

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—  
*Con.*

Mother Country which has a record for humanity and philanthropy not excelled by that of any country in the world. There they exercise the right to enforce capital punishment, but capital punishment is limited to three offences only, and as a matter of fact it is only meted out in respect to one, that is murder, 139.

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Resumption of Debate on Bill No. 18.—Mr. Bickerdike, 264.

*Bickerdike, R.* (St. Lawrence)—281.

The time will come when the people will realize that hanging a few poor, miserable men every year, strangling a half-dozen citizens or so, is not going to be the best law for this country, 281. One of the strongest arguments why capital punishment should be abolished is that innocent men are sometimes executed, and I will give a few instances, 283-4.

*Doherty, Hon. C. J.* (Minister of Justice)—264.

I do not purpose going seriatim into the arguments advanced in support of this Bill. I may say at once that they have not carried to me the conviction that, at the present time at all events, this measure should pass into law, 264. Whether life is more precious than liberty is a question on which there may very well be a difference of opinion. Certainly, the people who have at all times been most highly admired and commended are those who thought that liberty was more precious than life, 265. A great need has been said in support of this measure as to the sacredness of human life. I think the very sacredness of human life is the strongest justification for the maintenance of this penalty, 266. We are told of the terrible danger, in view of the fallibility of all human judgment of some innocent man being convicted and being executed, 267. The shooting of the policeman at Vancouver referred to, 268. I want to show how absolutely unconvulsive mere statistics are when dealing with a question of this kind, 269. Is it an opportune time to make the change proposed when murder is becoming additionally frequent amongst us, and when we find that it is additionally frequent because we are getting flooded with a population who are accustomed to think that you can kill your neighbour but that your life is so sacred that the state will never touch you? 270. Kingston penitentiary referred to, 271-6.

*Lafortune, D. A.* (Montcalm)—276.

When it comes to a question of amending the law inflicting capital punishment, and of repealing its provisions, very weighty reasons should be given to justify such a course, 276. Taking into account the safeguards provided by the requirements of the law in all criminal proceedings, it is not an easy matter that a judicial error should occur, 278. I say to the hon. member: You are not doing justice to the community by asking, with no argument

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whatever in support of your proposal, that we should do away with capital punishment, 279. It was said before to-night, and justly so, that the assassins should first refrain from committing murder, and hanging would then be done away with. But until the assassins have done so, I see no reason why our laws providing for capital punishment should be amended, 280.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM  
THE THRONE.

Address moved by Mr. W. G. Weichel (Waterloo, North)—4.

*Achim, H.* (Labelle)—11.

That staunch faith in our future, is inspired in me, by the admirable way in which our people have undergone the strain of those six months of warfare, 11. May I be allowed to do homage to the graceful fingers handling the needles as well as to the sunburnt hand which holds the rifle: both are inspired with the same patriotism. I suggested a moment ago that defending the Empire under present conditions was equivalent to defending our own territory. But since, every country is made up of its soil and its inhabitants as well, there is another force, invisible that one, and wholly moral, which is necessary to its maintenance, I mean the traditions of the people, 13. I think sound public opinion in this country would rejoice at seeing a current of Belgian immigration directed towards our borders, 14. That expected triumph, the termination of that war which we are longing for, will in a large measure no doubt, be due to our land forces, but even in a greater degree to the allied fleets of France and England. As new developments come to light, it is more and more apparent that the main factor in the final result will be the navy, 15.

*Borden, Rt. Hon. Sir Robert* (Prime Minister)—20.

Reference made to the mover and seconder of the Address, to those who have passed away, to expenditures of the Government and to boots purchased for the troops, 20-21. Germany has appealed to the civilized world for judgment as to the causes of the war, and the world has already given judgment against her, 22. Prussian militarism has taught its armies to employ means and methods, relentless and remorseless, which seem to have been designed to deprive the nations with whom they are contending not only of their material but of their intellectual and moral resources, 23. I venture to think that the Government of Germany, in adopting measures of this character, is in fact, as has been very well said by one of the great journals of the United States, waging war not against Great Britain, but against the world, and the world I hope will know how to deal with a policy and with measures of that character, 24. In the path of Germany's ambition to domin-