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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

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Illinois Prison Study—February 3, 1936, Governor Henry Horner of Illinois appointed a Commission to make a thorough study of the Illinois Prison System. This Commission consisted of the following persons:

Joseph H. Schlarman, Bishop of Peoria, *Chairman*.

John Prystalski, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County and former chief justice of the Criminal Court.

James J. Barbour, Evanston, Illinois, a member of the State Senate.

Roy Best, Warden Colorado State Prison, Canyon City, and President of the Warden's Association of the U. S.

Robert L. Kern, publisher of the Belleville Daily News-Democrat, Belleville, Illinois.

Emmett Moynihan, Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois.

Preston Bradley, minister of the People's Church of Chicago.

Henry Barrett Chamberlin, Operating Director, Chicago Crime Commission and President of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology.

The Commission immediately began its study of the Illinois Prison system, and all State institutions were visited,—managing officers, employees, inmates, and others were interviewed, and material

was gathered from all available sources.

Henry Barrett Chamberlin directed the inquiry, and the well-known Jail and Prison Schedule, prepared by W. Abraham Goldberg, of Chicago, was adopted as the plan of procedure. In the gathering of information, Milton H. Summers, Esq., of the Chicago Bar, devoted his full time to the work of the Commission, having been appointed Associate Director of the inquiry.

The Report is so detailed that it has assumed book form, a large book of 684 pages. Since a full review of this book will appear in the Book Review Section of this Journal, no attempt will be made to discuss the contents of this very valuable study. It is thought to be of great current interest, however, to print the one major recommendation which is found in the transmittal letter to the Governor, which serves as a preface.

"There should be consolidation into one administering unit of all the factors having to do with punishment—this to include probation, incarceration, parole and after-care. The idea is to combine all of the functions now exercised in the operation of the systems concerned with probation, penal institutions, parole and rehabilitation. Succinctly, the intention is to bring under

one authority, every factor having to do with offenders from the time of their conviction and sentence by the courts, their probation, if granted, their custodial care, their parole, if granted, and such after-care as may be considered desirable. It is the intention to provide for a thoroughly competent administrative board, comprehending every phase of welfare work concerning offenders, with properly qualified case workers, necessary departments of investigation, supervision, research, statistics and case studies.

"An administrative board should be created to be known as the Illinois Board of Prison Administration. This board to have authority over the entire prison system superseding all other agencies and being responsible for the employment, discharge and discipline of employees who are to be appointed under a proper civil service authority. It is obvious that its success will be dependent upon a sound civil service law. The spoils element must be abolished and a revision of the present act undertaken to the end that its weaknesses be removed.

"The plan is to have the proposed board supersede the present parole board, appoint the superintendent of prisons, wardens and all others necessary to the administration of the prison system, and to have full and complete control of all and sundry matters pertaining to prison administration.

"It is proposed that the board consist of five persons appointed by the governor without reference to politics, religion, nationality, fraternal or other affilia-

tions. The members of the first board to be appointed for terms of three, six, nine, twelve and fifteen years, respectively; thereafter one member to be appointed every third year for a period of fifteen years. The pay to be sufficient to attract competent persons. No member of the board to have other occupation, but to devote his entire time to the work.

"The idea is to prevent a displacement of the personnel of the board whenever there is a change in the political administration of the state and assure the services of men who are willing to make careers of this type of work. In other words, to provide for career men—men who take pride in their work, who become trained in it and possess the requisites for successful service to the commonwealth, thus perpetuating a sound system of penal administration.

"Some arrangement should be made for retirement and pension, and in the event of incompetency or corruption, provision should be made for removal of any member according to law."

New Journal—Volume I, No. 1 of "The Journal of Criminal Law" made its appearance in January, 1937. This publication is a quarterly review for lawyers and policemen engaged in the practice of administration of criminal law in England. It is published as a companion quarterly to the well-known "The Police Journal," and in size, format, and type is quite similar to that excellent publication. The first issue of 160 pages is given over largely to a summary of the leading cases from the London

Police Courts, Quarter Sessions, The Assizes, Divisional Court, Court of Criminal Appeal, Court of Appeal, and Privy Council. In addition, there is a study of the preliminary hearing in Canada, and the complete case of *Ledwith v. Roberts*.

