

1921

Notes and Abstracts

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

Notes and Abstracts, 12 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 278 (May 1921 to February 1922)

This Note 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.

NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

COURTS—LAWS

Summary of the Activities of the New York State Legislation, Session of 1921—Re: Prisons, Prisoners, Courts, Etc.—During the 1921 session of the New York State Legislature the attention of the legislators was directed principally to the Governor's programme involving the re-organization and elimination of State Departments and Commissions. Little hope was entertained by those interested in the administration of prisons and court procedure for the enactment of progressive legislation. However, quite unexpectedly some definite progress resulted, the most striking example of which is the establishment of a separate institution for the care of feeble-minded male delinquents. It was continually necessary to combat reactionary and severe legislation which was introduced to cope with the so-called crime wave.

The following bills became law:

Chapter 101 makes it a felony for a man to abandon his wife while she is pregnant and in destitute circumstances. The Prison Association approved of this bill.

Chapter 213 permits the Superintendent of State Reformatories to allow an inmate to visit a near relative, who is seriously ill, or to attend the funeral of a near relative. Similar legislation affecting only the prisons was passed in the 1920 session. Both bills were approved by the Prison Association of New York.

Chapter 223 amends the New York City Inferior Criminal Courts Act, and thereby authorizes the taking of finger prints after conviction in the Special Sessions Court.

Chapter 250 changes the name of the Domestic Relations Courts in the City of New York to Family Courts. The Prison Association approved of this bill.

Chapter 364 amends the State Charities law in relation to the division for mentally defective women at Bedford, and provides for the transfer of mentally defective women from other institutions in the State in which the women are confined. In its main features it is a parallel bill to the one setting the Napanoch institution aside for feeble-minded male delinquents.

Chapter 375 makes court officers of the Court of General Sessions in New York City peace officers. The Prison Association approved of this bill.

Chapter 376 provides for the imprisonment of a female convict awaiting execution in Auburn Prison, instead of as now in Sing Sing. The Prison Association approved of this bill.

Chapter 478 amends the code of criminal procedure in relation to reprieves, commutations, and pardons. The word parole was inserted for the purpose of assisting the Attorney General in conducting any proceedings where convicts who had been declared delinquent sought discharge by writ of habeas corpus.

Chapter 483 makes New York a pioneer in providing a separate institution for feeble-minded male delinquents. The Eastern New York Reformatory, which was formerly a branch of the Elmira Reformatory, has been designated in the law as the new institution. It will be under the control and direction of the State Commission for Mental Defectives, and will be used for the care, training and treatment of mental defectives over sixteen years of age, charged

with, arraigned for, or convicted of criminal offenses. The institution is open to those held for, or convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony, except murder in the first degree. The transfer of prisoners in State prisons, reformatories and penitentiaries, to the Napanoch institution must be done upon certification of the physician and warden of the institution in which the person is confined, and, in addition, with the approval of the Commission for Mental Defectives subsequent to the examination. Any one in custody as a mentally defective person is entitled to a writ of habeas corpus under a proper application as provided by the Code of Civil Procedure or Civil Practice Act. A mental defective who has been arraigned, convicted, or in custody on a criminal charge, shall not be paroled before he might have been paroled from another institution, if any, to which he was originally committed, or before he would have been paroled if he had been committed to a reformatory or penal institution under the same charge. The law becomes operative June 1, 1921. The Prison Association of New York has long advocated such an institution.

Chapter 485 makes possible the appointment of a man or woman as Superintendent of the State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, and further provides that the appointee must be a physician of at least five years' experience in the actual practice of his or her profession. The physician feature of the bill was opposed by the Prison Association.

Chapter 567 amends the Prison Law, and provides for the parole supervision of other than first offenders subsequent to release from a State Prison.

Chapter 623 amends the Inferior Criminal Courts Act in relation to the temporary detention of younger and less hardened female offenders. Pending the completion of a suitable place of detention in the City of New York, young and less hardened females arrested when a separate court for women is not in session, shall be forthwith conveyed to such institution for the reception of females as may have been designated by the Chief City Magistrate as suitable for such purpose. The Prison Association approved of this bill.

A proposed constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to establish Children's Courts and Domestic Relations Courts as separate courts, or parts of existing courts, and to confer upon them such jurisdiction as may be necessary, was passed again this year, and will be submitted in the fall to the voters.

The following bills failed of passage:

1. A bill to establish the New York Training School for Boys, thereby providing for the Eastern part of the State an institution similar to the State Agricultural and Industrial School near Rochester. This bill was approved by the Prison Association of New York.

2. A bill making the penalty for burglary in the first degree the offender's natural life instead of not less than ten years. This bill was strongly opposed by the Prison Association of New York.

3. Two measures for the abolition of capital punishment. No action was taken by the Board of Managers of the Prison Association of New York.

4. A bill providing that a defendant cannot be admitted to bail except by a Supreme Court Justice, or a Judge of the Court of General Sessions where he is charged with any offense, and is already under bail. This bill was approved by the Prison Association of New York.

5. A bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution creating a Pardon Board. The Law Committee of the Prison Association of New York approved

of the idea to have the Governor relieved of the consideration of all requests for a pardon, but felt that this work should be taken over by the present Parole Board, as is done in other States.

6. An amendment to the New York City Inferior Criminal Courts Act provided that appeals from a judgment or other determination of a City Magistrate should be taken to the Special Sessions Court, instead of as now to the General Sessions Court. This bill was approved by the Law Committee of the Prison Association of New York. The chief point in favor of the bill was that it was better to have three judges consider an appeal from a lower court, rather than a judge in a higher court.

7. Would have established a department of dentistry for the prisons. The Prison Association approved the bill in principle, but felt that certain features of it were undesirable.

8. Provided for the commitment, custody and control of wayward minors between sixteen and twenty-one years of age in the City of New York. The purpose of the bill was to bring under the jurisdiction of the court cases of wayward minors who had not committed a crime. It was approved by the Prison Association.

9. Provided for the election of a Public Defender. No action was taken by the Board of Managers of the Prison Association on this bill.

10. Proposed an amendment to the Penal Law in relation to suspension of sentences. This bill was opposed by the Prison Association. It was detrimental to the working of the probation system.

11. Provided for the election of City Magistrates and Judges of the Special Sessions Court. It was disapproved by the Prison Association.

12. A bill to amend and repeal certain sections of the Prison Law relative to the compensation of prisoners, was opposed by the Prison Association on the ground that it was unjust, and would seriously interfere with the administration of the various prisons.

13. Provided for jury trials in the Special Sessions Court and City Magistrates Court. It was opposed by the Prison Association.

14. Provided for an amendment to the code of criminal procedure, in relation to determination of mental defect of persons charged with or convicted of a crime, and the commitment of a person found to be mentally defective. The bill reads in part as follows: "If the acquittal be on the ground that the defendant is mentally defective, the court, in its discretion, forthwith may commit the defendant to the appropriate state institution for the care, training or custody of mental defectives."

