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Cost and Causes of Crime

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RETIRING CHIEF JUSTICE COMMENDS ASSOCIATION

The following represents a portion of the letter transmitted recently by Hon. H. A. Bronson, retiring chief justice of the Supreme Court, to the President of the Association:

"Already, the Bar Association has made auspicious beginnings towards the attainment of its potential possibilities. A spirit of co-operation, interest and activity is manifested by the Committees of the Association and the membership at large. Through this co-operation, interest and activity, substantial results are already in evidence for the Bench and Bar of this State in the better and more efficient administration of justice.

"Now, to promote the betterment of the work of the Association, and the better co-operation and interest of its membership, there appears, through your initiative and that of your Executive Committee, a beginning in the field of journalism through the publication of a monthly journal, prepared, edited, and published by lawyers, members of the Association. This, at least, is the attainment of one objective which for some time I have inherently desired to see accomplished.

"As the New Year is nigh at hand, I desire to express my expectant wish that the Association, under your guidance and that of its Executive Committee, may gather unto itself, in the New Year, greater strength and still greater attainment of the beneficent purposes for which it has been established and that the monthly journal, just initiated, may enlist the active interest, co-operation and support of the entire Bar of this State."

Harrison A. Bronson
Chief Justice.

In acknowledging this letter, President Cupler expressed the kindly feelings existing on the part of the Bar towards the retiring member of our Supreme Court.

COST AND CAUSES OF CRIME

"Estimates presented at the recent meeting of the American Bankers Association fixed last year's losses to the owners of property, as the result of the operations of criminals of all kinds, at a sum that exceeded the total expenditures of the Federal Government in the same year. In other words, the losses resulting from dishonesty reached to between \$3,000,000,000 and \$4,000,000,000. This stupendous sum represents one year's cost of society's failure to measure and cope with crime.

"Justice James C. Cropsey of the Supreme Court of New York attributes over eighty per cent of crime to persons under twenty-five years of age. In his opinion, the average youthful criminal operates upon the theory that the world owes him a living. Justice Cropsey, therefore, finds that moral, instead of mental, deficiencies account for most criminal acts. According to his observations, the criminal proclivities of the young are due to inadequate home training and to the decline of religious

influences. Justice Cropsey says that the young criminal is easily led into radicalism, a fact which shows that his predisposition to crime is in part an outgrowth of his political and economic education.

"The situation presents a major problem for the consideration of the responsible leadership of the country."

The foregoing is from an American Exchange National Bank letter. It may not be amiss, therefore, to point out possible sources of inspiration. We point to some testimony taken by the Lusk Committee in New York a few years ago:

"Q. Do you mean that they teach the children to disregard the law?
A. I mean that our attitude towards the child would be for him to take his position in regard to the law.

"Q. Then, according to the teachings, a child might arrive, however, at a conclusion that a particular law, being offensive to his ideals, he could disregard it although it is the law? A. If he was prepared to take the consequences. That is up to the child.

"Q. If they are prepared to take the consequences, they are at liberty to feel that they may disregard the specific statutes of the United States? A. If they are prepared to act and take the consequences of their acts, if they are prepared to act according to their consciences and take the responsibility for their acts, that would not be out of harmony with the teachings of the Ferrer School."

Do you wonder that the valedictory peroration of one of the students read like this?

"In the great world-wide struggle which is taking place today, we must take an active part. We must not fail, we must not falter. The ideals which inspired Marx and Engels, Bebel and Lassalle, the ideals which today inspire Debs and Lenine (now deceased), are the ideals which inspire us."

UNIFORM INTERPRETATIONS OF CANONS OF ETHICS

Members of the Association have doubtless noted, from the publication of the opinions of the Committee on Professional Ethics and Grievances in the Journal, that this committee has begun to avail itself of the added authority given it some time since. A wide field of usefulness has been opened to it. One of the particular advantages which it is hoped will result from the enlarged power of the Committee in respect to problems submitted from state and local bar association, is a gradual unification of the interpretation of the canons of ethics by bar associations throughout the country. Writing on this point, in an article in the July, 1922, issue of the Journal, Chairman Thomas Francis Howe of the Association's committee said:

"Most, if not all, of these local associations have adopted the Canons of Ethics of this Association, and many of the questions which their