

1923

## Editorials

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## EDITORIALS

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY—SEPT. 27, 1922

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The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board, Dean John H. Wigmore, at 4 o'clock in the faculty room of the Northwestern University Law School. There were present besides the Chairman, President James Bronson Reynolds, Colonel Henry Barrett Chamberlin, Dr. F. Emory Lyon, Dr. Herman Adler, Professor Herbert Harley, Professor F. B. Crossley and Professor Robert H. Gault.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved after which the committee, appointed at the preceding meeting with power to decide the question whether the Institute should hold an annual meeting in 1922, reported that, owing to the fact that the officers of the organization are fully engaged in efforts to promote surveys of the administration of criminal justice and to develop plans for building a model system of criminal records and statistics, through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and others, it was deemed impracticable to devote the necessary time and energy at this time to preparing a meeting for 1922. The report was signed by the committee composed of Robert H. Gault, John H. Wigmore, James Bronson Reynolds. It was unanimously approved.

The question of a reaffiliation between the Institute and the American Bar Association was brought up for discussion and Professors Robert W. Millar and Herbert Harley were appointed as a committee to canvass the situation and to make report, not later than January, 1923.

A report of progress was presented by Professor F. B. Crossley, Chairman of the Committee on Criminal Records and Statistics. This report included a statement to the effect that Samuel B. Warner had been retained by the committee as its expert on criminal records and statistics. It was reported further that an arrangement would be made with Mr. Warner whereby he should devote one-half of his time to the work of the committee, for which service he was to receive a salary on a per diem basis not to exceed \$6,000 a year.

The Committee on Surveys, Robert H. Gault, Chairman, presented a report of progress. This included an announcement of the appointment of Mr. Lucian Breckenridge as Assistant Director of Surveys on a per diem basis, the total not to exceed \$6,000 a year.

President Reynolds added to the report of the Committee on Surveys a detailed statement of his promotional work. He presented also a budget for the offices of the President and Secretary of the Institute as follows:

BUDGET OF INSTITUTE FOR MARCH, 1923-1924

A. For Statistics		
Salary of expert, not to exceed.....	\$ 6,000.00	
Other expenses, as work develops, approved jointly by Chairman of Committee and Sec- retary of Institute.....	4,000.00	
B. For Surveys		
Salary of Assistant Director, not to exceed.....	6,000.00	
Other expenses, as approved jointly by President and Chairman of Survey Committee.....	4,000.00	
C. President's Office		
Stenographer .....	\$1,200.00	
Traveling expenses .....	1,100.00	
Postage and stationery.....	900.00	
		3,200.00
D. Secretary's Office		
Stenographer, postage and stationery..	\$600.00	
Sundries .....	200.00	
		800.00
		<u>\$24,000.00</u>
E. In event of securing \$25,000.00		
Traveling expenses of President and Assistant Director .....	\$1,000.00	
F. In event of securing \$30,000.00		
As per Item E.....	<u>1,000.00</u>	
For expenses of Journal as may be authorized by Board .....	2,500.00	
Printing as authorized by Board.....	2,500.00	
		<u>\$5,000.00</u>

The budget, as presented, was unanimously approved.

ROBERT H. GAULT, Secretary.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE AMERICAN PRISON CONGRESS

As a forum for discussion the American Prison Association is contributing more and more to the practical solution of the crime problem. The words "crime problem," rather than penal problem, are used advisedly. The program each year gives less attention to the correctional institution as such, and devotes more time to considering the individual offender.

The time has evidently passed when it may be assumed that law violations are due entirely to personal perversity without any thought of divided or social responsibility. Hence, the speakers at the October meeting in Detroit had much more to say about the causes of crime, and constructive means of restoration, than about mere methods of controlling inmates of institutions. The latter pastime had, in former years, threatened to make something of a fetish of the over-worn phrase "prison discipline."

Among other pregnant suggestions made in the forceful opening address of President Hart, were two of far-reaching significance. One had to do with an inquiry made by Dr. Hart, and which revealed the fact that an increasing per cent of the heads of correctional institutions are college trained. Thus, it would seem, governors are realizing that something more than just a politician is needed to handle the complex human problem of dealing with the delinquent.

The other proposal of Dr. Hart, not new, but never made to appear as such a practical necessity, was the need of training for all prison officials, including the rank and file of under officers. It is apparent these two desirable features go together, as more trained executives will naturally call for competent assistants.

One other paper will here be given special attention as indicating prevention to be the dominant note of this fifty-second annual congress. I refer to the address on "Sources of Delinquency in the Public Schools," by Miss Elizabeth Farrell, inspector of ungraded classes, public schools in New York City. Miss Farrell called attention to the striking fact that practically every inmate of all correctional institutions had first of all been a truant. And the speaker, though a teacher, did not hesitate to say that the present school "system" is in large measure responsible for truancy, because of its failure to adjust its curriculum to the varying capacity of children. The value of special classes for backward children, and closer contact of teacher and parent were described.

Thus, in various sections and papers, were discussed the fundamental causes of crime, as found in the shortcomings of such preventive agencies as the home, the school and the church. In other words, it is apparently no longer assumed that crime may be stopped by institutional treatment, either by punishment or otherwise. It is widely realized, according to repeated expressions in these meetings, that we must go farther back and deeper down, if we would lessen unsocial behavior.

Even in the warden's section, more attention was given to classification, dietary, industries, recreation and education than to repressive measures. For several years some leader other than a warden has been chosen president of the congress, but this year the wardens came into their own by selecting Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing as the incoming president.

The largest attendance observed was upon the meetings of the Committee on Community Agencies, and the section conducted by the National Conference of Juvenile Agencies, the latter of which has become an affiliated department of the Prison Association. A wide range of topics were considered in these meetings, but relating more largely to the individual delinquent than to institutional methods.

Consideration of the defective and deficient personality of offenders was interwoven largely with all discussion, rather than in extended treatment by psychiatrists alone.

Probation, parole, criminal statistics, tuberculosis, religion and capital punishment came in for their share of fruitful suggestions, but little was heard about the Public Defender, and but one speaker presented the important subject of improved court procedure.

In discussing statistics of crime, the Honorable John Koren, of Boston, where next year's meeting is to be held, emphasized what we do not know about the criminal. The absence of accurate information on this subject represents the great undiscovered country which we need to bear in mind when we read magazine articles purporting to give facts, but are likely to be one writer's opinion or guess. Mr. Koren also announced, as prison commissioner for the United States, that the next International Prison Congress will be held in London in 1925.

F. EMORY LYON.