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## Editorials

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## EDITORIALS

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### DR. AMOS BUTLER—CONGRATULATIONS!

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At the meeting of the American Prison Congress which was held in Indianapolis in October, 1932, a testimonial dinner was given to Dr. Amos W. Butler in recognition of his services to the American Prison Association and of his life-long activity in the field of prison and penal reform. The *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* felt privileged in taking part in that testimonial, and its editors were much gratified at being able to pay a small tribute to the character, public work and, above all, personal loveliness of Dr. Amos W. Butler.

Dr. Butler has not only been a leader of thought but one who has been able to bring thoughts and ideas to fruition. He has chosen to devote his life to that which is socially useful and in doing this he has enriched society and spiritually enriched himself. He has been not only the friend of the prisoner and the stranger within his gates but the friend of all of us. He was connected with the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology from its beginning. At the September, 1910, meeting, which was held at Indianapolis and only one year after the organization of the society he was elected a member of the Executive Board, and ever since that time he has been a leader in its councils. For a period of time he was Chairman of the Executive Board. He has served on a number of its Committees. As a publicist he has been equally useful. His writings and addresses have been published everywhere. In the *JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY* his output has been large and extremely valuable. Beginning with September, 1910, I find the following articles: Treatment of the Released Prisoner; The Operation of the Indeterminate Sentence and the Parole, A Study of the Record of Eighteen Years in Indiana; What Prisoners Should Be Eligible to Parole and What Considerations Should Govern the Granting of It? Ninth International Prison Congress; The Individual Treatment of the Offender; Prisoners and Prisons; What the Courts, the Prisons, the Employer and the Public Should Know of the Released Prisoner.

These articles are indicative of the work and of the writer. Many persons seek to gain the whole world but lose their own souls. Dr. Butler, through a long and useful life, has chosen to retain his soul, his personality, his self-respect, that which has been best within him,

and though he has not gained in material riches or in political power, he has won a world of friendship. He has preserved the souls of many men and he has won for himself an outstanding position in the world's republic of altruistic endeavor.

ANDREW A. BRUCE.

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## THE NATIONAL MENACE OF ORGANIZED PREDATORY CRIME: HOW TO COMBAT IT

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The Journal begins in this number to print a series of articles that will reveal to the public the mounting menace of organized predatory crimes, and the necessity of organization to combat them.

1. In Iowa in 1920 there were 50 armed attacks on banks, and \$247,000 were stolen; in Illinois, in 1924, there were 73 armed attacks and \$376,000 were stolen. In Illinois in the years 1926-1927 some 700,000 fowls were stolen from the farmers. A few years ago the annual national loot from burglaries of freight-cars ranged from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. And so the tale goes, through a long category of predatory crimes.

All this signifies one thing only—organization of crime. No longer are these major crimes local or casual. They are systematically planned and capitalized by syndicates. Spotters report the eligible prey; routes of approach and retreat are prepared beforehand; gunmen are engaged—everything is arranged. A chain of fences—receivers of stolen goods—coöperates. Success is assured. The loot is immense.

The people of the United States must awaken to the menace of such organized crime. It threatens the country's economic welfare.

2. There is but one way to meet this menace. That way is: Counter-organization.

Where that way has been taken, it has succeeded. In Iowa, when organization met the problem, bank-attacks were in three years reduced by 86% to only 15, and the loot was reduced by 88% to only to \$34,000. In Illinois, after three years of organization, bank robberies fell from 73 to 15, and the amount stolen fell from \$376,000 to \$34,000. In freight-car burglaries, organization has reduced the national losses to \$1,000,000 dollars, and the total is still descending. In one county in Illinois, where 9,300 chickens were stolen in 1927, organization was formed, and the next year there was but one raid, and the offender was caught and sent to the penitentiary. Protective organization is what alone will meet this menace successfully.

3. But organization means coöperation. Local civic and political agenceis must combine. More than that, the individual citizen must also do his part.

For almost every one of these organized predatory crimes there is a central protective association. It has experience, it knows the criminal methods, it has devised plans to combat them. But it cannot succeed alone. It must have active local coöperation. Sheriffs, police chiefs, mayors, chambers of commerce, district attorneys, citizens' committees—each and all must do their part.

4. The articles to be published will show how that part can be played. They will appear under the heading: "Organized Protection against Organized Predatory Crimes."

These predatory organized crimes, managed by central syndicates, are numerous. Among them are the following:

Bank Robberies;	Fraudulent Arson;
Automobile Thefts;	Bank Embezzlements;
Freight-car Burglaries;	Confidence Games;
Fraudulent Bankruptcies;	Food Frauds;
Narcotic Drugs;	Farm Thefts;
Book Agent Frauds;	White Slave Traffic

and others. The articles describing them will be prepared by experts who are in touch with the various protective agencies. Two or more articles will appear in each number of the JOURNAL.

We appeal to all local agencies and citizens to read these articles, to organize in self-defense, and to dispel this huge menace to the honest thrift and industry of the nation.

JOHN H. WIGMORE.