

SING SING EXECUTIONER BRANDS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT LEGALIZED MURDER

Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—Charles H. Johnson, Harvard man, class of '02, who yesterday morning killed two men, making 8 since January and who expects to kill 5 in August and at least 18 others in the course of the next few months, declared today that he regards these killings as nothing short of murder. It is not himself, but the state of New York, however, that he considers the murderer. Johnson is deputy warden at Sing Sing and the two murders of yesterday were those of Charles Becker and Samuel Haynes.

Thomas Mott Osborne, warden, since accepting the office, has refused to take personal charge of the death penalty's infliction at Sing Sing. The unpleasant work has fallen to the young Harvard men, who cannot evade it except by quitting. Prison work, he says, is his life work and he cannot better prison conditions by quitting.

"The spirit of Christianity is disregarded. I appreciate that the word Christianity does not move some people, but this is supposed to be a Christian nation. No one can say a work of Christian civilization has been done by the murder of Charles Becker. Two debts have been created—no credit.

"Over in the death house there are 23 men cooped up—waiting in their cages to be killed. For an hour a day they are allowed outside their cells, though there was some objection when we began granting this privilege. For years it was the practice to allow them no exercise whatever. Men have stayed in those cells 30 months awaiting their ordered murder.

"If they get sick, if they even get a small pain, doctors are hurried to them. They must be saved for the state to kill.

"How that human slaughterhouse squares with 20th century civilization, I cannot see."

"Yesterday morning," he said, "I set with Charles Becker from 1:30 o'clock until 4:30 o'clock. We talked about many things, for Becker was a man of intelligence, the sort of man one can talk with for three hours and have something to talk about. An hour and a quarter later I killed him. What justification is there?"

"Becker has been electrocuted. What good has been accomplished? None that I can see. Some still cling to the belief that capital punishment is a deterrent of crime. In April a year ago the 4 gunmen were executed. It was but a few days later that other gunmen killed another New York citizen.

"The state says, 'Thou shalt not kill,' and then proceeds to do collectively what it forbids the individual doing. It kills Becker and, doing so, more than kills Becker's wife."

BARKER-SPAULDING WEDDING

A girl who has \$30,000,000 glued to her mitts gets married today over in Michigan.

She's a fair looker, but so far we ain't seen she's got anything extra-extra about her.

Except that thirty million.

And she's a niece of Jim Forgan, the banker.

Chicago sassiety is there in force. There will be lots of eats and drinks—the swellest free feed of the year.

The free lunch sure does appeal to all classes.

The young guy who plays the part of the groom today beats all of Jim Patten's records.

He makes thirty millions in one day. Some stunt.

Anyhow, a pleasant time will be had by all.