

CRIME AND THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN BAR

Which is Discussed the Menace That Crooked Lawyers Have Brought; American Bar Association Condemns Many Lawyers as

(By John B. Wallace)

This article is in two parts, and the second will appear soon.

The United States is today being swamped by the greatest crime wave in its history. Contempt for law by a portion of our population is only equaled by the indifference of the re-mainder. The average citizen persues the daily record of assaults, robberies and murders in his newspaper to ev-claim: "It is terrible. Something ought to be done about it." But he, himself, does nothing. Occasionally, in some of the southern and western states, citizens take the law into their own hands, and organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan spring up. Most of these attempts are so interwoven with religious prejudice that their effect is nullified.

Crime and criminals we have al-Crime and criminals we have always had. There are men and women whose diseased minds cause them to prey upon society. But criminals in the past to a large extent were isolated, their crimes sporadic. Today there is an interwoven fabric of crime covering the continent. Crime has become a business. Its tentacles reach into every stratum of society. Crime has taken a leaf from the back of big. has taken a leaf from the book of big business. In fact, it is now itself big

Crime, which itself is defined as any violation of human or divine law, can be roughly divided into crimes against property and crimes against man. These can be subdivided into crimes of guile and crimes of violence. Crimes of guile and crimes of violence. Crimes of guile are compassed through trickery; crimes of violence by the application of force. The first almost invariably leads to the second. A brainy crook will seldom resort to violence, but for the crook of low mentality it is the only recourse. The success of master crooks inspires the lower criminals to emulation in the only manner of which they are cap-

High Finance and Crime

Whenever there is an era of what might be called "high-class" crime, sometimes sugar-coated by the term "high finance," by means of which crooks, whether in the guise of promoters, financiers or captains of industry, rob the public of its savings, it is followed by a wave of violent crimes.

The center of crime is, today, as it has always been, in the larger cities. In these congested centers of population, where no one knows his neighpor's business, the criminal can work to better advantage than in the country or smaller towns where all eyes day (the committee are focused upon him. In the cities, outlitted be in jail. criminals of all degrees have gravitated into organizations which have their ramifications extending into the very citadels of the officers whom sosiety has chosen to defend it. It is this discovery by criminals of the value of organization together with

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Men and women,—whether you will ever build yourself up to your normal, just-right weight depends on the number of blood-cells in your blood. That's all there is to it. It's a scientific fact. If your blood-cell factory isn't working right, you will be run-down, thin, your blood will be in disorder, and perhaps your face will be broken out with pimples, blackheads and eruptions. S. S. S. keeps your blood-cell factory working full time. It helps build new blood-cells. That's why S. S. builds up thin, run-down people, it puts firm flesh on your bones, it rounds out your face, arms neck, ilmbs, the whole body. It puts the "pink" in your cheeks, it takes the hollowness from the eyes, and it fools Father Time by smoothing out wrinkles in men and women by "plumping" them up. S. S. S. is a remarkable blood-purifier. While you are getting plump, your skin eruptions, pimples, blackheads, aree, rheumatism, rash, tetter, blotches are being removed. The medicinal ingredients of S. S. sare guaranteed purely vegetable, S. S. S, is sold at all drug stores, in two sizes. The larger size is the more economical,

even murderers. These rings, through liberal use of money and political influence, have corrupted members of the state, county and city police forces, have pur-chased the bar and often reached the bench itself until honest officials who really wish the law enforced find enforced find really wish the law enforced find themselves helpless, their hands vir-tually tied. Thus the public is left defenseless, at the mercy of the ene-mies to society. The press, which should sound the alarm and awaken the lethergie public to its description. the lethargic public to its danger, usually expends its energies exploting the results but ignoring the basic

cause.

There is a remedy for this menacing state of affairs. It is an obvious remedy, and a simple one. If the members of the legal profession, if 50 per cent only of the members of the bar would forget their private interests and devote themselves unreservedly to the public welfare, the crime wave could be wiped out in six months and future crime reduced to a months and future crime reduced to a

Lawyers, Defend Yourselves
The truth is that the bar upon
which the public depends for the proper admisistration of justice and protection from those who float the law is no longer either efficient or honest. Graft, mental and moral corruption, the greed fir money and notoriety and the "Let George do it" spirit have brought it to ap oint where instead of acting as a crime deterrent it functions largely are a graphy in instance.

tions largely as a crime inciter.
Crime is not only defined as a violation of Divine or human laws but it is also defined as an omission of a duty commanded. It is the sworn duty of every lawyer to uphold the law. Failure to do so classes him with the criminals.

