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Correspondence

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CORRESPONDENCE.

PROPOSED INSTRUCTION FOR POLICE IN NORTH- WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

A committee composed of officers of Northwestern University have drawn up a tentative course for police instruction in Chicago. The trustees have formally authorized the giving of such instruction under the auspices of the University. The success of the plan necessarily depends upon the co-operation of the police authorities of the city with the University. For this reason the committee submitted its plan to Mayor William Hale Thompson with the request that he appoint a committee to confer with the proposers on the further development of the plan.

Below is the plan as far as it has been outlined by the committee, and also the correspondence on the subject with the Mayor.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR PROPOSED COURSE IN POLICE INSTRUCTION.

Three periods of 45 minutes each, extending from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A.

CRIMINAL LAW: (Text Book—May on Criminal Law.)

Two Hours per week for one-half year.

- (a). General Principles.
- (b). Criminal Code of Illinois.

PHYSIOLOGY AND ANATOMY: (Text—Martin's Human Body).

Two hours per week for one-half year.

- (a). First Aid.
- (b). Wounds—Source. (Types of wounds produced by various instruments.)
- (c). Change in tissues after death.

HYGIENE: (Text—Hutchinson's Health of the Body).

One hour per week.

- (a). Personal. (Infection, contagion, etc.)
- (b). Public. (Streets, alleys, public buildings, etc.).

EVIDENCE: (Text and lectures.)

Two hours per week.

- (a). Judicial Proof.
- (b). Physical evidence.

PSYCHOLOGY: (Text and lectures on Elementary Psychology).

Two hours per week.

- PRACTICAL SOCIOLOGY: Lectures and observation of charitable and penal institutions at work.
One hour per week.
- CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: (Text—Beale on Criminal Procedure; Illinois (Criminal Code).
One hour per week.
- POLICE ADMINISTRATION: COMPARATIVE STUDY: (Text—Fosdick, European Police Systems.)
One hour per week.

B.

6:30 to 9:30 P. M.

FIRST SEMESTER.

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Criminal Law. Physiology.	Hygiene. Practical Sociology.	Criminal Law. Physiology.

SECOND SEMESTER.

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Evidence. Psychology.	Criminal Procedure. Police Administration.	Evidence. Psychology.

Following is a copy of the letter of transmission by which the above plan was sent to the Mayor under date of December, 21, 1915:

Dear Sir;—

The Faculty of Northwestern University Law School begs to submit, for your consideration and opinion, a proposal by the University, to offer, through the Law School, a course to members of the City Police Force. The Board of Trustees of the University has authorized the offering of such a course, and a Committee of the Faculty of the Law School, consisting of Robert W. Millar, Professor of Law, in charge of Pleading and Procedure courses and Criminal Law, Chairman; Robert H. Gault, Associate Professor of Psychology and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology; and Frederic B. Crossley, Secretary of the Law School and Librarian of the Elbert H. Gary Library of Law, has drawn up the enclosed tentative curriculum. Considerable time and effort have been expended in an attempt to determine just how far a course of this sort might be of service, and much difficulty was encountered, because of the fact that little similar work is being done in any American city, and the rules governing the organization of

metropolitan police in different Continental cities, has made it impossible for the Committee to feel at all certain that the instruction offered in those cities would be possible or of any value here. We have found, through correspondence, that there is a great deal of interest throughout the United States in the proposed course, and the Committee is of the opinion that a curriculum can be developed that will eventually be helpful here. It is not intended that this instruction should take the place of the work required in Deputy Superintendent Funkhouser's School of Instruction, but that perhaps the course here might form a useful supplement to that work. It is proposed by the University to offer this course without cost to the city or to the members of the police force who might take it. But, in the opinion of the Committee, it would be useless to offer any serious work, unless the department would be willing to either require the course or offer, perhaps, promotional credit for members who successfully completed the course. Another problem that would arise would be the fact that, although the work offered would be as elementary as it possibly could be made, still probably a large portion of the present membership of the force would not be qualified to take it up and get anything out of it. And, therefore, there would need be some preliminary test for admission to the course. The lectures, as you will note from the enclosed schedule, would be given in the evening in a lecture room at the Law School, Northwestern University Building, 31 W. Lake Street, Chicago. The instructors would be members of the staff of the different departments of the University, with occasional outside lectures by such men as Osborne, the New York handwriting expert, Fosdick, author of a book on European Police Systems, and others who are experts in some part of the work of police. The aim would be, of course, to make the work of the course altogether practical.

If you are at all in accord with the idea, our Committee suggests that you appoint one or more representatives to confer with us with reference to the further development of the plan.

Yours very truly,

To this letter Mayor Thompson replied on December 29, as follows:

Dear Sir:—

I have been much interested in your letter of December 21, tendering a free course in law to the members of the City Police Department, and am writing to thank you, and through you the Board of Trustees of the University for the generous offer.

I have referred the matter to the General Superintendent of Police with the request that he and the Corporation Counsel take the matter up with your Committee.

Yours very truly,