

sufficient to create that fear of the punishment in the breasts of some, at least, from whom the public is entitled to protection, as will deter them from the commission of serious offences. The prisoner himself, even if surrounded in his confinement with all the luxuries of life, would be, as Robespierre suggests, a harmless enemy to society; but it cannot be thought for a moment that the mere social opprobrium attaching to such a condition would be sufficient to deter the criminal class by its example. This has been clearly demonstrated by the recent history of the matter in France, where the infliction of the death penalty has just been reinstated. Statesmen and journalists have filled the press of that country with their comments upon it. *The Literary Digest* of February 6 gives a fair review of these opinions. According to its report, it is agreed by French statesmen and journalists that acts of murder and violence have been frightfully common in France since the guillotine stopped its work. In consequence of this, petitions have been pouring into the Central Government clamouring for the revival of the death penalty. Clemenceau and Fallaires have been forced to submit, although the opinion of the former, as expressed in the *Aurore* (Paris) has never really changed. His views as elaborated in that article appear in striking accord with those of Robespierre. He says that the spectacle of all these men grouped together to kill one man, under the command of other officials quietly asleep at the time, revolts him as a piece of horrible cowardice. The murderer's act (he says) was that of a savage, but his execution by the guillotine strikes him as a low kind of vengeance. The eminent criminologist, Henry Joly, however, comes to a different conclusion. He says that when there appears in society a recrudescence of ferocious and bestial criminality which thinks nothing of the lives of others, and laughs at an administration of justice whose feebleness is palpable, the supreme rights of society must be energetically asserted.

The history of capital punishment is interesting. It has constantly held its place in the category of penalties since the very earliest times, but the grades of offence to which it has attached