

Summer 1933

## Underpinning Parole in Illinois

Robert H. Gault

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

Robert H. Gault, Underpinning Parole in Illinois, 24 *Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 351 (1933-1934)

This Editorial 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.

## EDITORIAL

### UNDERPINNING PAROLE IN ILLINOIS

What is the matter with parole? Some there are who reply: "Everything"! The most thorough-going and unbiassed students of the operation of our parole systems agree that the fundamental difficulty is in the selection of human timber that will be able to carry the responsibilities incident to living outside of a prison. At the same time there are serious aggravating circumstances that are patent everywhere.

Leaders in penal affairs in the state of Illinois and elsewhere are at serious effort to correct the fundamental defect—that of selection. It is announced that the Burgess plan will be put into immediate effect in Illinois. In other words the Board of Parole will base its action upon "expectancy" tables after the manner of life-insurance companies.

Readers of this JOURNAL will recall that Professor E. W. Burgess<sup>1</sup> of the University of Chicago has collected a large amount of data on nearly every social factor in respect to criminal careers and has studied their relation to success or failure on parole. This work has been carried further and supplemented by the Gluecks<sup>2</sup>, by Vold<sup>3</sup> and more recently by Dr. Clark Tibbitts<sup>4</sup> who studied 3000 parolees from the Illinois State Reformatory<sup>5</sup>, observing their success or failure and the various social and personality factors that appeared to play a part toward occasioning their respective delinquent behavior.

The studies referred to here, and others that have not been mentioned, have shown the possibility of using to advantage some sort of prediction tables in selecting parolees.

New Jersey has adopted the prediction system and it is being informally applied in Minnesota where it is reported to be showing an error of but two per cent.

This is one glow of the "New Day for Parole" of which Winthrop D. Lane wrote in the "Progress Number" of this JOURNAL.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

---

<sup>1</sup>See Bruce, Harno and Landesco: *The Workings of the Indeterminate Sentence Law and of Parole in the State of Illinois*. Part IV, 1928 (Supplement to this JOURNAL, Vol. 19).

<sup>2</sup>*Five Hundred Criminal Careers*: Alfred Knopf, New York, 1930.

<sup>3</sup>*Prediction Methods and Parole*: The Sociological Press, Hanover, N. H., 1931.

<sup>4</sup>This JOURNAL, XXII, 1.

<sup>5</sup>This JOURNAL, XXII, 6.