

1913

Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Branch

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Recommended Citation

Edward Lindsey, Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Branch, 4 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 192 (May 1913 to March 1914)

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH.

EDWARD LINDSEY.

The third annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Branch of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology was held in Price Hall of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, April 11, 1913. Two sessions were held, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The attendance, especially at the evening session, was gratifyingly large and the discussions which only the limitations of time prevented being even more spirited and general than they were, evinced a strong interest in the work of the organization.

In arranging the program the afternoon session had been allotted to the committee reports and discussions of the two subjects of "Criminal Statistics" and "Insanity and Crime" and for the evening meeting subjects of more general public interest had been assigned.

The afternoon session was called to order at 3 o'clock and an address of welcome was delivered by the Hon. George E. Porter, Director of Public Safety of Philadelphia, representing the Mayor, Hon. Rudolph Blankenburg, expressing appreciation of the aims of the organization and hope of beneficial results from its studies and efforts. This was followed by the annual address of the President, Edward Lindsey, Esq., which referred to the increasing general interest in social problems with many of which the criminal law has to deal and called attention to the work of the Institute in bringing together in the study of these problems those working on them from the various standpoints of law, medicine, psychology, sociology, etc., and thus promoting the broad and thorough examination of these subjects so essential to furnish a sound basis for practical measures. In closing suggestions were made in regard to the future work of the Branch.

The report of the committee on "Criminal Statistics" was then presented by the Chairman, Prof. Louis N. Robinson of Swarthmore College. The report dealt with what has been done in the United States in the way of the collection of statistics of crime and criminals and with some of the problems connected with the collection and tabulation of such statistics including a discussion of the proper unit of counting. The pressing needs for information which can only be supplied by more complete and accurate statistics were pointed out and questions of method and means for their collection were discussed. It will later appear in this *Journal*.

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The subject of "Insanity and Crime" was then taken up and a paper treating the subject more especially from the medical standpoint was read by Dr. Frank Woodbury, Secretary to the Committee on Lunacy of the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania. It is published in this issue at page

The Hon. Robert Ralston, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, then spoke on the same subject from a legal standpoint, with particular reference to insanity as a defense in criminal trials. He brought out the difference between the two questions involved, of the existence of insanity and of the responsibility of the criminal, maintaining that it is for the law to define responsibility and for the court to determine whether or not in a particular case the criminal is responsible while the province of the alienist is to determine the existence or non-existence of mental disease and its nature and character but not to determine whether the person is responsible.

The report of the committee on "Insanity and Crime," was then read by Professor William E. Mikell, of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. It followed the same lines as the report of the similar committee of the Institute and need not be further elaborated here. Dr. Charles W. Burr, of Philadelphia, Chairman of the committee, then spoke briefly, supplementing the report and laying emphasis on the need of suitable places and means for the permanent restraint of those whom juries set free because of mental disease or deficiency which negatives the existence of the subjective element of crime. In general discussion brief remarks were made by Professor Lichtenberger, Edwin M. Abbott, Esq., and others.

At the evening session Mr. Justice Robert von Moschzisker of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania presided and opened the meeting with brief remarks emphasizing the significance of the subjects under consideration and the importance of the work of the Institute. The annual address was delivered by Professor George W. Kirchwey, of Columbia University, on the subject, "The Function of Criminal Law." Prof. Kirchwey forcibly expounded many of the newer ideas as to crime and punishment, the treatment of the criminal and the relation of crime to society. He wittily brought out some existing defects in our criminal law and its enforcement and eloquently described "the criminal law of the future" as he pictured it resulting from the newer ideas and ideals, holding the intense interest of the audience.

The topic of the evening for discussion was "The Employment and Compensation of Prisoners" and the principal address on the sub-

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ject was delivered by the Hon. Edwin M. Abbott, of Philadelphia. Mr. Abbott's address dealt in a practical way with the necessity of having employment for the prisoners in the various penal institutions for the good of the prisoner in keeping him from idleness and in furnishing him with a means of self-help after leaving the institution and with the desirability of compensating the prisoner for his labor which would furnish support to his family during his incarceration and something with which to start upon his release. He detailed the provisions of the bill for such purpose introduced in the present legislature describing the character of employment provided for, the method of compensation and the provisions for the use of the products of the prison labor solely in the state institutions.

The discussion was opened by the Hon. James H. Maurer, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor who voiced the objections of the laboring men to being forced into competition with prison labor by its products being sold in the open market but stated his opinion that a system of employment and compensation whereby the products of prison labor would not enter into the market but be used in state institutions would be unobjectionable to the working men. With much wit and eloquence Mr. Maurer set forth and defined the attitude of the laboring man, as represented by the unions, toward existing laws and present social conditions.

The discussion was continued by Robert J. McKenty, Warden of the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. Warden McKenty forcibly presented the conditions in the penal institutions as shown in his daily experience in regard to the anxiety of the prisoners for work, the results of enforced idleness upon the prisoners and the crying need for something to be done to provide some kind of sufficient employment for the men confined within prison walls.

Something of what has been done in other states toward solving the problem of employment of prisoners was told by Mr. E. Stagg Whitin, Secretary of the National Committee on Prison Labor, and also something of the work of the committee in the study of the subject.

The business meeting at which the report of the Secretary and Treasurer was presented was held before the afternoon session. The creation of committees and work for the ensuing year was referred to the Executive Board.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President—The Hon. Robert Ralston, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia.

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First Vice-President—Prof. James P. Lichtenberger, Professor of Sociology in the University of Pennsylvania.

Second Vice-President—Dr. Charles W. Burr, Physician, Philadelphia.

Secretary—John Lisle, Esq., Attorney at Law, Philadelphia.

Treasurer—H. P. Richardson, Superintendent House of Detention, Philadelphia.

Executive Board—The foregoing officers ex-officio and the following:

Prof. William E. Mikell, Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia.

Edwin M. Abbott, Esq., Attorney at Law, Philadelphia.

Edward Lindsey, Esq., Attorney at Law, Warren.

Dr. H. W. Mitchell, Superintendent State Hospital for the Insane, Warren.

Prof. Louis N. Robinson, Professor of Economics, Swarthmore College.