Relating to Persons Who Contribute to Delinquency of Children (House Bill 155 and Senate Bill 155, Missouri; enacted 1920-1921).—

Object of Bill—To amend Article 5, Chapter 1 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, by adding thereto a new section.

Present Statutes—Section 1149, entitled: "Parents to Contribute to Support—When," provides that in any case in which the court shall take the custody of a child away from its parents and place it in the hands of some other agent, the court may in same or subsequent proceeding, enter an order or decree requiring said parent or parents to support said child or contribute thereto.

Proposed Changes—To amend the present law by providing that after any child shall come under the control of the Juvenile Court, any person who shall

contribute to the delinquency or neglect of such child, or in any way interfere with the order of said court, such persons shall be guilty of contempt of court.

WHY NEW LAW

The problems of juvenile delinquency cannot be solved by punishing the child alone. Children are often abused by worthless parents. Incompetent parents are often responsible for the incorrigibility of children. In a study of juvenile delinquency in the rural districts of New York, made by the Federal Children's Bureau in 1917, it was found that considerably more than half of the offenders came from homes in which the surroundings were bad.

One of the needs of the juvenile court is that it be given full power to deal with parents and adults responsible for the child's delinquency. The present statute upon this subject is wholly ineffective, chiefly, because the jurisdiction is lodged concurrently in two sets of courts. The provisions are weak, and there have been very few cases brought under it.

The Commission proposes a new act to reach such adults, putting exclusive jurisdiction in the same court which hears children's cases so that one tribunal may deal with all the aspects of cases involving the welfare of the child. It is intended that this act shall reach such persons as parents who neglect their children and persons who encourage depravity, immorality or viciousness in the child.

Prohibiting the Marriage of Mental Defectives (House Bill 156 and Senate Bill 249, Missouri; enacted 1920-1921.)—

Object of Bill—To repeal Section 279 of Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919.

Present Statutes—Section 7299, entitled: "Certain Marriages Prohibited," prohibits the marriage of certain persons.

Proposed Changes—The new section would add to the list of persons who are prohibited by law from marrying those who are insane, imbecile, feeble-minded and epileptic.

WHY NEW LAW

The object of this bill is to prohibit, so far as it may be practicable, the inter-marrying of persons who are insane, feeble-minded or epileptic. The only change made in the present statutes is by including the words "insane, imbecile, feeble-minded and epileptic."

Feeble-mindedness and degeneracy are at the root of 75 per cent of all our social problems, whether they be inebriety, pauperism, criminality or prostitution.

"We have labored under the delusion that in America we had a mystic melting-pot, that you could put anything in it you wanted to and get 100 per cent good, sound, wholesome, red-blooded, pure-blooded Americans out of it, but it is a lie. You know we don't get it and you know it now to your sorrow. When you take the feeble-minded, degenerate stock of southern Europe and mix it up in the American matrimonial melting-pot it doesn't go. It comes out a crippled, weak and degenerate stock which cannot be altered by the institutions of democracy."

"We have gone so far to protect the weak against the strong that legislation will be demanded in the next generation to protect the strong against the weak, for the weak threaten us now with sociological deluge of race defectiveness."

Relating to Treatment or Abandonment of Child by Parent or Foster Parent (House Bill 334 and Senate Bill 154, Missouri; enacted 1920-1921).—

Object of Bill—To repeal Sections 3273 and 3274 of the present statutes and enact in lieu thereof three new sections.

Present Statutes—Sections 3273, entitled: "Mistreatment of Child or Apprentice." Provides for punishment of parent, foster parent and master or mistress of apprentices for mistreatment of children under sixteen years of age.

Proposed Changes—Make father responsible for mistreatment of child under 16 years of age born out of lawful wedlock. Eliminates part referring to apprentices because obsolete.

Present Statutes—Section 3274, entitled: "Abandonment of Wife or Child." Provides for punishment of husband for abandonment or desertion of his wife, or abandonment of his child or children under the age of 15 years, born in lawful wedlock. Also the punishment of father for failure, neglect or refusal to maintain and provide for such wife, child or children.

Proposed Changes—Make wife responsible for abandoning or deserting husband. Require father to support child or children born out of lawful wedlock. Raise age of children from 15 to 16 years. Extend provision of law to all persons having legal care or custody of children under 16 years of age, and provide that responsibility of father to care for children does not cease when he leaves the state and takes up his abode in another state.

New Section—Section 3274-a. Provides means for extradition of parent who has violated provisions of Section 3274.

WHY NEW LAW

Something should be done to prevent the deplorable social conditions caused by abandonment of children by parents, and by desertion of each other. In addition to the moral loss incident to a broken home, there is a large economic loss. A study was made of this question in Kansas City which revealed that wife desertion cost that city in one year, the amount of \$54,569. This was for actual material relief.

Conditions must be made more difficult for parents to desert their families. Provision should be made to bring back either the father or the mother from another state after having deserted their family.

Let us stop damning thousands of innocent children by making conditions easy for parents to abandon them.

Let us protect the child. Certainly he deserves, at least, as much consideration as the neglectful and unfaithful parent.

Relating to County Juvenile Courts (House Bill 212 and Senate Bill 223, Missouri; enacted 1920-1921).—

Object of Bill—To repeal one section of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, and to add a new section.

Present Statutes—Section 1139, entitled "Hearings to be Summary— How," provides method of court hearing in cases of delinquent and neglected children. Also gives court power to assess costs against petitioner or against any person or persons appearing in the case. Section also requires counties to provide place of detention for Juvenile Court cases.

Proposed Change—Eliminates clause relating to place where hearings may

be heard. Also, clause providing that court may assess costs of proceedings against person or persons interested in case; also removes obligation on part of counties to provide place of detention.

New Section—Section 1152a provides that circuit courts in counties having less than 50,000 population may call special term of court for hearings of juvenile cases.

WHY NEW LAW

This bill has been especially recommended by the State Judicial Conference. It was drafted by the President of this organization, Judge Harris of Fulton.

It is a difficult thing to prepare a law as extensive in its application as the Juvenile Court Act, and prevent it from having some undesirable features or without the need of certain changes. In 1913 the first state-wide Juvenile Court was established. This was later declared unconstitutional. Another act was passed in 1917 relating to counties under 50,000. This is the present Juvenile Court Law and the one for which amendments are proposed.

The most serious defect of the Juvenile Court Act has been that no provision was made for holding court except during the regular sessions of the Circuit Court. In counties where Circuit Court convenes but once in six months, and then only for a short time, it is obvious that work of the Juvenile Court must be ineffective. When cases of juvenile neglect or delinquency need the good offices of the Juvenile Court, the need is immediate and imperative. If they must wait a period of five or six months until the court can legally convene, the practical value may be questioned.

The principal object of House Bill 160 and Senate Bill 94, therefore, is to make legal provision for continuous sessions of the Juvenile Court, if necessary.