The English Journal of Criminal Law will in no way prove to be an unfriendly competitor to the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. But it fills a great need in England, that is the immediate and accurate summarization of recently decided criminal cases. The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology welcomes the appearance of the English Journal of Criminal Law and wishes to compliment Philip Allen and Company for undertaking this publication.

By arrangement with the publishers, American scholars should cite the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology as "J. Crim. L.," and the English Journal of Criminal Law as "J. Crim. L. (Eng.)."

Copies of this new publication may be ordered from the publisher at 69 Great Russell Street, London, W. C. 1.

Minnesota Police Survey—The Regents' Examining Committee of the University of Minnesota consists of the following persons:

George B. Vold, Associate Professor of Sociology, *Chairman*.

William Anderson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Political Science.

Ambrose Fuller, Attorney of the League of Minnesota Municipalities.

Henry E. Hartig, Associate Professor of Communication Engineering.

William L. Prosser, Professor of Law.

Edmund G. Williamson, Director of the University Testing Bureau and Associate Professor of Psychology.

It has recently issued a very valuable Report dealing with the problem of establishing a police training project for the State of Minnesota under the auspices of the University.

Not content with a study of the local situation, the third section of the Report, covering pages 11-31, gives a detailed picture of the types of police training now being offered in the United States through other Universities, and other various police departments. Altogether the Report of the Regents' Examining Committee proves the most useful general survey of the subject of police training which has yet appeared. Copies can be obtained from the Committee, Room 15, University Library Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

California Report—The Biennial Report, 1935-36, of the State Board of Prison Directors of the State of California stresses the rather startling decrease in prison population.

It states: "The prior report of this Board stressed the rapidly increasing prison population and attendant overcrowding at both prisons. Since that time the situation is completely reversed, the population of both prisons now showing a consistent and very substantial decrease. No single or conclusive explanation for this fact can be advanced. The effect, however, has been to change the nature of our problems to a considerable extent.

In July, 1934, the population was 6,389 and in July, 1936, it was

5,540; in December, 1934, it was 6,350; and by December, 1936, it had fallen to 5,280."

The Board reports: "The overcrowded conditions concerning which we were so alarmed two years ago have been practically eliminated. If the trend continues, and it appears likely to do so, there will be no such problem at either prison. This makes it possible for the Board to turn its attention more to improved facilities and programs for the care and treatment of inmates."

Probation Laws—Interest shown by many states now seeking improved probation service to deal with youthful offenders is shifting from earlier plans for permissive laws, which provide for local support of probation, to state controlled and state subsidized services. Bills for reorganization of state-wide probation services are now pending in the legislatures of seven states, according to the report offered by Charles L. Chute, Executive Director of the National Probation Association, at the annual meeting of the Association's Board of Directors in New York City on March 26.

Last year Kentucky enacted legislation which closely followed the model bill offered state authorities by the Association. It provides for a Division of Probation and Parole with supervision centered in the State Department of Public Welfare. This state department appoints all probation officers and provides their salaries out of state appropriations. They serve in districts throughout the state. This year bills for similar state controlled and subsidized services are up before the legis-

latures of Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Texas, and in Connecticut for its juvenile courts. A family court bill drafted with the Association's help has recently been introduced in the Delaware legislature and stands an excellent chance of becoming law.

1936 Crimes—The Fourth Quarterly Bulletin of Uniform Crime Reports, issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shows that the Crime reporting area now includes 65,639,430 of our population. A number of interesting facts appear. Crimes such as assaults and rape increase in summer and decrease in winter, while burglary and robbery in trend show just the opposite. In general crimes in 1936 decreased—the most marked decreases were shown by the auto theft and robbery charts.

The tables cause one to ask three questions:

Why were there only 8 rapes in Birmingham in 1936 and 417 in Detroit? Why should there be 7,201 auto thefts in Los Angeles and only 3,527 in Chicago, the larger city? Why should law abiding Seattle with only 12 criminal homicides and 4 rapes have 3,089 burglaries, while New York City reports only 2,536? (Chicago reported 13,772 burglaries.) Note the proportion of 118 criminal homicides to 30 rapes in Atlanta while Boston had 9 and 71 respectively—all through the reports, in the South homicides exceed the rapes, but it seems to be reversed in the North. The figures reported do not seem to square with common notions on the subject.