A few honest and courageous individuals in the legal ranks are battling bravely to overcome this inertia, this inefficiency, this disregarding of professional ethics and ideals, and downright dishonesty swamping their profession

fession.

That the leaders of the bar have begun to realize this condition themselves is evidenced by the investiselves is evidenced by the investigation now being conducted by the American Bar Association.

The report of the committee which is looking into the causes leading to

the present crime wave gives five pro-bable causes, three of which reflect directly upon the bar itself.

This committee consists of eminent members of the profesison as W. B. Swasey, of Chattanooga, Tenn., Charles S. Whitman, former governor of New York; Judge Marcus A. Kavanaugh, of Chicago; Charles W. Farnham, of St. Paul and Wade H. Ellis, of Washington, D. C.

The five probable causes for the crime wave, which the committee discovered after taking testimony in the principal cities of the country, are as eminent members of the profesison as

principal cities of the country, are as

follows:

"First that the crime wave is a natural outgrowth of the World War. "Second, that the crime wave instead of being an outgrowth of the war is merely one of the causes that lead to the war and which is continuing in aggravated form since the war has ended

has ended.

"Third, a growing belief on the part of the masses throughout the country that the courts are only for the rich and that they deny justice to the poor with a resulting tendency on the part of the poor to take the law into their own hands.

into their own hands.

"Fourth, that the trouble is largely with the members of the bar themselves. Many men practicing law today (the committee has been told)

Fifth, that conviction for crime in the courts is becoming increasingly difficult and that the criminal once convicted is not punished sufficiently to deter others from repeating his offense."

offense."

That the trouble may lie in all five is true, but for this article the first two causes may be dismissed. They were lergely psychological. A few weak minds may have been influenced by war-induced hysteria and a sense of the injustice of the scheme of things to turn against their fellow men but it is difficult to convince a reasoning mind that the great mass of the men who went abroad to give their lives if necessary would so quickly reverse their convictions. Our excuse for going into the war was to excuse for going into the war was to

excuse for going into the war was to preserve democracy and democracy does not mean anarchy and crime.

The High Cost of Justise

The third cause given "that the courts are for the rich and deny justice to the poor" is not a new complaint. Here the trouble is not with the law itself which, in theory, places all upon the same plane, but with its practical administration. practical administration.

Daily in every court is witnessed the man with money and influence escaping the penalty of his misdeeds whether on a murder charge or an arrest for speeding. Minor offenses, it is true, furnish a better example of this than graver charges where public attention is focused and the force of publid opinion felt. In any case, the poor man without money to hire competent lawyers and without influential friends is handicapped. Except in cities where the office of public defender has been established he is forced to depend upon fledging at-Daily in every court is witnessed is forced to depend upon fledging at-torneys or those who, because of the small fee allowed by the court, devote note more than perfunctory attention

But it is so much the system of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused, nor its administration, that is at fault. Despite its defects that is at fault. Despite its defects there are surprisingly few innocent persons convicted, whether rich or poor. It is conservatively estimated poor. It is conservatively estimated that for every innocent person wrongly convicted a thousand guilty ones escape. It is in the degree of the punishment wherein lies the in-

the laxity and indifference of the general public that causes the "crime wave" of today to be of such potential menace to the nation.

From New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Seattle, New Orleans, Cleveland, Cinhinnati, Detroit, San Frandisro, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Kansas City and many other lities these rings of arch criminals radiate out to the surrounding country. Here we have rings of automobile thieves, bank robbers, bootleggers, white slavers, dope peddlers, burglars, bunco men, blackmailers and even murderers.

Justice as between rich and pool.

Immediately upon conviction of a wealthy man, or one with political inuence, the machinery is set in motion to obtain a pardon or a mitigation of sentence. The poor man stays in prison, forgotten by all except perhaps his immediate family. The penalty of poverty is also felt in the administration of the alternative of fine or imprisonment. The rich man pays his fine without suffering even temporary inconvenience. The poor man pays his debt to society with his body, by the sacrifice of his liberty.