Relating to Contributory Delinquency of Children (House Bill 154 and Senate Bill 247, Missouri; enacted 1920-1921).—

Object of Bill—To amend article 5, chapter 2, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, by adding the new section which provides for punishment of persons who contribute to the delinquency of children over seventeen years of age; also provides means for enforcing act.

WHY NEW LAW

Parents, probation officers and judges are frequently prevented from influencing children to do right by selfish and inconsiderate persons. A law is badly needed to make it illegal for any one to interfere with the parents or the court in properly caring for children.

It is difficult to conceive of a more despicable individual; one more devoid of all good impulses than the man or woman, who for various reasons, delights in dragging down to their moral level, innocent boys and girls. All of us have known people of this kind. Why permit them to continue this miserable work? Give us this law.

Protection of Children in Belgium (from the Bulletin de L'Office de la Protection de L'Enfance, Royaume de Belgique, Ministère de la Justice).— For some time the issues of this interesting publication have come irregularly. There have, however, recently been received the number for July, 1920 (Vol. IV), No. 16, for November, 1920 (Vol. IV), No. 19; and the first four issues

for 1921 (Vol. V), Numbers 21, 22, 23 and 24. Besides these regular issues there has been received a report of a commission appointed to study the organization of institutions for the care of children who are wards of the Juvenile Courts in England. A word may, perhaps, be said first with reference to this report.

The commission was composed of Madam Mulle, an inspector, Dr. Decroly and Dr. Boulenger, medical inspectors, Mr. Wets, juvenile judge in Brussels, Mr. Van Waesberghe, and Mr. Gheude.

The commission reviews the English legislation dealing with the care of young offenders and with neglected and delinquent children, beginning with the act of 1861 prohibiting certain abuses of children and summarizing all acts since that date. There is an elaborate analysis of the "Children's Charter" of 1908 and of the later act of 1914.

The history of the institution is likewise summarized, beginning with the Society de Marine (1756), Society Philanthropique (1788), the establishment of Parkhurst (1837), the fruit of the efforts of Mary Carpenter and Lord Shaftsbury in the act of 1854, and later provision for the custodial care of delinquent and dependent children. There are interesting interviews with leaders in the field of child welfare, followed by a special report on six industrial and four reformatory schools besides two chapters devoted to the "Borstal" work and one to the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants. The commission finds itself amazed at the adequacy of the provision for these groups of children in England.

"The reputation of English work in behalf of childhood has overleaped the boundaries of the United Kingdom. We were struck by the thought of the benefit which could be derived from a study of an experience already long and a spirit both methodical and practical drawn from the very national character itself, since many Belgian efforts toward the same end are in their infancy. For some of the commission . . . the inquiry was a veritable revelation, surpassing the best opinion we had been able to form concerning the English work and this although we were not ignorant of England's solicitude for the nation's childhood and especially for the care of its young delinquents (p. 10). England gave us the most touching proof of human solidarity in the battle against the evils that afflict mankind."

As to the other numbers listed, perhaps a brief summary of the contents will suffice for the readers of this JOURNAL.

The Editorial Committee is composed of Mr. Maus, director general of the bureau; Mr. Wauters, inspector general; Mr. Collard, Mr. Wets, juvenile judge in Brussels; Madam Mulle, inspector; Dr. Decroly and Dr. Boulenger, medical inspectors, Professor Herlin, Mr. Van der Houdelingen, assistant chief of the bureau.

In the issue for July, 1920, there is an interesting paper on the place of instruction in design and the manual arts in the general curriculum of charitable institutions with special reference to professional training, read by M. Ed. Laurent, of l'Ecole de bienfaisance de l'Etat a Saint Hubert at a fortnight's conference in Brussels, held between November 24 and December 6, 1919.

In the issues for December, 1920, January and February, 1921, are published a very learned and interesting series of lectures given at the same conference by Mr. Rouvroy, Directeur de l'Etablissement central d' Observation at

Moll, on "L'Observation pédagogique des Enfants de Justice" (January, p. 14, February, p. 199).

In each issue there are published the laws and administrative orders that have become effective since the issue of the preceding number, the important decisions of courts of justice in the field of child welfare, a chronicle of childhood, listing the important events affecting child welfare, in other countries as well as in Belgium, and the report of the periodic conferences of juvenile judges with the director of the bureau or with the minister of justice (April, 1921, p. 520).

In addition to these regular features the following interesting articles may be listed.

Paternal Discipline, M. Wets, July, 1920, p. 451; The Regulation of Cinematographs in Belgium and Elsewhere, M. Van der Houdelingen, July, 1920, p. 466; A Visit to the French Commission for the Control of the Cinematograph, M. Wets, November, p. 77; The Protection of Abandoned Children in Hungary, M. Van der Houdelingen, November, 1920, p. 796; School Hygiene, M. Van der Houdelingen, January, 1921, p. 4; Legislation for the Protection of Childhood in Holland, February, 1921, p. 181; What We Owe the Deaf Mute, M. A. Herlin, professor at the Institute for the Deaf Mutes at Berchem-Sainte-Agathe, March, 1921, p. 349; The Instruction of the Blind, M. Jean Gorlia (the same, p. 364); and Some Considerations Regarding the Selection of Moving Picture Films, M. Wets, April, 1921, p. 463.

Attention may be called briefly, too, to the report of the awarding of the Bastin prize for each of the years 1914-1919. The Bastin prize is an award provided for by the generosity of M. Adolphe Bastin, who in 1913 gave to the state the sum of 10,000 francs in government securities, the income from which was to be given as an annual prize to indigent parents living in Brussels who should be found to have endured the greatest sacrifices for the education of their children (see January, 1921, p. 101). The prize was then authorized by royal decree of July 13, 1914. But no award was made until 1920, when a committee of award was appointed. This committee of award is composed of the minister of justice or his delegate, the director general and the inspector general of the Bureau of Child Welfare, and two other persons selected by the minister of justice as peculiarly intelligent and devoted in the field of child welfare. The two lay persons selected in 1920 to make the award for the years intervening since 1914 were M. Pladet, échevin of Brussels, and Miss Carter, whose visit to the United States in the spring of 1919 at the time of the United States Children's Bureau Conferences will be warmly and affectionately recalled. This committee, appointed March 23, 1920, announced October 15, 1920, its award of six prizes of 300 francs each, and the award was made November 14, 1920, by the minister of justice at a gathering in the Hotel de Ville. The family Elsocht receiving the first award was composed of an invalid father in a sanatorium during much of the war, twin boys born in 1899, who had served in the Belgian army, the mother, and five younger children, who had attended school regularly during the entire period.