Another interesting table shows arrest ages: homicide centering on

the 25-29 year old group; larceny, in the 18 year old group; embezzlement, in the 25-29 group; auto theft in the 18 group.

Moore Resigns—After seven years as Supervisor, Probation System, United States Courts, Colonel Joel R. Moore resigned from that position to become Warden of the State Penitentiary of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan.

When he took the Federal post in 1930, there were only seven probation officers and now there are 175 officers and 108 clerks with 175,000 probationers and parolees under Federal care.

Ploscowe Appointment—It will interest the readers of this section to learn that Morris Ploscowe, a frequent contributor and a man well known for numerous research studies in the field of criminology, has joined Mr. Sanford Bates in the Boys' Clubs of America.

Mr. Ploscowe expects to do field surveys in about 20 cities and will assist Mr. Bates in establishing a research unit at the Headquarters, 381 4th Avenue, New York City.

Civil Service for Prosecutors—"The Panel" published by the Grand Jury Association of New York County, reports a movement under way to the gradual extension of Civil Service to the Assistant District Attorneys.

Among the organizations recommending this extension of Civil Service status are the City Club, the Citizens Union, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the New York County Lawyers Association, the Civil Service

Reform Association, the League of Women Voters, the Women's City Club, the Association of Grand Jurors of New York County, and the Lawyers Security League.

The report states:

"It is well recognized that Civil Service examination is not in itself a complete assurance that all of the evils of recruiting will be remedied. It is recognized that the untrammelled power of appointment by the head of a department often results in the employment of excellent capacities; at the same time the pressure of politics in appointment has resulted almost invariably in the employment of a number of individuals on any sizable staff who are unfit to hold the public office. Civil Service examination is not a cure for all ills. It has resulted, however, in a higher standard of competency than the patronage system. Moreover, once a position is placed in the competitive class, the danger of political removal following each election is removed and the appointees are able to devote themselves wholeheartedly and directly to their work without fearing that lack of political activities will injure their chances of retention."

Oregon Training Schools—An interesting cooperative effort to afford state wide police training was inaugurated in Oregon recently by the League of Oregon Cities, Warren C. Hyde, director, the University of Oregon Law School, and the Bureau of Municipal Research. Police training schools are being held in 11 cities which are located in all parts of the state. A series of eight classes has been arranged through the cooperation of the Portland and State Police Depart-

ments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Oregon District Attorneys' Association. The program has been officially endorsed by the Pacific Coast International Association of Law Enforcement Officials. The first class was attended by 247 city, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers.

Education Report—Late in December, 1936, the New York Commission for the Study of the Educational Problems of Penal Institutions for Youth, N. L. Englehardt, Chairman, made its Report to Governor Lehman. This has been printed as Legislative Document (1937) No. 71 and a copy was sent to the Editor with the compliments of the American Prison Association, E. R. Cass, General Secretary.

The Report covers 150 pages and the most detailed treatment of the subject ever issued by a public agency. While many of the recommendations are local to the State of New York it should prove of great value to penologists in all parts of the country. Of great interest is the summary of the experimental projects sponsored by the Commission, pp. 121-132.

Space does not permit a summary of the numerous recommendations but the basic objectives of education in correctional institutions were stated in the Introduction of the Report. It read:

"In promoting a comprehensive and vital program of education in correctional institutions, the Commission has only one thought in mind: the protection of the public interest. Education in correctional institutions aims, first, to see that as large a percentage of inmates as

possible do not repeat criminal acts and, second, to enable the individual inmate to live efficiently, and with sufficient interest so that he will adjust and contribute to the welfare of society. The basic ultimate aim of the institution for correctional education may be stated to be the social and economic rehabilitation of inmates.

