

EDITORS MAIL

We are not responsible for opinions expressed by writers under this heading. Correspondents would oblige by writing legibly, and on one side of the paper only, name and address (not necessarily for publication) must always be sent. Correspondence should be as concise as possible.

Montreal, Que. Mar 10

The Editor;

"Union Advocate"
Newcastle, N. B.

Sir:

I do hope and pray that the present Government which has just been voted into power by his Country will see their way clear to amend the criminal Code for the purpose of abolishing the Death Penalty in this young Nation.

In my opinion; the Law; as it stands today; comes in direct conflict with Christianity. We are safe in saying that Capital Punishment is in flagrant contravention of the teachings of our Lord and Master; a usurpation of power that no custom can justify; a rebellious defiance of the teachings of our Saviour who came upon this earth to teach mercy, truth and forgiveness.

No country can ever hope to prosper which retains capital punishment on its statute books. Capital punishment and Christianity can no longer march shoulder to shoulder. We are coming to the parting of the ways. Christianity objects to capital punishment because the Lord Himself condemned it.

Legalized killing must go. It is the only form of crime denied the individual but preserved in the process of the State. It fails in its aim to serve society. It writes God's Law in earthly statute books and becomes the chief offender. It destroys; but it cannot renew. It punishes; yes, if we think of the broken hearts of wives and mothers and innocent babes. It works an example; true, but an example of blood and revenge and murder, and as it sows, so it reaps. It protects; aye, it protects the world from one man's hand that may easily be held, but it gives no shield against the malignity of a thousand passions by its crime unloosed. It deters; but deters only love and good and the growth of the brotherhood of man. Criminal tendencies are due largely to conditions for which the State, rather than the individual is responsible.

Because the commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Kill" applies to State as well as the individual. That imperative command issued amidst the thunders of Sinai leaves no room for debate or doubt; it is succinct, positive, direct, and comes direct from the Father. The Command is still here, old, but ever new immutable imperishable, and leaves no space for quibbling or dissembling.

"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Theoretically, we still believe in the latter statement. We think that he who takes the life of another will suffer in the next world; and we are impatient with the Lord's slowness, we desire to help Him out; to expediate matters, by sending the offender to his



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doom as quickly as can decently be done—so we hang him. This would be extremely laudable could we exhibit the badge of a Divine Deputy-sheriff, but lacking this, it is mere meddling with the affairs of the Almighty and raises the question whether we are not collectively as criminal as the unfortunate we hang. And if we analyze our feelings we are likely to find underneath, a distorted idea of ourselves as administrators of Eternal Justice, a large residuum of that very feeling of revenge which is without reason; the relic of savage impulse and often differing little from the motive of the murderer himself.

The abolishment of capital punishment is an appeal to man's better nature, not his baser; to his reason, not his passion; to his thought, not his prejudice; to his hope for the future, and not his pitiful blindfold reverence for the customs of a dark and sanguinary past.

Capital punishment is unjust to the criminal; he has no chance to reform. He is sent into eternity regardless of whether his soul is saved or not. It is unfair to his family; it disgraces them and robs them of any means of support. If you doubt it, ask any one who has known of a family where the parent has been hanged, and knows how they have been hounded from one city to another. Capital punishment makes no allowance for varying degrees of guilt. It is irrevocable. It is wrong in principle. The State has no right to take life. Killing by a group of people is no more right than killing by one person. We claim that the Law of Moses, "Thou Shalt Not Kill" applies to the State as well as the individual. The same arguments for capital punishment were formerly advanced for torture. Statistics show that murderers have decreased in the countries and States which have abolished capital punishment. Life imprisonment is better; it is more effective as a deterrent. Condition is more certain, and it is the certainty, rather than the nature of the punishment which deter-



its duration makes it a more severe punishment. It offers adequate protection to society. It prevents murderers from committing new crimes,

Yours truly,
R. BICKERDIKE

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF GAME WARDEN

Chief Game Warden L. A. Gagnon's annual report, his 5th since he assumed office appears, in the 61st annual report of the Crown Lands Department which was tabled in the legislature recently, as follows:

We had a few more American hunters of big game than last year, but the number of resident hunters has decreased by about 3,000. This is no doubt due to the prohibition of the sale of game meat in open market which was in effect this year, and to my mind is a very good feature, as it goes to show that the pot hunters have given a rest to our big game this year, and it shows the wisdom of this provision of our game laws. In the appended table of big game killed it will be noticed that there are 563 moose and 1,027 deer

How's Business?

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In this community the public is entering those shops on which the light of advertising is falling.

A Word to the Public

Be sure of this: those who are using our columns week after week do not give you poorer goods or service, or have higher prices.

Shops which are illuminated by advertising court with full confidence your favor.

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MURINE Night and Morning. Have Clean, Healthy Eyes. If they Tingle, Smart or Burn, if Sore, Irritated, Inflamed or Granulated, use Murine often. Swims, Reddened. Safe for Infant or Adult. At all Druggists. Write for Free Eye Book. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

less killed by residents than last year. The open season for partridge this year was very successful, quite a large number of partridge were killed and the restrictions on the hunters of these birds were generally well observed. Partridge are apparently quite plentiful in the province yet and no doubt it will be wise to have a short open season again next year. Our newly revised game laws,

while no doubt, not perfect, have apparently given general satisfaction, and I do not recommend any changes for next year.

We had 116 cases of game law violation before the courts, the fines imposed in these cases aggregated the sum of \$6,767, and the amount realized out of the sale of fire arms and different articles confiscated in violation of the game law amounted to about \$1,500.

Unfortunately I have to report eleven cases of death from accidental shooting in the forest during the open season for big game, two from drowning and twelve injured. When these cases came to my notice they were immediately investigated, and

some of the parties concerned were brought to court, and fined for violation of our game laws.

The number of big game animals killed was:
By residents—Moose, 775; deer, 1,244.
By non-residents—Moose, 247; deer, 636.
Total number of moose, 1,016; total number of deer 1,880.