A second family, Fieuw, was composed of the father, a commercial salesman, who was killed in battle in 1914, the mother who drew a pension of 250 francs a month and six children, a daughter of 21 not yet placed as a teacher, a daughter of 19 preparing for examinations, a son of 18 who had joined the

army just before the armistice, a boy of 16 apprenticed with a dental mechanic, and the younger children still at school. The other four were families of the same general composition. In the six families there were 39 children who had been brought up to be, as the minister of justice said, useful citizens. The prize, he said, was not awarded to the poorest but to those who had made the greatest effort. It was neither an indemnity nor a recompense, but an honorable distinction on the quiet heroism of a modest life entirely consecrated to the performance of a sacred duty.—Sophonisba P. Breckenridge, University of Chicago.

Regulating the Loaning of Money in the District of Columbia.—(Calendar No. 158, 67th Congress, 1st Session, U. S. S. Rep. No. 145.) Mr. Dillingham, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, submitted the following report:

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 7) to amend the act entitled "An act to regulate the business of loaning money on security of any kind by persons, firms, and corporations other than national bank, licensed bankers, trust companies, savings banks, building and loan associations, and real estate brokers in the District of Columbia, approved February 4, 1913," having considered the same, report favorably thereon and recommend that all after the enacting clause be stricken out and that the following be inserted:

That section 5 of an act entitled "An act to regulate the business of loaning money on security of any kind by persons, firms, and corporations other than national banks, licensed bankers, trust companies, savings banks, building and loan associations and real estate brokers in the District of Columbia, approved February 4, 1913," be amended so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. That no such person, firm, voluntary association, joint-stock company, incorporated society, or corporation shall charge or receive, either directly or indirectly, or by means of any collateral or contemporaneous arrangement, a greater rate of interest upon any loan made by him or it than 2 per centum per month on the actual amount of the loan, and this charge shall cover all fees, expenses, demands, and services of every character, including notarial and recording fees and charges, except upon the foreclosure of the security. The foregoing interest shall not be deducted from the principal of loan when same is made. Every such person, firm, voluntary association, joint-stock company, incorporated society, or corporation conducting such business shall furnish the borrower a written, typewritten, or printed statement at the time the loan is made, showing, in English, in clear and distinct terms, the amount of the loan, the date when loaned and when due, the person to whom the loan is made, the name of the lender, the amount of interest charged, and the lender shall give the borrower a plain and complete receipt for all payments made on account of the loan at the time such payments are made. No such loan greater than \$200 shall, except pawnbrokers' loans, be made to any one person: *Provided*, That any person contracting, directly or indirectly, for, or receiving a greater rate of interest than that fixed in this act, shall forfeit all interest so contracted for or received; and in addition thereto shall forfeit to the borrower a sum of money, to be deducted from the amount due for principal, equal to one-fourth of the principal sum: *And provided further*, That any person in the employ of the Government who shall loan money in violation of the provisions of this act shall forfeit his office or position, and be removed from the same."

And when so amended that the bill do pass.

The recommendation of the committee in no way affects the intent and purpose of the bill as introduced. Section 5 of the law has simply been redrafted so as to include the amendments proposed in the original bill, which the committee deems to be a better form of legislation.

When the act in question became a law on the 4th of February, 1913, it was a disputable question whether the rate of interest to be allowed for small loans by pawnbrokers and by persons, firms and corporations other than banks, trust companies, etc., should be fixed at 1 per cent or 2 per cent per month. The committee were at that time of the opinion that a 2 per cent rate should be adopted if the legislation were to become effective. But Congress finally determined upon a rate of 1 per cent per month, and with that provision the law was put into operation.

The same question was considered by President Taft when the bill was laid before him. In returning the same with his approval he sent a memorandum expressing his doubt regarding the question, and said:

I have concluded to sign this bill, because its general purpose is one with which every good citizen must sympathize. It has been pressed on me that the rate of interest to which pawnbrokers are limited is too low, and this is urged as an objection to the bill not because of any sympathy with pawnbrokers, but because, it is pointed out, that if the limitations of the bill are so severe as to discourage the legitimate pawnbroking business it will drive some pawnbrokers into Virginia and Maryland, where they will ply the business without any limitation; or will induce others to live in the District and put the law at defiance, and so subject those who are forced to resort to them to an extortion beyond the protection of the law altogether.

In other words, the argument is that it will tend to put the pawnbrokers in a class of lawbreakers beyond control and will not relieve the persons whom the law is intended to protect.

I am not satisfied, however, that pawnbrokers with sufficient capital cannot do a legitimate business at the rate of 1 per cent a month. Companies of this kind seem to be successful in other cities. The subject is one in respect to which an experiment in legislation may properly be made, and if it turns out that 1 per cent is too great a restriction, Congress in its wisdom may increase the rate to $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 per cent.

The subsequent history of this "experiment in legislation" shows that what had been predicted as a result of fixing the rate of interest at 1 per cent per month has happened. The bill has been in operation more than eight years, but the business of loaning under its provisions has been found to be so unprofitable that those engaged in it have gradually dropped out of business in Washington, so that during a period of more than five years last past no one has taken out a license and no loan has been made under its provisions.

The foregoing statement is verified by a letter written by the superintendent of licenses for the District of Columbia, under date of May 27, 1921, in which he says, "Since October 31, 1915, no one has taken out a license under this act."

The effect of this law having been to drive from Washington pawnbrokers and individual loaners of the class already referred to, those who previously did business in Washington have established offices opposite Washington on the Virginia shore of the Potomac where they have done a considerable business, thus forcing that class of citizens of Washington who are compelled to secure small loans to do so with an increased and exorbitant rate of interest and with great inconvenience to themselves.

The situation in Washington has become so acute as to challenge the attention of the District Commissioners, the board of trade, the chamber of commerce, the Federation of Citizens' Associations, the Associated Charities, and the Women's Welfare Branch of the National Civic Federation, all of whom agree that the rate of interest allowed on such loans should be increased to 2 per cent per month. In pursuance of this thought the Commissioners of the

District of Columbia on April 12, 1921, prepared the bill which is under consideration. It was transmitted to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and is as follows:

April 12, 1921.

HON. L. HEISLER BALL,
Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia,
United States Senate.

Dear Sir: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit herewith draft of a bill to amend the act of Congress of February 4, 1913, regulating the business of loaning money in the District of Columbia.

The act of Congress proposed to be amended regulates the business of making small loans and of pawnbroking. When it was introduced into Congress at the request of the commissioners, it provided that the rate of interest upon any loan made under its provisions should be 2 per cent per month. The bill was amended in Congress, however, so as to provide for a rate of interest of but 1 per cent per month, and this rate of interest was written into the law.

The effect of the reduction in rate has been that no loans are being made under the law either by pawnbrokers or by other money lenders. Experience has demonstrated that they cannot transact a profitable business unless the rate of interest is increased.

The enclosed draft of bill was submitted to the commissioners by a committee of citizens after consultation with the corporation counsel, and it is believed that its passage would make it possible to re-establish business in the District of Columbia in both small loans and pawnbrokers' loans.

The present law, which has been sustained by numerous court decisions, is in all other respects sufficient to regulate the business of pawnbroking and to prohibit illegal loans. The commissioners request the introduction and the enactment of the bill at the present session of Congress.

