

The Illinois Crime Survey

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Illinois Crime Survey. Published by the Illinois Association for Criminal Justice in co-operation with the Chicago Crime Commission. Printed by the Blakely Printing Company, Chicago.

This large volume of 1,100 large pages deals with a subject of vital interest in these *volsteadian* times namely the important influence which organized crime has assumed in the metropolis of the West, the city of Chicago. This is not saying that the conditions described did not exist at least to some extent before the anti-saloon league wished its remedy for all existing ills on the country. However the vast opportunities afforded by bootlegging and hijacking to make money in undreamed of quantities at comparative slight risk by supplying the thirsty American citizen with a ready means of breaking the law has not only resulted in drawing practically all the criminal elements into this new gold mine but has spread a contempt of all law through the rank and file of society.

Perhaps no other city in the country, not even New York, is a better example of what has happened since the saloons theoretically went out, than is Chicago. Its laws are largely antiquated and its politics proverbially corrupt; filling many of the public offices from the highest down to the policeman on the beat with henchmen of the crime rings. An antiquated system of laws administered to a large extent by agents of the foes of all law cannot but result in crass inefficiency in the police system, in the prosecutor's office, in the trial courts, in the jury system and in the probation, parole, and prison system. Add to all this the natural selfishness of many of the citizens interested on occasions in getting some public officer to do something which he should not do or to allow the citizen to do something which the law forbids and the picture in its large outlines is nearly complete.

The volume in its 1,100 pages fills in the minute details. This is particularly the case in regard to the last three hundred pages which contains hundreds of names of criminals and semi-criminals and states their relationship to organized crime. No attempt can be made in this short review to make even a résumé of some of these chapters. It must suffice to merely enumerate some of the chapter headings. These run in part as follows: The Exploitation of Prostitution, The Beer Wars, Terrorization by Bombs, Racketeering, The Gangster and the Politician, Funerals of Gangsters, etc.

The editor of the volume is John H. Wigmore, for nearly twenty-five years dean of the University of Northwestern Law School, who writes a short but very enlightening preface. The director of the survey is Arthur V. Lashly from St. Louis who was called to Chicago to make the survey after he had made a success of a similar venture at St. Louis. The first part of the volume covering 592 pages and entitled "The Machinery of Justice" is in large part written by C. E. Gehlke though a great number of its chapters are written by other men. The second part entitled "Specific Types of Offenses and Offenders" and consisting of 220 pages is written by various men including Mr. Lashly. The contents of the last three hundred pages have already been referred to. They form part three of the volume and are entitled "Organized Crime in Chicago" and are written by John Landesco. To anyone interested in the manner in which

the prohibition law has reacted on organized crime the volume will be invaluable. For the conditions described are not confined to Chicago but exist; fortunately to a more or less decreased degree, in any city of any size in the country and even in the hamlets and villages which dot the country side.

PROFESSOR CARL ZOLLMANN

The Expert. By Oscar C. Mueller, former President of the Los Angeles Bar Association. Pocket Edition published by the Saturday Night Publishing Company, Los Angeles, California, 1929. Price \$1.50.

Believe no experts says the cynic bar,
They—how unjust—all alike divide.
This swears white black; but straightway hand impar.
An equal sage approves the candid side.

Quotations such as the one just set forth could be cited as the expression of the American people in regard to expert testimony. Unfortunate as this situation may be, that organ, the American press, which has done so much to put this unsavory idea into the minds of our people, could do just as much by appropriate editorials to assist in the formation and passage of uniform legislation governing the admission of such evidence.

A book regardless of the subject upon which it is written can best be judged by comparing the finished product with the purpose the author had in writing it. Mr. Mueller intended to present the dire need for the adoption of a statute throughout America to regulate expert testimony. He did not want to write a law book, but rather one which could be easily understood by the laymen. A book which would be unhampered by technical terms.

After a perusal of this small volume the reader feels that the writer has been successful in carrying out the purpose which prompted him to write the book. It contains a review of the famous criminal cases as the Remus, Hickman, Thaw, and Northcott trials, paying, of course, particular attention to the bearing expert testimony had upon the outcome of the litigation.

The author sets forth the need for competent, expert witnesses who would receive their compensation from the states and who would not be interested, at least financially, in the outcome of the suit. He has also shown how California has pioneered in the field by the adoption of comprehensive law. The time and study which Mr. Mueller has expended in compilation of this book is evidenced by the type of material he has selected.

JOHN A. KLUWIN

Lectures delivered before The Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Volume VII. The MacMillan Company, 1929.

This volume of 359 pages contains discussions of sixteen different leading questions of interest to the lawyer and to the layman. It is a collection of addresses delivered in the court year 1925-1926, by eminent members of the Association and others under the auspices of the Committee on Conferences and Lectures.

This particular volume is the seventh of a series which it is hoped will continue from year to year. The articles contained in this book are all leading and are written by men experienced in the particular field which they have