

of the country. But we do not know what their real, inside motives may be. Then again, we have to bring in a large number of ordinary labourers to carry on the great works which are proceeding in this country. They have been coming in the past and they will continue to come in the future; in fact, we could not continue to carry on the great public works of the country if we did not have foreign labourers in large numbers. During the construction of the Transcontinental railway, not two years ago, there were three of the most brutal murders committed by foreign labourers in the northern portion of New Brunswick which the annals of this country can show. In one case a peddler called Paddy Green, well known to the railway construction camps east of the Great Lakes, was starting out on a Sunday morning travelling towards the wilderness when he was shot from ambush by two Italians. His companion was shot and wounded but he succeeded in getting away. These men were captured and sentenced to be hanged, and, as a matter of fact, were hanged. But it developed in the course of time that these men stated that they understood that no man was ever hanged for murder in Canada, but was only sentenced to the penitentiary for from two to five years. These are the conditions which have existed in the province of New Brunswick for the last five or six years, and these are the facts which stare us in the face. With a large number of foreign labourers coming in here possessed of such ideals of the sanctity of life and the rights of citizens as these two men possessed, I think we would be going a long way towards throwing society into a state of chaos if we were to abolish capital punishment in Canada at the present time.

That is only an illustration, but there is another. These same two men who were afterwards sentenced to death claimed there were three other men who were accessories before the fact and who had incited them to commit the murder. They further expressed the belief that if the relatives of one of these men had furnished sufficient money he could have saved their lives. With people of this class in the country holding views of that description, I do not think the time is ripe when this Parliament should declare in favour of the Bill introduced by my hon. friend (Mr. Bickerdike). I give him all credit for sincerity in the matter. I respect his humanity, I respect his sincere interest in the welfare of the public, but I am afraid that it is a case of misguided sympathy with a class of people who, perhaps are not very much entitled

to sympathy. This goes very much along the line of the women of all grades of society who will flock to the jail yard, who will flock to the prison, and who will smother prisoners with flowers and edibles of every kind that can appeal to them. There seems to be a certain maudlin sympathy for a man who has made himself notorious by committing a crime. As long as these things go on, until society reaches the point at which people do not need such a deterrent, until the time comes when no man feels that he can take life with impunity, I think we had better leave the law as it is.

My hon. friend has given citations from ancient reports to show that fifty years ago a child could be hanged for stealing a five cent loaf of bread and if such were the condition of the law to-day, we in the interests of humanity, would agree with him that the law should be changed. But there are practically to-day only two cases in which capital punishment is inflicted in Canada. There is high treason and it will have to be a pretty serious case before a court will allow that penalty provided by the law to be carried into effect; the second is murder, and the third is rape. The third, I think, we have almost dismissed from the category, which brings it down practically to one case, and that is murder. The jury can always bring in a verdict of manslaughter if it chooses to do so instead of murder, although, if the indictment is for murder alone, the verdict cannot be for a less offence than that of manslaughter. The citations which my hon. friend has furnished refer to a time when the matter was in a very different position from that in which it is at the present time. In fact our law permits capital punishment only in cases of treason and murder. I think my hon. friend, while he has given the matter a great deal of study, will be convinced when he gives the matter a little further consideration and understands better the actual conditions of the enforcement of the criminal law in this country, that, while his ideas are humanitarian, yet they are hardly practical under the present state of society in Canada. Therefore, his ideas should not be carried into effect.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. GEORGE P. GRAHAM (South Renfrew): Mr. Speaker, I have not, during the present session, made very many speeches, but on this occasion I feel that