Very respectfully,
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DIST. OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President.*

In a subsequent letter to the chairman of the District Committee, under date of April 26, 1921, the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia again indorsed the bill, and among other things, said:

On April 12 of this year, the commissioners forwarded to you a draft of a bill to amend the present law, approved February 4, 1913, regulating the business of loaning money on security, which law covers pawnbrokers. The amendments to the law proposed in the draft of bill forwarded to you by the commissioners and introduced by you as Senate Bill 7 were slight, as the law had been in force for several years, and is believed to be a good law with the exception of the rate of interest authorized to be charged. The present rate of interest is 1 per cent per month, and the commissioners recommended that it be increased to 2 per cent per month, as experience has demonstrated that pawnbrokers and other lenders of small loans cannot profitably engage in the business under the limitation of interest charged in the present law.

The present law has been before the courts and has been sustained as to the legality of its provisions. . . . They therefore . . . recommend favorable action on Senate Bill 7. They believe there is an urgent necessity for the passage of this latter bill, as under the rate of interest fixed by the present law practically no loans are being made either by pawnbrokers or other money lenders.

The accompanying table shows that most of the states have legislation upon this subject, and that on both small loans and pawnbroker loans a higher rate of interest than 2 per cent per month is allowed. It seems certain that the business of both classes engaged in the business of making loans can, and will, be established if the changes in the existing law are adopted, and that those engaged in the business of making such loans will be brought under the authority of the law to the advantage of small borrowers and to the public generally.

April 5, 1920.

The following table shows the limit of the charge which is permitted on a small loan or pawnbrokers' loan of \$25, payable in one, two, three, four, five and six monthly installments, as compared with the charges which are permitted by the laws of the state, with the date when each law was passed:

Comparative rates for small loans and pawnbrokers' loans.

SMALL LOANS			
State	Date	Cost	Rate
Georgia	1908	\$4.38	5 per cent per month.
Rhode Island	1912	4.38	Do.
Virginia	1918	4.38	Do.
Iowa	1915	4.25	2 per cent per month and fees.
Nebraska	1915	3.73	10 per cent per annum and fees.
Michigan	1915	3.62	3 per cent per month and fees.
Minnesota	1913	3.63	1 per cent per month and fees.
New Hampshire	1917	3.62	3 per cent per month and fees.
Ohio	1915	3.62	Do.
Missouri	1915	3.25	2 per cent per month and fees.
Arizona	1919	3.06	3½ per cent per month.
Connecticut	1919	3.06	Do.
Illinois	1917	3.06	Do.
Indiana	1917	3.06	Do.
Maine	1917	3.06	Do.
Maryland	1918	3.06	Do.
Pennsylvania	1919	3.06	Do.
New York	1915	2.75	2 per cent per month and fees.
Massachusetts	1916	2.62	3 per cent per month.
New Jersey	1914	2.62	Do.
Oregon	1915	2.62	Do.
Utah	1917	2.62	Do.
Mississippi	1906	2.23	10 per cent per annum and fees.
Tennessee	1905	1.94	6 per cent per annum and fees.
Colorado	1919	1.88	1 per cent per month and fees.
California	1911	1.75	2 per cent per month.
Wisconsin	1915	1.24	10 per cent per annum and fees.
District of Columbia	1913	.88	1 per cent per month.
Delaware ¹	1905	.80	6 per cent per annum and fees.

PAWNBROKERS' LOANS			
State	Date	Cost	Rate
New Mexico	1866	\$8.75	10 per cent per month.
Virginia	1903	8.75	Do.
Delaware	1907	7.00	8 per cent per month.
Pennsylvania	1856	4.82	6 per cent per annum and fees.
Georgia	1908	4.63	5 per cent per month and fees.
Vermont	1913	4.38	5 per cent per month.
Iowa	1915	4.25	2 per cent per month and fees.
Nebraska	1915	3.73	10 per cent per annum and fees.
New Hampshire	1917	3.62	3 per cent per month and fees.
Ohio	1915	3.62	Do.
Rhode Island	1909	3.13	5 per cent and 3 per cent per month.
Indiana	1917	3.06	3½ per cent per month.
Maine	1917	3.06	Do.
Colorado	1897	2.62	3 per cent per month.
Connecticut	1905	2.62	Do.
Illinois	1909	2.62	Do.
Massachusetts	1916	2.62	Do.
Montana	1903	2.62	Do.
New York	1909	2.62	Do.
Oregon	1915	2.62	Do.
Washington	1909	2.62	Do.
Maryland	1906	2.19	2½ per cent per month.
Arizona	1913	1.75	2 per cent per month.
California	1909	1.75	Do.
Michigan	1911	1.75	Do.
Missouri	1909	1.75	Do.
New Jersey	1887	1.75	Do.
Wisconsin	1915	1.24	10 per cent per month and fees.
District of Columbia	1913	.88	1 per cent per month.

¹There are no small loan companies in Delaware or in the District of Columbia, and no pawnbrokers in the District, because the rates are prohibitive.

Municipal Court Established in Kansas City.—An effort to secure a unified court for Kansas City in the recent session of the Missouri legislature resulted in the passage of a compromise bill which gives that city an inferior civil court of good organization and powers. It is a court very similar to the Civil Court of Milwaukee. Ten years ago the establishment of such a court in any large city would have been considered cause for thankfulness. There still remains as much opportunity for such a court to render good service, but with further experience the ideal has advanced and today anything short of complete unification of courts in any large city is recognized by progressives as a makeshift.

The disadvantages of the new court are that it remains a justice of the peace court and its judges are known as justices of the peace, and their salaries are but \$3,500 and \$4,000 for the associate justices and presiding justice, respectively. The first objection is not substantial, but the salary limitation will make it difficult, if not impossible, to get high class professional material for judges.

The good features are that the court is given rule-making and administrative authority and responsibility for management is centered in the presiding justice. There are to be a chief clerk and chief constable who are to be subject to the "superintending control" of the presiding justice, together with their deputies.

The court has jurisdiction throughout the county in tort and contract cases involving not more than \$1,000. The act contains a drastic provision concerning jury demands, for the party who demands jury trial may be required to deposit a sum sufficient to pay all the fees of the jurors.

It is required by the law that justices shall be lawyers. This will doubtless result in considerable improvement in the administration of justice in Kansas City in the smaller civil cases, but the new court will be subject to all the limitations inherent in an inferior court.—From *Journal of the American Judicature Society*, V, 1, June, 1921.

Convention with Great Britain re Extradition.—In executive session this day the following convention was ratified, and, on motion of Mr. Lodge, the injunction of secrecy was removed therefrom:

To the Senate:

I transmit herewith, to the end that I may receive the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, a supplementary extradition convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed January 15, 1917, making willful desertion or willful nonsupport of wife or children extraditable offenses where, the offense having been committed in the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, the person charged with the offense is found in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States, respectively.

The White House,
Washington, January 31, 1917.

WOODROW WILSON.

