on "Hansard" in that way. The rule is to report only what is read.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: Very well, Sir. According to the mortality statistics compiled

by the United States Bureau of Statistics and published in 1912, the latest I could get, the number of murders in California was 19 per 100,000 population; in Colorado, 21; in Connecticut, 7; in Indiana, 10; in Maine, where capital punishment has been abolished, only 2.

Mr. LANCASTER: Do those statistics include cases of manslaughter, or relate only to murders committed with malice aforethought?

Mr. BICKERDIKE: Homicide.

Mr. LANCASTER: Homicide could be murder or manslaughter.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: I think they include both.

Mr. LANCASTER: Is the hon. gentleman making any distinction in his Bill between punishment for manslaughter and punishment for deliberate murder with malice aforethought? Manslaughter to-day is punishable by imprisonment for life if the judge chooses to inflict it.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: I make no distinction. I claim that the greatest penalty that a Christian country should inflict upon any criminal should be life imprisonment, even for murder, which I suppose is considered the greatest offence. I was saying that in the states where capital punishment has been abolished, crime has decreased. Furthermore, no state or district or country that has abolished capital punishment has it in practice to-day. I challenge any one to find a single country in the world that has abolished capital punishment and inflicts the death penalty to-day. The following figures show the number of murders per 100,000 population for ten years in several states:

State.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
New Jersey—										
Cities	1.7	0.9	1.4	0.7	1.3	1.8	2.9	4.2	3.7	4.7
Rural	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.9	1.4	2.5	3.2	4.6	2.9
New York—										
Cities	2.00	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.2	3.5	5.0	6.1	5.3	4.4
Rural	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.8	3.3	3.6	3.3
Ohio—										
Cities .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Rural .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.8
Pennsylvania—										
Cities .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.8	6.5	5.0	4.7
Rural .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.1
Rhode Island—										
Cities	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.5	2.5	3.9	5.5	4.2	3.0
Rural	2.8	0.7	4.0	1.9	1.9	0.6	2.3	1.1	3.3	2.1
South Dakota—										
Cities .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.4	7.2
Rural .. . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	2.6	3.8	2.2