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STATE POLICE IN THE UNITED STATES

A BIBLIOGRAPHY¹

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INTRODUCTION

In this country, particularly in the several states, a movement for the creation of a law enforcing body under state control has been gaining impetus. In most cases it takes the form of a military constabulary.

In 1910, Mr. F. C. Miller said before the Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences:

"The modern state police of this country is to be considered primarily as the state's agent to assert its sovereignty to the end that the general welfare may be endangered neither by the machinations of the great corrupters nor by the transgressions of the smaller malefactors. And herein lies the true significance of the state police. There seems to be a growing consciousness that the state has allowed to pass by golden opportunities for the promotion of the general welfare."

A Committee of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology defines State Police in this manner:

"A state police is a specially organized and highly trained body, acting under state rather than local authority, and constantly employed in the prevention of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the protection of life and property generally throughout the state and especially in the rural and sparsely settled districts. In most states the state police force is organized on a military basis and distributed over the entire state in small groups for patrol duty, but quickly mobilized in larger units in an emergency. In the selection of such a force the greatest care is taken to eliminate political considerations and to secure persons with the highest physical and moral qualifications and with more than average intelligence.

"The movement for the establishment of state police forces in this country is the resultant of a number of causes or factors, operating sometimes separately and sometimes in combination:

¹Submitted as one of the Requirements for the Diploma of the Library School of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, June, 1923.

"(1) The movement responds primarily to the increasing consciousness on the part of dwellers in rural and suburban districts of a need for a greater degree of police protection. The coming of the automobile and improved highways has widened the range of crime and rendered its control more difficult.

"(2) Local sheriffs and constables are not adequate nor especially fitted for this work.

"(3) State militia is a clumsy and extremely expensive agency and is not trained for police duty. It is designed primarily as a supplement to the standing army for national defense.

"(4) It is a movement toward centralization of government for the purpose of economy and efficiency."

Early forms, some of which are still maintained, are to be found in the Connecticut State Police Department, Massachusetts District Police, Texas Rangers, South Dakota State Constabulary and Idaho Department of Law Enforcement. A few of these were organized as early as 1865 and 1870.

Pennsylvania was the first state to adopt the form of armed and mounted force now known as state constabulary, and it is not necessary to here describe its organization and equipment. To convey some idea of its efficiency we need but to read these brief statements of Paul S. Reinsch in his Readings on American State Government: "Heretofore, Pennsylvania has relied largely upon its National Guard to awe the turbulent factions that gather around the coal mines in time of strike. Two thousand armed men to one troublesome town was the militia's ratio for pacification. By the ethics of the constabulary a sergeant and ten men are expected to handle such a district." Much has been written in praise of this perfected organization, among which are the stirring and convincing books by Katherine Mayo. New York State Troopers, likewise, have become noted for organization and accomplishment.

On the other hand, there have been and are still set forth many strong attacks against such an organization, particularly regarding the constabularies of New York and Pennsylvania. Evidence and testimony of quantity and sincerity have been published to prove that these forces are militaristic and unfair in events of labor strikes. Perhaps the most thorough work from this viewpoint is the Final Report and Testimony submitted by the U. S. Industrial Relations Commission to Congress in 1916. The Commission closed its report with a recommendation opposing maintenance of state constabularies as a method of policing industry.

At the present sessions of several state legislatures bills for the creation of state mounted police departments have been presented. At previous sessions the same question has been discussed and experience has shown that material on the subject is not readily available. Likewise, this is a current subject for debate in schools, political and social organizations, etc. For these two reasons this bibliography is compiled in a hope that it will be of some aid in a more speedy access to references at hand. Also, because of the argumentative approach to the subject, it seemed logical to arrange the bibliography (1) under general statements with established laws, and (2) according to affirmative and negative arguments.

Because of the dissimilarity of conditions in foreign countries and the United States, references to foreign mounted police systems have not been included. Among the most noted of such organizations is the Royal Northwest Mounted Police of Canada. Material on this and European constabularies will be found listed in the bibliography on State Police and Similar Law Enforcing Organizations compiled by the Library of Congress, November, 1922.

There is no attempt to cover the allied fields of municipal, county and district police, but, in a few instances, by reason of theories expressed and for comparison and contrast, articles concerned with these subjects have been included.

Newspaper articles and a few references too slight to bear mention have been eliminated, but, in the main, this bibliography is intended to cover discussion of State Police Systems in the United States in the material available through a variety of indexes and other bibliographies. In order to do this the resources of several large libraries have been exhausted.

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Delaware. Governor. Message of John G. Townsend, Jr., to the ninety-eighth general assembly, Jan. 4, 1921, pp. 37-38.

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Idaho. Governor. Message to the legislature, fifteenth session, 1919, p. 11.

Gov. Davis suggests creation of a state police force.

— Message, 1923.

Gov. Moore asks for repeal of state constabulary law.

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