The President:

The undersigned, the Secretary of State, has the honor to lay before the President, with a view to its transmission to the Senate, if he approve thereof, to receive the advice and consent of that body to its ratification, a supplementary extradition convention between the United States and Great Britain making willful desertion or willful nonsupport of wife or children extraditable

offenses where, the offenses having been committed in the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, the person charged with the offense is found in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Department of State,

ROBERT LANSING.

Washington, January 30, 1917.

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, being desirous of enlarging the list of crimes on account of which extradition may be granted under the conventions concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the 12th July, 1889, and the 13th December, 1900, and the 12th April, 1905, with a view to the better administration of justice and the prevention of crime, have resolved to conclude a supplementary convention for this purpose and have appointed as their plenipotentiaries, to wit:

The President of the United States: The Hon. Walter Hines Page, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of His Britannic Majesty; and

His Britannic Majesty: The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour, member of the Order of Merit, a member of Parliament, his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed to and concluded the following articles:

Article 1

The following crimes are, subject to the provision contained in article 2 hereof, added to the list of crimes numbered 1 to 10 in the first article of the said convention of the 12th July, 1889, and to the list of crimes numbered 11 to 13 in article 1 of the supplementary convention concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the 13th December, 1900, and to the list of crimes numbered 14 to 15 in article 1 of the supplementary convention concluded between the United States and Great Britain on the 12th April, 1905, that is to say:

16. Willful desertion or willful nonsupport of wife or children.

Article 2

The operation of the present convention is confined to cases in which the offenses mentioned in the preceding article having been committed in the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, the person charged with the offense is found in the Dominion of Canada or in the United States, respectively.

Article 3

The present convention shall be considered as an integral part of the said extradition conventions of the 12th July, 1889, and the 13th December, 1900, and the 12th April, 1905, and the first article of the said convention of the 12th July, 1889, shall be read as if the lists of crimes therein contained had originally comprised the additional crimes specified and numbered 16 in the first article of the present convention, subject to the provision contained in article 2.

The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged either at Washington or London as soon as possible.

It shall come into force 10 days after its publication in conformity with the laws of the high contracting parties, and it shall continue and terminate in the same manner as the said convention of the 12th July, 1889.

In testimony whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention in duplicate, and have thereunto affixed their seals.

Done at London, this 15th day of January, 1917.

[SEAL]

WALTER HINES PAGE.

[SEAL]

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

In Executive Session,
Senate of the United States.

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of Executive A, of the Sixty-fourth Congress, a convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed January 15, 1917, making the willful desertion of wife or children in the United States and Canada an extraditable offense, with the following amendments:

In article 1 strike out the words "wife or" and before the word "children" insert the words "minor or dependent."—From the Congressional Record, April 27, 1921.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Third Degree" Ban Is Placed in Bill of Rights.—By unanimous vote, an article against "third degree" methods in the course of criminal investigations has been added for the first time to the bill of rights in the Louisiana State Constitution. The article was prepared by Delegate Sidney L. Herold, vice-chairman of the Bill of Rights Committee, and reads:

"No person shall be compelled to give evidence against himself in a criminal case or in any proceeding that may subject him to criminal prosecution. No person under arrest shall be subjected to any treatment designed by effect on body or mind to compel confession of crime; nor shall any confession be used against any person accused of crime unless freely and voluntarily made."

The first sentence of this article already is in both state and federal constitution.

The race purity clause of the League of Women Voters was not incorporated in the bill of rights, but has been referred to the General Provisions Committee. The new bill of rights therefore now stands completed.—From New Orleans Item, April 13, 1921.

Summer Courses (1921) in Criminology.—Four courses in criminology will be offered by the School of Jurisprudence of the University of California during the summer session. The courses may all be taken together, or one or more may be elected. While all these courses may be carried on simultaneously a general university regulation limits to six units the credit that will be allowed for work done in any one summer session. Courses 113a and 113c are intended to cover a portion of an elementary course in criminology offering to lawyers, physicians, medical students, nurses, teachers, probation officers, social service workers, police officers, officials in public institutions, and others interested in

the serious study of crime and its prevention, an opportunity to become acquainted with the work of modern criminology. The subject will be covered for the most part by lectures and demonstrations. The prescribed reading will not be large in amount.

Courses 113d and 113g are primarily intended for those who are engaged or expect to be engaged in work which involves the care of criminals and other delinquents. Special attention will be given to advanced work for students qualified by training or experience.

113a. *Medical and Psychological Aspects.*

Jau Don Ball, M.D., Lecturer in Psychiatry and Criminology in the Summer Session of the University of California.

Practical discussion of medical and psychological problems as related to criminology: Nervous and mental disorders, feeble-mindedness, heredity, diseases, juvenile and adult criminals, organization of departments for the study of criminals. Lectures and assigned readings.

This course will include:

- (a) General Discussion.
 1. Historical.
 2. Modern Conception of Crime.
 3. Idealistic Tendencies and Practical and Economic Outlook.
- (b) Special Topics.
 1. Legal.
 - a. Medico-Legal.
 - b. Medico-Psychological-Legal.
 2. Psychiatric.
 - a. Description of mental diseases including feeble-mindedness.
 - b. Prison Psychoses.
 - c. Methods of Examination and Treatment, including prophylactic criminology.
 3. Psychological.
 - a. Mental Intelligence Tests demonstrated (individual, group, and trade tests).
 - b. Social Psychology (principal instincts of man, studies of personalities with special reference to traits of intelligence and character, and discussion of traits of intelligence and character and criminal traits).
 4. Heredity.
 - a. General discussion.
 - b. Application to criminology.
 5. Studies in Environment.
 - a. Home or parental control.
 - b. Development and school history.
 - c. Vocational history and reaction.
 - d. Amusements and comrades.
 6. Special Studies of Crime and Delinquency.
 - a. Juvenile Delinquency.
 - b. Adult Delinquency.
 7. Clinical Aspects.
 - a. Complete Outline for Examination, including description of reports, methods of making reports.

- b. Demonstration of Medical, Psychiatric and Psychological Examinations.
- c. Visits to State Prisons, Hospitals for the Insane and Feeble-minded, and Juvenile Detention Homes.
- 8. Discussion of special types of individuals ('queer guys,' 'eccentrics,' 'disturbers,' 'querulous persons,' 'unreliable and unstable fellows,' 'misfits,' the 'irritable,' 'sullen,' 'socially disgruntled,' 'unsociable,' 'negative,' 'conscientious,' 'litigious,' 'bear-a-grudge,' 'peculiar,' 'glad-hand,' 'gossip,' 'roving,' 'restless,' 'malicious,' 'lying,' 'swindling,' 'sex pervert,' 'false accuser,' 'morbid impulse,' 'abnormal suggestible,' and 'mental twist' types).
- 9. Discussion from a psychiatric point of view of murder, arson, assaults, forgery, swindling, bad check passing; testamentary capacity, capacity to contract; social, political, and industrial unrest.
- 10. Industrial psychiatry: mental hygiene of industry, methods outlined for determining the fitness of a person for his job.
- 11. School psychiatry: methods of making a medical psychiatric and sociological survey of a school.

