

before the public again. There are not only the people who may themselves still be alive, but there are the relatives of those unfortunate people. If the hon. gentleman wants to know the number of people who were so sentenced and what happened and how each sentence was disposed of, I would be quite prepared to give that so far as it may not have been covered, although I believe it was covered by the return on the motion of the hon. member for Laval a year or two ago. I think the hon. member for Laval will remember the circumstances. I believe that a return was brought down which was satisfactory to him at that time, although his original motion asked pretty much for the details asked for here. The hon. member for St. Lawrence will realize at all events the force of the objection to our re-editing now, practically for publication, the history of the misfortunes of all the people referred to in his motion. If my hon. friend would so modify his resolution as to make it a matter of statistics, because it would not seem to me to be a matter of importance that we should know the particular individuals, it would be better, and, if on verification it was found not to be covered by the motion made by the hon. member for Laval, I would have no objection in letting it pass.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: That would be quite satisfactory to me, because I do not wish to go into any details of family troubles. My object was to know exactly how we stand on this question, because I think we have not been hanging as many people as we did in years gone by. If that is correct, I want to know the reason for it, and I think I could get the information from the Minister of Justice. He has stated just what information I want.

Mr. DOHERTY: I shall be very glad to consent to such a return as will cover that.

Motion dropped.

#### CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN (Halifax) moved:

For a return showing the date when each Regiment, C.E.F., was authorized since August, 1914; when mobilization was commenced, when mobilization was completed in each case, and when each Regiment sailed for overseas.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I would like to consult the Chief of General Staff before consenting to the passage of this motion. If my hon. friend will let it stand, I think that any information that can be brought

down can be brought down without a formal motion.

Motion stands.

#### ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.

Mr. ROBERT BICKERDIKE (Montreal, St. Lawrence) moved the second reading of Bill No. 2, to amend the Criminal Code. He said: At this very late hour, I will endeavour to be as brief as possible. I am afraid that I have not that sympathy of the Minister of Justice that I had hoped for, and I think that, if I had introduced a Bill having for its purpose the saving of the lives of horses or dogs or even hogs, I might have received more sympathy from some of my hon. friends than I am getting in connection with this Bill which is for the purpose of saving human lives that are not considered very valuable at the present time. There is one feature that I think I did not bring to the attention of the Minister of Justice on the last occasion on which I spoke, and that was this:

There are a number of murderers to-day walking the streets of Montreal and of other cities that should be in the penitentiary, and would have been in the penitentiary if my amendment had been accepted when I introduced it in this House a few years ago. There is no question in my mind—and I think this will appeal to the legal fraternity especially—that a jury will not convict nowadays with the scaffold staring them in the face, unless they believe beyond the shadow of a doubt that the person accused is guilty. I do not wish to be unfair to the Minister of Justice; he certainly has been very fair to me on some occasions. I think he is perfectly sincere. I believe he looks on hanging as a kind of holy sacrament. For I have known the man so long, and know him to be sincere in nearly everything he has undertaken; but I do not think he would be happy unless he hanged a few men every year. That reminds me of a story I read the other day. A sailor was cast away in the South Pacific. He escaped from the wreck alone in an open boat and drifted along. In the morning he found his little boat surrounded by sharks, but he beat them off and succeeded in landing on an island. This island was populated entirely by blacks. He did not understand their language but supposed they were cannibals, and was not sure that it would not have been as well for him