

THE ADVANCE

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DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
DAILY
6 months—by mail or carrier—\$4.00
3 months—by mail or carrier—2.00
1 month—by mail or carrier—1.00
1 year—by carrier—10.00
SEMI-WEEKLY
6 months—by mail or carrier—\$1.50
3 months—by mail or carrier—1.00
1 month—by mail or carrier—50c
1 year—by carrier—10.00

Entered at the postoffice at Elizabeth City, N. C., as second class matter.

WATCH YOUR BILLS

If the Elizabeth City housewife who carefully notes her household expenditures has not noted within the past few weeks a considerable reduction in the price of many foods, the chances are that she has not had just treatment from her butcher and grocer.

There has been a falling off of from six to seven cents a pound in the price of cattle. The same is true in the case of hogs. Lamb and veal are also selling at lower prices wholesale and the price of eggs, which always grow cheaper at this season, is falling faster than usual. Butter, wholesale, has dropped twelve cents a pound and the New York World describes the butter market as "panicky."

The Advance has a suspicion that retail grocers, or some of them, are not playing square with their customers in these days of declining prices.

If you are a housewife who is really interested in lowering the cost of living join the Housewives League and inform yourself on these matters.

AGONY COLUMN

LITTLE BOY
AND WENT TO VISIT
MY GRANDMOTHER
AS ALL LITTLE BOYS DO

THEY SPELLED 'EM
D-O-U-G-H-N-U-T-S

AND THEY PUT
PLENTY OF GOODNESS
INTO THEIR MAKEUP

AS WELL AS A
SUPERFLUITY OF
LETTERS INTO
THEIR SPELLING

BUT I NOTICED
WHEN I GREW UP
THAT THEY NEVER
TASTED THE SAME
ANY MORE

AND THEN WHEN
THE WAR CAME ALONG
I OBSERVED THAT
THEY HAD BECOME
ENTIRELY EXTINGUISHED

AND I GRIEVED
FOR THE DAYS
OF MY JOYHOOD
AND BOYHOOD

BUT I NOTICE NOW
THAT THEY'VE
BEEN REVIVED
AND THEY SPELLED 'EM
D-D-N-U-T-S

AND I DON'T MIND
NOW MANY LETTERS
THEY LEAVE OUT OF
THE SPELLING OF 'EM

IF THEY'LL JUST PUT
IN THE INGREDIENTS
AND MAKE THEM
TASTE LIKE THOSE
MY GRANDMOTHER
USED TO MAKE

IF YOU FEEL
THE SAME WAY
ABOUT IT
MEET ME AT CITY ROAD
FRIDAY NIGHT AT
THE VALENTINE SOCIAL
AND WE'LL FIND OUT

I THANK YOU

FIFTEEN YEAR OLD BOY ARGUES IN FAVOR OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Buxton Midyette, of Jackson, Cites The Figures Which, He Says, Sustain His Contention

To the Editor: I am enclosing to you an article on Capital Punishment, by a fifteen-year-old boy. It was his speech in a debate on the subject in Jackson, N. C., and I need hardly add that his side won.

The Scripture tell us that a little child shall lead them, and if the publication of this production shall contribute anything toward putting a quietus on the restless spirit of innovation which bobs up bi-ennially in the General Assembly and much oftener elsewhere, it will not have been in vain.

I thought the question of capital punishment had been settled four thousand years ago: whose sheds man's blood by man his blood shall be shed is the decree written by God when Noah began to live under the constitution of a renovated earth. It appears that there was no capital punishment before the flood, perhaps following the ruling, when population was scarce, in respect to Cain, whose immunity was in contravention of the general law, as he himself admitted; and the Book says the earth was filled with violence. W. J. PEELE

By BUXTON MIDYETTE

Mr. President, Honorable Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My purpose today is to convince you that Capital Punishment should not be abolished. I do not want you to think that I do not value human life.

I will take for my first point, Public Safety demands Capital Punishment.

(a) It is the most effective deterrent.

Statistics given out by the different governments of the leading nations show us that there is an increase of crime and a decrease in the number of persons electrocuted or hung for murder. For instance, in England and Wales in 1902, 28 men and 5 women were sentenced to death. In the year 1910, in the same countries, 36 men and 5 women were condemned to death. The annual average for the years 1896-97, 98-99-1900, inclusive, for men and women, was 21.2 percent for men and 3.4 percent for women. From 1901 to 1905 inclusive, the average was 29.4 percent for men, 3 percent for women. Of those sentenced to death between years 1896 and 1900, inclusive, 10.4 percent were commuted to life imprisonment; and between years 1901-1905, inclusive, 12.4 percent. But what causes this increase in crime? First, the leniency in the use of the death penalty; second, the increase in the number commuted to life imprisonment. In the year 1775 a great number of robberies were started in Paris. The death penalty was given to those captured and they stopped at once. Rhode Island abolished capital punishment and there were 154 percent more murders in the State of Rhode Island where they did not have capital punishment than there were in the State of Massachusetts where they did. All criminals are cowards and therefore they select the States that do not have capital punishment for the scenes of their crimes. Criminal wardens and jail keepers say that capital punishment is the most effective punishment. Professional robbers form in bands and if one of them was to betray the band he would be hung. So even robbers use capital punishment because they know it keeps their followers from betraying them. France not long ago abolished capital punishment, but there occurred 80 assassinations in the public streets, so they reinstated capital punishment.