Special lecturers will be announced from time to time.

113c. *The Investigation of Crime.*

Edward Oscar Heinrich, B. S., Consulting Expert in Criminal Investigations; Examiner of Questioned Documents, San Francisco.

August Vollmer, Chief of Police of the City of Berkeley.

Modes and procedure in use in the best criminal and legal practice for the detection, preservation, and ultimate presentation in court of facts essential to the solution of a criminal problem, and the identification and apprehension of criminals. Forgeries and other questioned documents, crime agencies, police systems, criminals, methods of operation. Lectures, exhibits, photographs, stereopticon views.

This course will include:

- (a) Police Systems.
 - 1. European.
 - 2. American.
- (b) Systems of Identification.
 - 1. Bertillon, ad modum operandi.
 - 2. Finger prints.
- (c) Criminal Methods.
 - 1. Crimes and criminals.
 - 2. Attacks upon the individual.
 - 3. Attacks upon property.
- (d) Crime Agencies and Criminal Weapons.
 - 1. Chemical agencies.
 - a. Poisons and habit-forming drugs.
 - b. Explosives and combustibles.
 - 2. Mechanical agencies.
 - a. Tools and other aids.
 - b. Weapons and firearms.
- (e) Criminal Investigation.
 - 1. Physical clues and evidence.
 - 2. Documentary clues and evidence.

3. Spots and stains.
 4. The microscope, its possibilities and uses.
 5. The camera, its possibilities and uses.
- (f) Questioned Documents.
1. Handwriting.
 2. Typewriting.
 3. Writing material.
 4. Secret codes and sympathetic inks.
 5. Illustrated lectures, on solution of selected cases, including a lecture on signature forgeries; a lecture on the development of writing and writing materials with special application to problems in disputed handwriting; a lecture on check-raising, alterations, interlineations, etc.; a lecture on anonymous letters; a lecture on "Typewriter Identification and Examination of Seals, and Other Printed Matter."

113d. *Field and Office Methods in Criminal Investigation. Police Administration.*

Edward Oscar Heinrich, August Vollmer and Staff.

Practical training in police problems. Case studies involving searches for and organization of evidence including use of modernized equipment. Arranged to meet individual preparation and opportunities for advancement of student. Subjects which may be taken up will include shadowing, roping, interrogating, searches of localities, identification, reports, records, assignments and control of squads. Open only to students actively interested in investigational or police work.

113g. *Intensive Course in Psychiatry from an Individual, Social, and Industrial Point of View.*—Dr. Ball.

Course includes a careful review of methods of examinations, personality studies, and at least three weeks' resident study in an institution for the insane or feeble-minded, or in a penal institution. Each student will be assigned a special problem involving psychiatry. Open to not more than ten students of special qualification. Credit to be arranged.

Dr. Ernest B. Hoag, of Pasadena, who for many years has been prominent in criminologic research, was in charge, during the past two months, of work similar to the above in the southern branch of the University of California Summer School at Los Angeles.

The National Probation Conference.—A critical analysis and restatement of the principals and functions of the Juvenile Court by leading judges and experts, and strong defense of the probation system, properly used, as one of the greatest crime preventives, features the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the National Probation Association in Milwaukee, June 20-23. The conference was significant both in bringing together 250 judges, probation officers and other court workers from almost every state, and in the earnest purpose manifested to examine and re-define the place of social work and social organization in the courts. Very largely the conference got away from mere eulogy and trite statement, and got down to intensive discussion, which should lead to better standards.

In the adult divisions the "Crime Wave," so-called, came in for some discussion. Figures and statements were presented by Mr. Chute, secretary of the Association, showing that newspaper intimations of a general crime increase were largely exaggerated. For this very reason, however, and because of the

present public attitude toward crime, there is greater need for the enforcement of high standards in probation work. Cases for probation must be carefully selected after, and not before, investigation, and the follow-up work of the probation officer must be intensified and standardized. The probation worker should utilize the present public interest to strengthen his work.

Dr. John M. Cooper of the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., speaking on the responsibility of society for delinquency, urged that workers in the court should give the public more information as to their work. Students in schools and colleges should be taught practical, present-day civics; the duties of the police, the work of juvenile and other courts, and the place of the correctional institutions.

Strong defense of the probation plan was voiced by Judge A. C. Backus of Milwaukee and Dr. Geo. W. Kirchwey of New York. Dr. Kirchwey urged preventive and early treatment and endorsed the probation plan of individual, helpful supervision as more scientific and effective than the prison plan can ever be.

The Family or Domestic Relations Court, urged by the Association's standards to deal with the family as a unit, was discussed by representatives of the Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Cincinnati courts. The movement is growing. Judge Hoffman reported great interest in and the probable establishment of such courts with broad powers in the cities of St. Louis and Baltimore. Non-support and all strictly family problems needing court action should be dealt with in conformity with practically all of the principals of the juvenile court, including previous investigation of cases by the probation officer, informality of procedure and lack of publicity.

The sessions of the juvenile court, arranged jointly with the Federal Children's Bureau, opened with the statement by Julia Lathrop pointing out "the danger of emphasizing the social aspects of the juvenile court at the expense of its legal authority," but answering in the negative the query, "Have we prevailing accessible provisions for the children and youth of our country who are brought into courts in need of the protection, guidance or restraint which have failed them elsewhere?"

This question was dwelt upon by Judge Charles W. Hoffman of Cincinnati. He showed that beneficent laws to protect children had generally failed to reach the delinquent child until the beginning of the 20th century. The juvenile court idea has been of inestimable value, but the courts are in general not yet functioning as they should, due to legalistic views. Besides this, lack of probation staffs, detention homes and clinical facilities, tend to subject the courts to severe and merited criticism. The National Probation Association and other agencies should spread the gospel throughout the nation that the juvenile court exists "not to try children as criminals, but to save them."

Standards for a good juvenile court were outlined by C. C. Carstens of New York. There must be a specially selected and qualified judge giving to the work of the court a considerable part of his time, adequate probation service, private hearings, and medical and psychological service; the court finding its place in co-operation with other agencies serving children in the community. "The juvenile court has suffered in the house of its friends," and is still on trial.

Judge Schoen of the Newark Juvenile Court pled for a broader jurisdiction. Adults contributing to the child's misfortune should all be triable before the socially minded judge of the juvenile court. There should be full equity powers. The tribunal which exists to protect and help children should not be handicapped

by the necessity of stigmatizing the child a "juvenile delinquent." This term should be eliminated. Even the term "juvenile court" has outlived its usefulness. The majority of children are victims of circumstances. To this theory of the court, Judge Hulbert of Detroit agreed, but Judge Sellers of Washington and Judge Waite of Minneapolis presented certain limitations. Judge Waite presented fundamental legal aspects, such as the necessity of regarding preponderance of evidence, but both urged the paramount importance of good probation service—the "eyes and ears" of the court.