The fourth reason given for the crime wave places the blace for it squarely on the shoulders of the bar itself. It should rest not only on those crooked members specified but also upon the other members whose lack of initiative and moral courage

lack of initiative and moral courage allows surh conditions to exist.

Ocraionally there is a lawyer who dares to speak out. Thomas Lee Woolwine is district attorney for Los Angeles County, which embraces a population of more than a milion people and Mr. Woolwine is in a position to knot whereof he speaks.

people and Mr. Woolwine is in a position to knol whereof he speaks.

In a statement to The Dearborn Independent, Mr. Woolwine says:

"I am convinced after many years of experience that I am justified in the assertion that fully 75 per cent of the atorneys who make it their bhsiness to defend persons charged with crime are subirners of perjury and should be in the penitentiary themselves.

"There is no single force in the United States today that so menaces the lives and property of the people of this lountry as these crooked criminal lawyers. The stock in trade of these vultures is to suborn perjury by the wholesale, to terrify witnesses and by wholesale, to terrify witnesses and by every villanious trick and device to discredit, if possible, the prosecution. As if this were not enough they glory in cheap tricks to create 'atmosphere' by all kinds of false pretenses and baseless arguments and motions. They do not hesitate to corrupt and terrido not hesitate to corrupt and terrify witnesses and in many instances to drive them from the jurisdiction of the courts of the state. In my own experience it has often been necessary to have armed guards accompany the witnesses for the people, to protect them night and day from the machinations of these scoundrels.

Sentimentalizing Over Criminals "Also aming the worst commissions of

"Also aming the worst enemies of the people in the orderly administration of the criminal law is the lying, unscrupulous press.

"During the progress o fthe prose cution of notorious cases the representatives of these evil institutions are busy molding public sentiment to the busy molding public sentiment to the belief that assassins and murderer are being terribly oppressed and, in fact, are heroes and heroines of the most admirable type. oLng, slushy, oozing sob stories by sentimental misguided females envelope these criminals in an atmosphere of false romance and maudlin pity. These stories aided bf innuendo deify the murderer and blacken the memory of the murdered blacken the memory of the murdered dead."

This attitude of the bar, aided by the yelliw press, the stage and the motion pictures, as Mr. Woolwine points out, has created a false sentimentality among the general public that handicaps and almost nullifies the efforts of those public officials who are conscientiously attempting protect society from its enemies.

A few years ago novelists and play-wrights, by harping upon certain an-doubted abuses of their position by public prosecutors and police officers, were greatly instrumental in forming a prejudice in the public mind against officers of the law. This prejudice has never entirely died out and recently it has been awakened and fanned into it has been awakened and fanned into flame by clever, unscrupulous lawyers, by the yellow press and by the motion pictures. A large alien element in our population, and element that is quick to cash in on sickly sentiment that disguises the acquisition of dirty dollars, is also a contributing factor. There has been a great deal of mystery hedged about the law. The average citizen is prone to regard it as an intricate affair, something standing aloof and apart from him. Lawyers have done much to encourage this

yers have done much to encourage this idea as it trebles their importance and enables them to collect fees not com-mensurate with the value of their ser-

Yet law is or should be one of the simplest things in our daily experience. Law in its general sense is nothing but a rule of conduct. A few persons living off by themselves can get along without any laws except perhaps certain oral agreements. A person living entirely apart from his person living entirely apart from his kind needs no law whatever. But os kind needs no law whatever. But os
the size of a community increases,
rules of conduct are necessary until,
in the present complex stage of our
civilization with nearly one-half of
our population crowded into cities, so
many rules or laws are required that
one-tenth of the citizens are utilized
to draw up, interpret and enforce the
legislation laid down for our guidance.
The Producers of Law
The politicians who make our laws

The Producers of Law

The politicians who make our laws, the lawyers who interpret them, and the peace officers who enforce them are fundamentally a parasitic class as they contribute nothing in an economic sense to society. Yet they constitute a vital part of our social structure. They might be said to be inflicted upon humanity because of its sins. With the Golden Rule followed to the letter, the necessity for lawyers and peace officers would vanish and with them would go the parasite of parasites, the professional politician.

cian.
The function of the law to society is as oil and grease are to machinery. It is supposed to lubricate the wheels

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of our social organization so that it will run smoothly with a minimum of friction. The law should adjust minor inequalities of temper and temperament, compromise in the clash of conflicting interests, bring order out of disorder through the strict application of the principle of justice; a most important function, one of inmost important function, one of in-estimable service to human'ty if the bench and bar had kept the faith. That it has failed and failed lamentis shown by the condition of so-

ciety today.

