

# ANALYTICAL INDEX

TO THE

## OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES

OF THE

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA

FIFTH SESSION—TWELFTH PARLIAMENT, 1915.

#### SUBJECT INDEX

##### ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Motion for second Reading of Bill 18—Mr. Bickerdike, 127.

*Bickerdike, Robert* (St. Lawrence)—127.

Capital punishment is murder; legalized, if you like; but the state that puts capital punishment into force becomes a murderer, 127. Capital punishment, I say, is a legalized crime, and is morally indefensible. All who take part in it are tainted with blood guiltiness, from the judge down to the hangman, the crown prosecutor and his running mate, the crown executioner, as well as the nation which passively allows such things to be, 128. Statistics given of number of murders in places where capital punishment has been abolished, 129-30. The only light we have to guide our advancing footsteps in enacting progressive legislation is the unerring light of experience, 131. Another reason why capital punishment should be abolished is that innocent men are sometimes executed, 132. Quotations from prominent men, 133-4. Some hon. gentlemen tell us that the command was "a life for a life." There was no such thing as a command in it. And if it were a command, as I have said before, example is better than precept, and what about Cain, Moses, Lamech, Simeon, Levi, David and many others who committed murder, and not one of whom suffered capital punishment? 135.

##### ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—*Con.*

*Borden, Rt. Hon. Sir Robert* (Prime Minister)—140.

All the members of the House are impressed with the very great importance of this question. Motion for adjournment of debate, 140.

*Edwards, J. W.* (Frontenac)—136.

The question of capital punishment may be considered from several different viewpoints; I am going to deal with it only from one. Considering it from the viewpoint of punishment for a crime committed, I think there are worse things than hanging, 136-7.

*Graham, Hon. G. P.* (Renfrew, South)—137.

I have always felt, and have no reason now to change my mind, that by legalizing the taking of the life of a fellow-being we are making ourselves familiar with the shedding of blood, 137. I go as far as my hon. friend goes in saying that I do not believe that any human being under any guise of law, under any statute that he may invoke, has the right to step in and assume the prerogative of the Creator himself and take life, with the giving of which he has had nothing to do, 138.

*Kyte, G. W.* (Richmond, N.S.)—138.

If we desire to take our example from any country it should be taken from the