Space forbids further statement of the various interesting viewpoints presented by some of the country's leading experts. The statements made and the conclusions agreed upon will form the basis of the work of a representative committee on juvenile court standards, to be appointed by the Children's Bureau and to work in co-operation with the National Probation Association during the coming year.

Special problems of unprotected girls were discussed and methods compared. The functions of probation officers, policewomen and protective workers were defined in a special report. Many resolutions were adopted, one authorizing a committee to formulate a plan for an ideal family court suitable for small as well as large communities, another providing for a committee on criminal research and statistics. The Association's bill now pending in Congress to establish probation in the Federal courts was endorsed. Plans for the work of the Association during the coming year were reported upon and these will be entered into with a greatly strengthened and more representative board of directors and executive staff.—Charles L. Chute, Secy., National Probation Association.

Meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.—The convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which was held in St. Louis June 6 to June 9, inc., was one of the most instructive conventions which the police of this country and Canada have held in many years. After the formal opening, the president, Chief Joseph M. Quigley, addressed the chiefs who were assembled and emphasized the importance of Americanizing Americans. He deprecated the growth of hyphenated Americanism in this country and insisted that the traditions, customs and practices of other countries should play no part in the affairs of America. Chief Quigley called attention to the general disrespect for law and order which prevails throughout the country, and attributed this disrespect to lack of parental training. He spoke of the necessity for co-operation between departments and of a central bureau of criminal records and crime statistics.

Col. Wm. A. Pinkerton next addressed the convention and made an appeal for scientific police laboratories. Colonel Pinkerton dwelt on the advances made by the various sciences in crime detection, and referred particularly to the work of the microscopist, chemical analyst, handwriting expert and other experts, whose knowledge contributed to the apprehension of criminals and the prevention of crime.

Chief James W. Higgins of Buffalo, New York, advocated the use of the wireless telegraph and telephone as a means of imparting police information and of apprehending criminals. Chief Higgins gave a number of excellent illustrations of the practical application of the use of wireless and urged all departments to install a wireless apparatus without delay.

Mrs. Mina Van Winkle, head of the Women's Police Bureau of Washington, D. C., told the police officials of the value of women police officers and general social welfare work in connection with crime prevention. Mrs. Van Winkle said that no modern police organization could afford to be without help from women specialists, trained for police service.

Chief Wm. P. Rutledge of Detroit, Michigan, addressed the convention on the benefits of the elimination of politics from police departments and other law-enforcing agencies and its consequent favorable results. The chief explained the benefits of the unified court plan now operating in Detroit and recommended the adoption of a similar plan in other cities.

Mr. George Worthington, Associate Director, Department of Law Enforcement Activities, Washington, D. C., gave an illuminating address on the police and the repression of prostitution in its various phases. His talk was illustrated by motion pictures.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

August Vollmer, President, Berkeley, Calif.

George Black, Secretary, Wilmington, Del.

Patrick Keiley, Treasurer, Plainfield, N. J.

Phillip T. Smith, Vice-President, New Haven, Conn.

Wm. P. Rutledge, 2nd Vice-President, Detroit, Mich.

J. M. Broughton, 3rd Vice-President, Portsmouth, Va.

Albert A. Carroll, 4th Vice-President, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Samuel Dickson, 5th Vice-President, Toronto, Canada.

Lona B. Day, Sergeant-at-Arms, Scranton, Pa.

San Francisco, California, was selected as the convention city for 1922.—August Vollmer.

How Women's Alliance Handles Motion Picture Problem in Minneapolis.—Mr. Orrin G. Cocks, secretary and editor of the Bulletin of the Affiliated Committee for Better Films, calls the moving pictures a tonic for the mentally unstrung. In one of his bulletins which he issues monthly he writes: "The pressure of life bears down hard at times and nerves or minds are depressed. We are distracted, unstrung, touchy, sleepless, dull, or fly off the handle. The world is thronged with people who cannot meet the day with a composed mind and a smile. Multitudes of men are wondering what can lift a man out of himself, make him forget and become more interested in something more worth while than himself. There are mental hygiene experts, pathologists, psychiatrists, neurotic physicians, play leaders, health builders and religious workers. The mass of people seek an oasis in the desert drudgery of life and find it now in the dramatic motion pictures."

The Women's Co-operative Alliance of Minneapolis recognized that the motion pictures could be made a preventive of much delinquency. It might be developed into "an oasis in the desert drudgery of life" and so in the spring of 1920 the general board decided to put forth a better movie movement in Minneapolis. The first thing done was to get in touch, through correspondence, with better movie committees in all the larger cities of the United States and thus to gather the opinions of many based on actual experience, on the effective methods of promoting the showing of good pictures. A well recognized and wide-spread demand for the better film was found everywhere. On the whole, authorities agreed that state censorship wherever it had been tried had been a

thorough failure. "State censorship has been tried and has failed," said Mrs. Robbins Gilman, the executive secretary of the Alliance. "It destroys rather than improves motion pictures and affords no protection to childhood and youth. No amount of censorship can change the theme unsuitable for young people into one that is suitable." The slogan adopted by the Women's Co-operative Alliance for the work of promoting better films is "Selection, not Censorship, the solution." The principle upon which the work is based is self-determination and co-operation.

Moving picture managers, with whom the movement was discussed, frankly admitted that they gave the public what the public wanted and that in many instances the demand for cheap and sensational stories far exceeded the desire for wholesome films. In discussing motion pictures with mothers and fathers all over the city, the district secretaries of the Alliance were assured by a majority of them that there was much in the motion picture program that they did not like and a great deal to which they objected. Public sentiment was found to be changing constantly for the better and becoming really ominous, but the sentiment was not yet crystallized, systematized. It needed direction and control. After having recognized this, a plan was speedily developed, by the executive secretary of the Alliance, to secure a large local group living near each theater in the city to confer with the manager upon his problems and his desires.

After five months of work, the results obtained are as follows:

Thirty-eight neighboring committees have been organized and are active at the present time in the work for better films. To these committees belong delegates from churches, schools, clubs of each respective district, the manager of the theater and as many volunteers as can be interested. All these committees are completely organized with a permanent chairman and a secretary and many sub-committees who are covering the theater at each performance. The first work done by these enthusiastic workers was to make a thorough survey of the physical conditions of their theaters as relates to lighting, proper seating, sanitation, ventilation, music and conduct of audience. Detailed reports of their work were given at the Citizens' Council meetings of the Women's Co-operative Alliance. Although no startling and sensational results have been accomplished by these committees, they have awakened the various communities to their responsibilities and to the fact that the manager is willing to listen to their wishes and that the improvement of the film will depend entirely on the taste and judgment of the father and mother in the community.—From the *Social Hygiene Bulletin*, Vol. VIII, No. 6, June, 1921.