

nation it was found that there was only one bullet which struck that policeman, but British Columbia was determined to make an example, and in that case, as in the old days in Ireland, they gave both of them the benefit of the doubt and hanged the two.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: They were both guilty.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: They were not both guilty, Sir. I am sorry to have to contradict my leader.

Mr. PROULX: The hon. gentleman should know that, being on an unlawful errand, if one of them committed murder they were both guilty of murder.

Mr. BICKERDIKE: That is because one of them was in bad company, and if every man in this House that was ever in bad company was hanged there would not be many of us here to-day. Of course, that remark does not apply to my respected leader. The fact is, that that man was innocent of the crime of murder for which he paid the death penalty; and, to the disgrace of that court, and to the disgrace of the judge and jury, they took the money for sending that innocent man into eternity; they took blood money and they knew it. Even the Tory papers that were entirely opposed to anything I said in the discussion on former occasions said they were surprised that the Minister of Justice did not see that there was a reprieve in that case.

The Government itself is engaged in the vocation of killing the criminally inclined, and the criminals put no higher value on life than the Government does itself.

Mr. BURNHAM: What happens to those who die in sin?

Mr. BICKERDIKE: I am not able to answer that question; but no man, unless he is an infidel, will vote to send a soul into eternity when he cannot say what the result will be. If a man believes truly that there is an eternity of the soul, either saved or damned, he cannot vote to send his fellow-man into eternity. He will not do it unless he is an infidel. It is true, there must be a lot of infidels.

The Government say that capital punishment deters others from committing crime. If that is so, I ask: Why have the States which do not have capital punishment the smallest number of crimes? Why do such

crimes increase in number when the death penalty is put into force?

I would like to give a few opinions of great men on this question. I do not wish to detract from our good friend the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Burnham) at all. I have not his opinion here, but I will put it down next time. Thos. B. Reed says:

Capital punishment is injurious to society because the example is bad.

The Government says, very nicely, to the poor criminal: We are going to punish you; we are going to prove to you that murder is wrong, and we are going to prove it by murdering you; we kill to prove that killing is wrong. Why, they are a great deal worse than the butchers in Montreal who say: 'We kill to keep alive.'

Whittier says: 'All revenge is crime.'

Lafayette says: 'I shall ask for the abolition of capital punishment until I have the infallibility of human judgment demonstrated to me.'

John F. Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago Federation of Labour, says:

Organized labour everywhere stands for the abolishment of capital punishment, and if I am elected sheriff (he was then a candidate for sheriff), I will do my best to further this civilized reform.

William Lloyd Garrison says:

The horror of inflicting the death penalty makes jurors violate their oaths.

General N. M. Curtis says:

During my four years and eight months of military service, I had opportunity to observe the effects of many executions under martial law, I came to believe firmly that they were in every case demoralizing and destructive of discipline. These convictions against the efficiency of the death penalty have been strengthened as I have become better acquainted with the evil effects of executions under civil laws.

Henry Ward Beecher says:

While the fear of hanging does not deter men from crime, the fear of inflicting death deters many a jury from finding a just verdict, and favours the escape of the criminal.

Rantoul says:

The strongest safeguard of life is its sanctity; and this sentiment every execution diminishes.

5 p.m. Bulwer says:

Society has erected the gallows at the end of the land instead of guide posts and directions boards at its beginning.

Seneca says:

Many hold death in contempt, regarding it at rest from evil, while they are much afraid of imprisonment.