In order to accomplish the desired socialization of the inmate the educational program must have the following objective:

To develop a well-rounded, integrated program of activities which will enlist the sincere interest and effort of inmates, modify their attitudes and behavior patterns, and provide them with the techniques, knowledges, and understandings necessary for the maintenance of a desirable standard of self-sustaining economic and social living upon release. The attainment of this socialization and rehabilitation objective involves the following types of activities:

1. Vocational education activities which will enable the inmate to become a self-maintaining member of society.
2. Activities leading to clearer understandings of modern social and economic problems in order to bring about revision of undesirable attitudes toward social institutions.
3. Activities to develop acceptable proficiency in essential academic skills.
4. Activities leading to the stimulation and development of interest and skill in worthwhile leisure-time activities.
5. Activities leading to the ability to get along with people and live co-operatively as members of approved social groups."

Social Workers Conference—Miss Edith Abbott, President of the National Conference of Social Work, presided over its 64th annual meeting, May 23rd to 29th, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

With extensive coverage of all fields of social welfare, fifty-three other national social work organizations met simultaneously in Indianapolis as associate groups, blending their programs with that of the Conference. Several thousand social workers from all parts of the country attended.

The program of the National Conference of Social work has been built around five sections and seven special committees. The sections deal with social case work, social group work, community organization, social action and public welfare administration.

The Conference of the National Probation Association began Friday, May 21, and continued on through May 25 with general sessions, section meetings and a featured "Conference within a Conference," i. e., the conference on "Coordinating Councils."

On this topic we are pleased to announce that the N. P. A. has published "Coordinating Councils How Shall They Be Organized?" by Kenneth S. Beam, who has charge of that work for the Association, and serves as Director of the Coordinating Councils, Los Angeles County. The publication may be secured at a nominal price from the National Probation Association, 50 W. 50th St., New York City.

A larger publication "The Community Approach to Delinquency Prevention," contains the proceedings of last year's national conference of coordinating Councils.

Criminal Statistics—Mr. Ronald Beattie, recently appointed Criminal Statistician of the Bureau of the Census, has completed a trip through the Central States in the interests of Judicial Criminal Statistics issued under his supervision. He has had conferences with criminologists, criminal lawyers, and sociologists of several leading universities. He endeavored to obtain advice and counsel concerning the form, content, and utility of the criminal statistics issued by the Bureau of the Census.

His chief problem is to obtain the prompt services of the clerks of the criminal courts, and, since these services are rendered gratis, they naturally are performed efficiently in some places and inefficiently in others. Mr. Beattie has endeavored to secure the cooperation of State Judicial Councils, in several of the States which have active organizations.

The Bureau of the Census is not interested primarily in criminal statistics, and, so far, has delegated all of this important work to one official, with clerical help, at the city of Washington. Mr. Beattie faces the difficult task of collecting Judicial Criminal Statistics from all parts of the country, and reporting them accurately, and interpreting them in the light of his knowledge of the criminal law and its administration. Mr. Beattie is to be commended for the vigor which he is showing in his new work, and all criminologists interested in Judicial Criminal Statistics are invited to give their suggestions, advice and cooperation to Mr. Beattie.

Indiana Police School—The Indiana University Institute of Crim-

inal Law and Criminology and the Indiana State Police will hold a Police Training School on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington from July 5-31, 1937, for 125 men.

Police courses are being offered in order that candidates may be trained for service on the Indiana State Police force. After completion of the four-week course, the 50 highest ranking men will be selected by the Indiana State Police board for appointments on the force.

Conducted according to military routine, with reveille at 5:20 A. M. and taps at 10 P. M., the school will quarter its men in tents to be set up immediately north of the Fieldhouse. This location was selected in order that facilities of the Men's gymnasium and Fieldhouse could be used.

Courses to be offered to the prospective policemen include General Police Problems, Police Tactics, Criminal Investigation and Police Science, Criminal Law,

Criminal Evidence and Trial Practice, criminology, psychology and military training.

L. A. Hince, G-man from the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington, D. C., was appointed by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Department of Justice, to lecture on the instructional staff. Leonarde Keeler of Northwestern University, and Chief Harry M. Dengler from the Division of Training of the United States Treasury Department, will be other out-of-state lecturers.

The school will be conducted by Prof. J. J. Robinson, director of the Institute, and Lieut. D. L. Kooken, of the State Police. Chief Special Agent W. I. Spitler of the Monon Railway will also serve on the instructional staff.

Professors of sociology, psychology and medicine from the University, and members of the State Police and Indianapolis city police, will give lecture and practical courses.