

describes executions under forms of law as being legalized murder. If we go to Great Britain for a precedent in this respect, what do we find? We find that fifty years ago they abolished that form of legalized robbery, but that up to the present time they have adhered to this form of legalized murder. I think we may fairly go to the mother country for our precedent and guidance in this particular. My hon. friend has quoted figures calculated to show that in certain states of the American Union where capital punishment has been abolished, the number of charges of homicide has very considerably decreased. But I have listened to temperance orators describing the advantages of total prohibition in certain of these states, and they have attributed the extraordinary decrease of crime within these states to the existence of total prohibition. Michigan and Wisconsin are two of the states which my hon. friend has referred to as being examples of those where crime has decreased by reason of capital punishment having been abolished. I think that Michigan and Wisconsin are also states that are enjoying the advantages of a prohibitory law, and the advocates of prohibition lose no opportunity of attributing the decrease in these forms of crime to temperance legislation. My hon. friend also refers to several countries in Europe where capital punishment has been abolished. I remember that on more than one occasion during the last three years the hon. gentleman having charge of the administration of justice in this Government has felt himself called upon to propose legislation in this House calculated to reduce the number of crimes committed particularly in the city of Montreal by reason of the privileges hitherto enjoyed by certain citizens there in respect to the carrying of concealed weapons. How is it that the crimes of murder, manslaughter and the various forms of homicide which this legislation was designed to suppress were committed largely by the subjects of those countries in Europe that have abolished capital punishment?

Mr. BICKERDIKE: They do not commit them where there is no capital punishment but they come here and commit them.

Mr. KYTE: It does not indicate that the abolition of capital punishment in these countries has had a very salutary effect upon the character of their subjects. I might say, in regard to the criminal statistics in Nova Scotia, that it is quite true

that in the last ten years crimes have increased in the province. But who committed them? They are committed by subjects of those countries in Europe where capital punishment has been abolished. I respect the humane instincts of the people of the United States who have been led to adopt the reform which my hon. friend from St. Lawrence, Montreal, is endeavouring to bring about, but we do know that crime and sentimentality are inextricably interwoven in certain parts of that country. There is a certain degree of sentimentality in respect to these things that is not at all creditable to those indulging in it. We hear of cases where men who have committed the most degrading crimes are, while awaiting sentence of the court, the subjects of the most touching marks of favour and sentiment. We do know that criminals who have been convicted of the most revolting crimes, while awaiting in prison the period of execution, have been visited by respectable people who have bestowed upon these criminals presents and testimonials of a character which do not suggest that these people are actuated by purposes or motives altogether calculated to put an end to these grave offences. There are certain forms of sentimentality which have been manifested that it is not well that we should copy in this country. We know that in the United States they have a record for defences on behalf of those who are charged with these grave crimes. It has been given to the legal profession of the United States to create the brain-storm defence and the defence of the higher law when their clients are charged with offences which are most revolting and which ought to be punished in the severest manner.

If we desire to take our example from any country it should be taken from the mother country which has a record for humanity and philanthropy not excelled by that of any country in the world. There they exercise the right to enforce capital punishment, but capital punishment is limited to three offences only, and as a matter of fact it is only meted out in respect to one, that is murder. With respect to manslaughter and other forms of homicide capital punishment is not inflicted. I think the humanity of the British people ought not to be challenged or inhumanity attributed to them because throughout the ages for the highest good they have adhered to capital punishment in respect to that offence. It is quite