

BRITISH OPINION ROUSED AGAINST DEATH BY ROPE

By Bates Rancy
(Associated Press Staff Writer.)
LONDON—(AP) A large section of British public opinion, supported by Dr. Cosmo Gordon Lang, the Archbishop of Canterbury is determined to do away with capital punishment in England, where a century ago there were 200 crimes punishable by death, men could be hanged for sheep stealing and young children could be executed. A powerfully supported petition asking parliament to abolish the death penalty has been issued to the public for signature. It is being followed by a vigorous educational campaign. The petition will be presented to the house of commons next spring.

The movement against capital punishment, which has been steadily gaining in force the last few years, was precipitated into sudden action by the recent case of Oscar Slater, who was condemned to death eighteen years ago for murder, his sentence commuted to life imprisonment, and who, a few weeks ago, was declared innocent of the crime with which he was charged, and set free.

It is pointed out by churchmen that the practice of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth remained in vogue long after the nominal introduction of Christianity, but that this doctrine has been gradually modified since until there remains only capital punishment as a relic of the old, barbaric times. They are asking whether the supreme penalty exacted by the state and carried out in cold blood by its agents can be sharply distinguished from brutal murder.

Eminent legal men, however, are widely divided on the subject. Lord Buckmaster, a former lord chancellor of England, is an energetic worker in favor of doing away with the death penalty. He points out that eight European states no longer execute criminals and that eighteen states of the United States of America have taken the same course. He insists that there has been no increase in murder since. He argues that penal servitude for life will amply protect society and that the object of legal punishment should be protection, not revenge.

Sir Herbert Samuel, former home secretary and high commissioner for Palestine, has entered the discussion. He advocates that parliament appoint a select committee to examine the whole question and that such a committee be charged with the duty of inquiring into the experience of the states where capital punishment has already been abolished, and particularly of testing the validity of the statistics that have been published and of the conclusions drawn from them.

Sir Herbert Stephen, an eminent legal authority who was clerk of the assize for the northern circuit from 1888 to 1927, differs very emphatically from both Lord Buckmaster and Sir Herbert Samuel. "I apprehend," he says, "that something like eighty persons are annually condemned to death in England. Of these about half are hanged and I think the probability is they richly deserve it. If the law could be made a more exact measure of the different degrees of villainy I think it would be desirable slightly to extend it and make a few other crimes punishable with death."

It is with such conflicting opinions as these that the new parliament will have to deal with next spring, for the movement against capital punishment has reached such proportions that it must be disposed of one way or the other.



O. G. Powell, of Los Angeles, and his Oldsmobile sedan after a 17,756 mile business trip

LEAGUE EXPECTS HOOVER TO TAKE DEFINITE STAND

By Joseph F. Sharkey
(Associated Press Correspondent.)
GENEVA—(AP) This international center reviews important changes in the foreign policy as a result of Mr. Hoover's election.

Some observers believe the American attitude of benevolent aloofness and the system of sending so-called observers would give way to a more definite, clear-cut and assertive position. They hold that during the peace conference the United States enthusiastically assumed a world leadership, that immediately after, in a turmoil of uncertainty, she rejected this program and withdrew to what many regarded as isolation, that shortly after, however, her more positive and helpful elements developed a humanistic but rather vague and unambitious benevolence towards the rest of the world, and that more recently, the force of circumstances, especially economic have necessitated a much more honest and precise position. Herewith, especially with a stronger control in senate and house, the opinion was heard that a firmer and more conscious statement of American policy will probably be much more clearly and forcefully expressed.

Authoritative opinion unites in the view that the effect of the Hoover administration on the direction of that policy will be great. Washington's relations with the world.

During the past year, it is pointed out, there has developed a notable tendency for the United States to cooperate in the League's international economic activities. It is in the character of Mr. Hoover and the general world situation that observers see signs of a marked improvement in this kind of cooperation.

In the early days a League supporter, Mr. Hoover, it was remarked, has of recent years made no public statements on the subject until his most important of all speeches accepting the nomination for the presidency. There, though reaffirming his party's fundamental doctrine, he went further than any important official has yet gone.

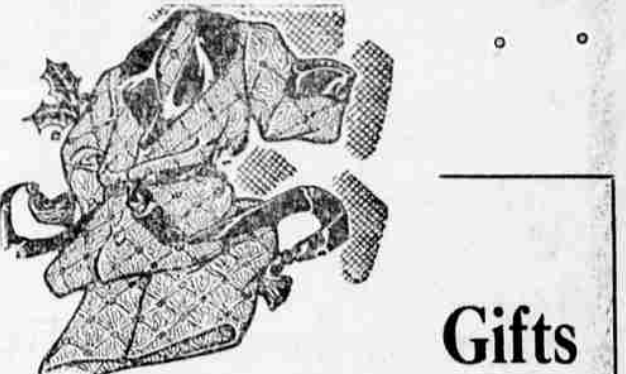
Obviously, say League people, this promises a very large field of cooperation. Almost anything, they say, could be included under it except "political" questions, and no one exactly knows where these begin and where they end. Taken in consideration with other lines of cooperation already accepted, for

balance in the field of international law, in connection with the World Court or the Law Codification work, it sets no very rigid limit except, of course, immediate necessities.

It carried completely into execution it might result in the United States participating in all conferences and committees where it was desirable either from her point of view or from that of the League, but would still leave open the question of participation in the two central bodies of the assembly and the council.

What this policy may mean in actual practice is demonstrable not in theory but in practice, it is explained. Of all branches of the United States government, except, of course, the state department, it is with the department of commerce, ever since Mr. Hoover has taken office, that the League's relations have been the most complete.

No doubt picture-goers often wonder who thinks up the titles for motion pictures. They cannot be named as casually as Pullman cars, and each new name must be original if the producer does not want to pay someone else for the



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IN THE WEST

BOY ORATORS OF MID-WEST STATES TAKE TO PULPIT

KANSAS CITY—(AP)—Two 27 years already have taken up their life work of preaching the Gospel in the neighboring states of Missouri and Oklahoma.

The oldest is Jack Yancey, 14, who is assistant pastor of the Central Methodist church in Pletcher mining town of the Oklahoma lead and zinc field. The other is Delbert Chostner, 13 years old, of Dielstadt, Mo., an ordained preacher of the Missionary Baptist church.

Oratorical abilities displayed by Jack Yancey, caused the regular minister, Rev. W. O. Hopy, to ask him to fill the pulpit occasionally, and to help with the other church work. Jack gladly consented, and since then he has spoken before large congregations.

Jack, who is a Boy Scout, with five merit badges, plans to go to a theological seminary after he finishes high school. When he was graduated from the grade school he delivered the commencement address to his own class. He lives with his grandparents, his mother having died five years ago.

Delbert Chostner has preached from a number of pulpits in Missouri and Illinois. He became interested in religion a year ago when Rev. C. W. Holmes, an evangelist, was conducting a meeting at Dielstadt, where Delbert lived with his grandfather. Delbert was ordained in October and has received invitations to preach in churches in New York and other distant cities.

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