(b) It prevents criminals from committing more than one crime.

Most criminals are always ready to kill any one if in doing so they can further their purpose. Then why should we imprison murderers never knowing if they will escape and kill another man. Most Worthy Opponents of the life of the criminal be more sacred than the life of the man that he murders? We know if he is dead he can harm no one else. But alive he is hell on legs, never knowing what he will do next. Frequently we see a man sentenced to the penitentiary for life pardoned by the President or the Governor after staying in fifteen years because he behaved well and was on the honor roll. Then he has another chance to murder some one through revenge. Our Worthy Opponents who talk so much of the sacredness of human life do not provide a way to keep this man after he comes from the penitentiary from killing another man. I suppose the second person's life is not sacred at all. Very few professional criminals become peace-loving citizens. When released from prison, they do like

volves turned in a flock of sheep which has no shepherd. The outcome is the sheep are killed.

(c) It is needed until the negro race has progressed further.

If we are to abolish capital punishment we must wait until the negro race is better educated. My Opponents of course own that there is a great difference in a negro and a white person intellectually and that more murderers are negroes than white people. You say why is it that there are more negro murderers than white people? It is because the white man has the most sense of the two. Our Opponents who want capital punishment abolished do not provide for the negro.

(d) There is no adequate substitute for Capital Punishment.

I have shown you that imprisonment for life could not work, then what are we going to substitute? Exile is impracticable. But let us take Life Imprisonment instead of Capital Punishment. Our statistics show us that if you put 100 men in jail for life, giving them no hope of release, in fifteen years not one of them would be living. So we see that the only substitute at all, which is life imprisonment and exile, is death by slow torture, which is certainly more cruel than to hang the victim. When we put the murderer in jail for life we do the same thing that the English did to the Jews, which was to put them on the rack. Is this Humanity, Most Honorable Judges?

The Abolition of Capital Punishment has not always been satisfactory.

(a) It has led to Lynchings and increase in Crime.

Colorado abolished capital punishment in 1897. In the year 1900 three lynchings occurred. Two of the persons lynched were negroes. One of these negroes was charged with the assault and murder of a twelve-year-old girl. He was burned at the stake, and it is said that he was taken to the place where he was lynched by the sheriff who had him in custody. The newspapers said this in the following words: "If that bill had never been repealed there is a general Public Opinion that the various lynchings that have taken place in this State would not have occurred."

In Rhode Island where capital punishment is abolished there were 550 percent more murders than in New Hampshire. Murder in France increased 63 percent. Murder in Michigan increased from sixteen in the six years before abolition of hanging to 152 in the same period after. Murder increased so in California and Colorado that the death penalty was again enacted. But my opponents say that the death penalty should be abolished, because life is so sacred. But isn't it better, Ladies and Gentlemen, that one person be killed than three? Then let the person that is killed be the murderer not the innocent law-abiding citizen. Germany abolished capital punishment but soon adopted it again. Our Opponents' sacred paradise Italy had 3,807 murder trials in 1910, which means 3,807 murders. Life seems to be very sacred in Italy where they do not have capital punishment. Can my Worthy Opponents cite me a place where they have capital punishment and life is sacred.

(b) Criminals do not dread life imprisonment.

Why? Because of two reasons: First, in a short time they are liable to be pardoned by the Governor or the President. Then a criminal revenges himself on the people that put him in prison; second, the chance of escaping. In many cases they have killed their jailers. If the murderer is in a State where capital punishment is not abolished he turns this over in his mind, "If I kill this man, I will be killed in turn by the State. I won't kill this man." But if he is in a State that does not have capital punishment he thinks just the opposite. The statistics that I have given you prove this point because there are more murders in the States that do not have capital punishment than there are in the States that have it. I should like to ask you this question. Would you rather be executed or put in jail for life? Most of you would rather be put in jail for life. For what reasons I have already proved to you.

(c) Life Imprisonment frequently develops insanity.

Of those that are put in jail for life 27 percent are killed by insanity. All this in four years. The Nation says this: "Insanity is fifteen times more prevalent among life convicts than among others." All of this adds a big bill to the government. I have even my Opponents know

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The Apothecary Shop

that insane people can not do much work. But still, Ladies and Gentlemen, capital punishment should be abolished. If my Most Worthy Opponents call this humanity then capital punishment is heaven to it.

(d) Life Imprisonment does not reform criminals.

Very few criminals are reformed, an average of forty out of a hundred, but we see that sixty out of a hundred are not changed. These are turned out into the world and immediately they take up their old practices.

Ladies and Gentlemen shall we return to barbarism? Do the citizens of this country wear arms? Why? Because of the assurance of the government to protect human life. If a man breaks into your house and you live in a State where they do not have capital punishment his life is protected while yours is put in danger.

Shall the Twentieth Century return to the errors of the former century as some States have tried? No, let us profit by our experiences.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have proven to you the following points:

1. Public Safety demands Capital Punishment.

(a) It is the most effective deterrent.

(b) It prevents criminals committing more crime.

(c) It is needed until the negro race has progressed further.

(d) There is no adequate substitute for Capital Punishment.

2. The abolition of Capital Punishment has not always proved satisfactory.

(a) It has led to lynchings and increase in crime.

(b) Criminals do not dread Life Imprisonment.

(c) Life Imprisonment frequently develops insanity.

(d) Life Imprisonment does not reform criminals.

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