Instead of greasing the machinery of society the bar seemingly has delighted in throwing sand into its lighted in throwing sand into its gears. Instead of compromising and reconciling, it has aggravated and irritated. In unholy alliance with the professional politician it has added to the rules of social conduct until by their very multiplicity they are practically nullified.—The Dearborn Independent.

BLAME ENGINEER

FOR BIG SMASH

De Soto, Mo., Aug. 7 .- (By the Associated Press.)—Blame for the Mis-

NOTICE

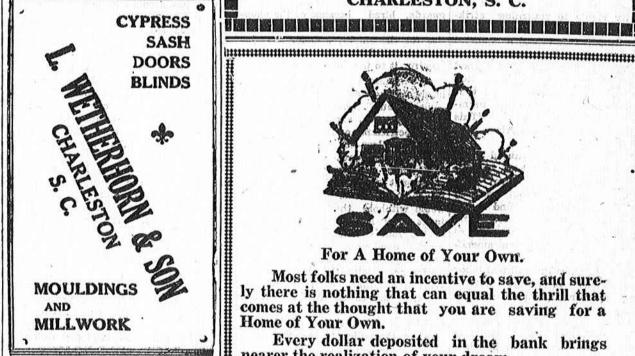
To Creditors of the Estate of H. D.

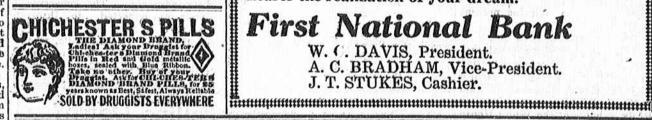
Thomas, deceased: TAKE NOTICE, That an order was for Clarendon County in an action of E. P. Thomas, as Administrator of the Estate of H. D. Thomas, deceased, Plaintiff, against Beulah R. Thomas, and others, restraining and enjoining all creditors frem instituting or prosecuting any actions for the enforcement of their claims against said estate. Also appointing the undersigned as Special Referee and requiring all creditors of the estate of H. D. Thomas, deceased to come in and file their claims with the undersigned, as such Referee, within thirty days file their claims with the undersigned, as such Referce, within thirty days fro mthe 16th day of August 1922, or they will be forever barred.

S. Oliver O'Bryan,

Special Referee. Aug. 2, 1922.

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souri Pacific wreck at Sulphur Springs Saturday night, which caused death to thirty-five and injury to more than 100 was fixed on Engineer Matthew "Ginger" Glenn, of fast passenger No. 4, by a coroner's jury which investigated the disaster late today. The jury at first returned an open verdict bdt later reversed its decision stating that Glenn, who was killed when he leaped from his cab had failto observe signals warning him that the track ahead was not clear.

In arriving at the verdict the jury heard testimony of members of the crews of both trains, which in effect was that neither train received orders pertaining to the other. Members of the crew on No. 4 testified no orders had been received that No. 32 was on the track and members of No. 32 declared no orders had been received that No. 4 was behind them.

After the first vardict was returned, Coroner George W. Elders, of Jefferson county, objected and

the jurymen thereupon reversed themselves and returned the following verdict:

"The persons killed in the wreck came to their death through the negligence of Engineer Matthew Glenn in failure to obey signals."

Engineer Glenn had received orders "on the run" to pull over on a siding at Cliff Cave, fifteen miles south of St. Louis to allow the sunshine special No. to pass and it is believed that he was reading these orders when he passed the block ignal, warning him of an unclear track.

No orders had been received concerning No. 32 The signals were the only means of showing the track was not clear at Sulphur Springs.

The death toll was brought to thirty-five this afternoon with the death of Pearl Goff, of Cadet, Mo., a sister of Buelah Goff, who was killed in the wreck and a niece of William Goff, who was injured.

Experienced men wanted for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company in its Mechanical Department. Vacancies exist at Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga., Jesup, Ga., Waycross, Ga., Brunswick, Ga., Albany, Ga., Thomasville, Ga., River Junction, Fla., Dothan, Ala., and Montgomery, Ala.

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