



1928

## An Indictment

Richard E. Wenzel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Wenzel, Richard E. (1928) "An Indictment," *North Dakota Law Review*: Vol. 5 : No. 7 , Article 1.  
Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/ndlr/vol5/iss7/1>

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in North Dakota Law Review by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [und.common@library.und.edu](mailto:und.common@library.und.edu).

# BAR BRIEFS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

— BY —

## STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Richard E. Wenzel, Editor.

Entered as Second Class Matter Jan. 15, 1925, at the Postoffice at  
Bismarck, North Dakota, Under the Act of August 24, 1912

VOL. 5

JUNE, 1929

NO. 7

### AN INDICTMENT

Twenty-five years a criminal, serving time in various places, then sentenced to a year instead of to life and admonished by the Judge: "I believe you have sufficient character to build a new life, I will give you that chance," that is the record; and upon the basis of that record and its experiences we are told that the Baumes and kindred laws are violent and breed more violence, inciting the desperate to "Drop him before he drops you."

We refer to the author of "What's Wrong With the Right People" in the June Harpers, who points with scorn to the case of the sweetheart of a man charged with a series of robberies, and who, after third-degree methods, divulged information that convicted the robber, the conclusion of the author being that such methods only radiate hatred, fear and mistrust, and subject the informants to the daily danger of being "taken for a ride."

The author places considerable emphasis upon methods of prevention, but suggests no methods, offering only that the selection of more Thomas Mott Osbornes, Warden Smiths and August Vollmers would result in the discovery of causes of crime, remove the causes and thus decrease violence.

Admitting that we sometimes give too little attention to the high chair and too much to the electric chair, "lay too much stress on what the wrong people do, not on why they do it, on what they are instead of how they got that way," the article makes our thoughts stray in this direction: Why should people fear to be "taken for a ride" for supplying truthful information? Are the problems raised by "first offenders" the same as the problems raised by "habitual criminals"? Do we not all err in making too broad generalizations from specific instances? Should not further generalization wait on the report of President Hoover's committee?