

"Hansard" from which I have quoted when one of the most brutal murders ever committed in any country was committed in the Canadian city of Calgary, a brutal, legalized murder. It took twenty minutes to hang the victim, or rather to kill him. This took place in the barracks of the Northwest Mounted Police. The man was hanged and afterwards cut down, but it was found that he was not dead. The suggestion was made that they should hang him again, but the representative there of the mounted police said that that must not be done, it would not be legal. They dragged the man over and laid him beside his coffin, and he lay there for twenty minutes groaning. Why, there is not a member of this House who, if he owned a yellow, mangy, mad dog, would have the animal tortured in the way that poor unfortunate criminal was tortured to his death. The Minister of Trade and Commerce stated also that he believed there were countries that had abolished capital punishment—he could not remember which countries—and had afterwards reinstated it. I can tell the hon. minister he was misinformed. Of the twenty-eight states, countries and places that have abolished capital punishment, not one of them has reinstated it. I challenge the hon. minister or anybody else to contradict me.

My hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) was also misinformed as to the proportion of murders as between the State of Maine on the one side and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on the other. He said there were not half as many murders in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as in Maine. My statistics show that there are twice as many. Of course, that was a mistake on the part of the hon. gentleman; he would not make a statement that he did not believe.

Mr. CARVELL: Have you the statistics of the State of Maine for the past year?

Mr. BICKERDIKE: No.

Mr. CARVELL: I think they would be against you.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: But if my hon. friend will look into the figures given by him and by me last year, I think he will find my figures much better based than his own.

In the discussion on this Bill last year I was well treated—very well treated; I have no fault to find. None of the hon. members called down fire from heaven to burn up my Bill, though I must admit that some of the remarks had an almost sulphurous odour. The hon. member for Edmonton

(Mr. Oliver) was misinformed as to the historical facts in relation to British Columbia which he gave. He said that in that province Judge Begbie warned evil-doers: I am here to administer justice, and if there is a murder there will be a hanging. The hon. gentleman said there was a murder and a hanging followed; and murders stopped. There is where the hon. gentleman is misinformed. There was murder, there were hangings; and murders increased. And murders will go on increasing while the hangman's rope dangles over the heads of the people. My hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Wilson), who, I am sorry to say is not here to-day, drew the colour line at that time. I am sorry for that. The coloured man to whom he referred was hanged—the first man to be hanged in Bordeaux jail, I believe. And he was innocent of the crime for which he was condemned. Let any man who doubts that consult the Roman Catholic chaplain of that jail and he will be given to understand that that man was innocent. I do not say he was a good man; he was a bad man. He was a bad man, a poor man and a black man—and he was hanged.

Some hon. gentlemen tell us that the command was 'a life for a life.' There was no such thing as a command in it. And if it were a command, as I have said before, example is better than precept, and what about Cain, Moses, Lamech, Simeon, Levi, David and many others who committed murder, and not one of whom suffered capital punishment?

Now, if the Minister of Justice, the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition would place their ears to the ground, they would learn that there is a demand all over this country for a little more mercy and a little less law. If you cannot go any further, let us agree that there is no reason why a poor man should be punished for a crime more than a rich man. But, if a man is wealthy—especially if he is very wealthy—when charged with crime, he can be adjudged insane. Or if he has a fair amount of 'pull' he will get off. Eminent jurists, like my hon. friend, would go to work and find means to get him off. But the poor man has to go. I tell you the poor men of this country will not stand it very much longer. Which Minister of Justice in Canada shall have the immortal honour of abolishing capital punishment in this Dominion? I sincerely hope that it may be our present Minister of Justice (Mr.