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David Rarle, S.H.,
H.M.A.S. "Adelaide,"
British Special Service
Squadron,
Topsall, September
17th, 1924,

writes:—
"Since leaving Australia, of which place I belong, I have never yet smoked cigarettes equal to those of your manufacture."

Lord Darling's "Musings on Murder"

(Continued from page 16.)
times the murderer is, in the eye of the law, responsible for his acts.
I have never been influenced very much by the argument that capital punishment can be defended merely because it is a deterrent, a preventive of further murders, nor do I think it would be just to take a man's life in order that the community might benefit by creating an abhorrence for the crime.

The community, it is true, does benefit; it is a deterrent to a certain extent, but the real justification of capital punishment for taking life is as a penalty for the offence committed against the individual or, if you like, a member of the community.

A citizen has the right to live; it is the great gift of God. It is his for his own enjoyment and that of his family and friends, and the party who deprives him of this without legal excuse or justification must pay the penalty, which is death—the same penalty as he himself has administered.

It does not lie in the murderer's mouth to complain as to whether the infliction of the penalty serves its end or purpose. That is not for him to question. Enough that there is an implied contract between him and the man he kills that he shall atone for his crime by the surrender of his life. We are not concerned with the harshness of the penalty; it is, like most penalties, self-inflicted and self-inflicted. The penalty only attaches where we commit the offence. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, means nothing more than that, if we take a man's eye or his tooth, the penalty is our eye or our tooth. Capital punishment is an extension of this principle.

In every age the principle of capital punishment has been questioned, but the overwhelming census of mankind has invariably favored its continuance. Great authorities like Bentham and Romilly have held that capital punishment is the only means of dealing adequately with the crime of murder.

A PROPHECY.

From Major the Hon. CHRISTOPHER W. LOWTHER, who, as M.P., introduced various Bills to limit and abolish capital punishment.

Nearly all the arguments in favor of capital punishment have been abandoned by its apologists except that relating to its deterrent effect. Mr. Lawes, the warden of Sing Sing prison, and also president (in 1923) of the American Prison Association, sets out to prove by statistics in his book "Man's Judgment of Death" that the death penalty is not the deterrent to murder that it is commonly supposed to be. I think that impartial readers will agree that Mr. Lawes has succeeded in his object.

There is undoubtedly an ever-increasing public aversion to executions, and it is reasonable to anticipate that within a short space of time capital punishment will be abolished in this country, as in many other European nations. I fear that Lord Darling will then be deprived of a subject for jest and question. There will, however, probably still remain legal penalties, distressing to the relatives of those concerned, which may provide material for merry musings.

PREVENTION.

From Lieut.-General SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL.

In the discussion on capital punishment a rather fundamental point seems to me to have been generally overlooked.

Personally, I should support the death penalty more wholeheartedly were greater discrimination exercised in its infliction, so as to ensure the noose going on to the right neck.

In the majority of cases of murder the murderer is made the scapegoat for others equally guilty. He was born into this world with the propensities and abilities of the average child. The people who deserve to be hanged are the parents who neglected their responsibility to give him a right and healthy mind in a healthy body, the teacher who gave him instruction in the three R's instead of education in character and self-control, the minister who omitted to implant in him the practice of his religion, and the newspaper editor who developed his morbid and salacious tastes by pandering to them.

It is true it makes for economy in lives if only one person is made to suffer, and therefore there is something to be said for limiting capital punishment to the actual individual who committed the crime; but in the eyes of some this seems somewhat of a cheapskate kind of economy; and one can quite see their point in advocating that at least a fine—if not something in the nature of boiling oil—should, in justice, be meted out to those on the above list of accessories before the fact.

It is the question of prevention, rather than that of cure or deterrence, that is important. Prevention of crime lies in the building of fine manly character, and that is what we are out for in the Boy Scout movement.—Evening News, Sept. 5.

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oct 3, 11.1.24

With Edged Tools

London Morning Post: One of the complications which make the problem of the East so appalling to-day is the presence, amid a fanatical and ignorant population, of men of the same race who, having imbibed a

certain measure of Western culture and of Western democratic ideas, seek to infect their sequestered brethren with a poison too strong for their primitive constitutions. There is in Khartoum a Sudanese intelligence which is willing to listen to and use Egyptian agitators for the ultimate purpose of "freeing" their

country not only from the British, but also from the Egyptians. The British, of forced to leave Sudanese, can withdraw beyond the seas. The Egyptians, on the other hand, might soon find themselves in the same plight as the Armenians before the Turks.

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