

1923

Report of Chairman of Committee on Criminal Records and Statistics of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology from April 10, 1922 to March 1, 1923

Frederic B. Crossley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Frederic B. Crossley, Report of Chairman of Committee on Criminal Records and Statistics of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology from April 10, 1922 to March 1, 1923, 14 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 75 (May 1923 to February 1924)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL RECORDS AND STATISTICS OF
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL
LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY, FROM
APRIL 10, 1922, TO MARCH 1, 1923

FREDERIC B. CROSSLEY, *Chairman*

At a meeting of the Executive Board of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, at the University Club of Chicago, April 10, 1922. the following Committee on Criminal Records and Statistics was appointed: Herman Adler, John H. Wigmore, James H. Tufts, Herbert L. Harley, Henry Barrett Chamberlin, Robert H. Gault, all of Chicago; A. L. Bowen, Springfield, Ill.; J. C. Ruppenthal, Russel, Kan.; Floyd E. Thompson, Rock Island, Ill.; Pliny W. Marsh, Detroit, Mich.; William B. Swaney, Chattanooga, Tenn.; A. P. Rugg, Boston, Mass.; August Vollmer, Berkeley, Calif.; Amos W. Butler, Indianapolis, Ind.; John L. Whitman, Springfield, Ill.; James Bronson Reynolds, North Haven, Conn.; Horatio N. Pollock, Albany, N. Y.; John Koren, Boston, Mass.; Frederic B. Crossley, Chicago, Chairman.

May 4, 1922, the Committee met at the office of the Chairman, 31 West Lake street, Chicago. It was voted at this meeting that the Committee proceed to secure the services of a Director for one year at a salary not to exceed \$6,000.

June 22, 1922, the Committee met at the office of Henry Barrett Chamberlin, Director of the Chicago Crime Commission, 21 N. La Salle street, Chicago, and after considering the qualifications of several persons, it was voted to tender the position of Director to Sam B. Warner, Professor of Law in the University of Oregon, for one year. Mr. Warner accepted, with the understanding that his work would begin July 1, 1922, but that he would not be able to give his full time to the work until the fulfillment of some other obligations, on or about September 1, 1922. During the period of his part time service it was agreed that Mr. Warner should be compensated at the rate of \$3.00 per hour.

Mr. Warner was requested to draft a plan of procedure, after consultation with available members of the Committee, and present the same for its consideration at a meeting to be held at the University Club of Chicago, July 31, 1922. At the meeting on July 31, a suggested plan of procedure was presented, and meetings were held weekly thereafter, for the purpose of considering this plan, upon the basis of which a tentative outline of information to be obtained was adopted.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Warner notified the Committee that he had received an offer of a fellowship in Harvard University Law School that would permit him to devote a substantial portion of his time to the work of the Committee and continue some advanced studies in law, part of which would be research in criminal records and statistics. The work of the Director and the Committee, up to this time, indicated clearly that it would be some months before necessary information and material upon which the research of the Director must be based could be compiled, and it was, therefore, decided to continue the part time arrangement with Mr. Warner until July 1, 1923, with full time employment from then until September 1, 1923, employment after this period to be contingent upon funds being obtained to complete the work.

During the period of his residence in Chicago, while in the employ of the Committee, Mr. Warner was engaged in correspondence with superintendents of penal institutions throughout the United States, State Superintendents of Correction, court officials, statisticians, and other persons interested in or likely to have information of value on the problem with which the Committee is dealing. He also was occupied with a study from observation of the system of records in the courts and penal institutions of Illinois, including Chicago.

Early in October, 1922, Mr. Warner commenced his work in Boston by making a study of the results obtained from the operation of the system of records in Massachusetts, in so far as they relate to parole, this system being generally believed to be one of the most complete and effective in the United States.

The Director has, in addition to the foregoing activities, attended the meeting of the International Police Association in New York, in September, 1922; the American Prison Association in Detroit, in Octo-

ber, 1922, and various conferences with the Director of the Census and his representatives in New York.

A meeting of the Committee was held at Detroit, in conjunction with the meeting of the American Prison Association, in October, 1922. At this meeting it was decided to supplement Mr. Warner's work with a survey of the status of criminal records and statistics in the State of Ohio, and Mr. R. E. Miles, Secretary and Director of the Ohio Institute for Public Efficiency, was employed to make this survey, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.

At the time of the Detroit meeting, it was the sense of the Committee that, for the purposes of the Committee's work, it would be advisable, if not necessary, to adopt a scheme of classification of crime, and, on October 26, 1922, upon the recommendation of Mr. Warner, Mr. Hugh Lester and Mr. John C. Bills, Jr., both members of the Boston bar, were appointed to prepare and submit to the Committee a plan for the classification of crime, Mr. Lester to give half of his time and Mr. Bills one-quarter of his time until the work was completed, compensation for each to be at the rate of \$3.00 per hour. It was further stipulated that, if possible, the plan should be ready for submission to the Committee by March 1, 1923, and that the work should be carried on under the supervision of Mr. Warner. Because of illness and because both of these gentlemen were used for a time by Mr. Warner in the preparation of his draft of a system of records for penal institutions for the Director of the Federal Census, this work has not progressed as rapidly as anticipated, and a plan has not been submitted at the date of his report.

It should be mentioned that meetings of the Committee were held in Chicago, during the holiday period in December, at which both Mr. Warner and Mr. Miles were present.

At this time the Committee has expended of the \$10,000 appropriated the sum of \$7,000, and is obligated to the Director, Mr. Warner, and to Messrs. Miles, Lester and Bills in a total sum that, in the opinion of the Committee, and so nearly as it can now estimate, equals the balance of \$3,000 now remaining unexpended. To complete the work of the Committee, as at present outlined, may possibly take three more years; it cannot hope to present a completed plan for a system of records suitable for courts, police and penal institutions in much less time, but, with its definite program now worked out, progress will

doubtless be made more rapidly than was possible during the year now closing.

It will be necessary to know in the near future if the Committee is to have the financial support necessary to continue its work after it has met its obligations to the persons now in its employ.