

prenticeship in the uniformed ranks. We must give the chief of the department the power to hire the best men he can get wherever and however he can get them. The distinction between the detective squad and the routine branches of our police must never be dismissed.

Again, the members of the detective forces must have a fundamental legal knowledge. The successful detective must know enough of law and evidence to prepare his testimony in a form that will stand cross-examination. He must know facts from a legal angle, and how to present them. In many of our large cities the prosecuting attorney's office now feels it necessary to do a large amount of detective work before it will undertake a trial—work which is not properly in its province and which should have been done by the police before the case ever reached its hands.

THE public hears a good deal of delayed trials, of long-drawn-out continuances, of weary adjournments for new evidence, and blames the machinery of the courts and a superabundance of legal technicalities. As a matter of fact, it is not too much legal knowledge in our courts but not enough legal knowledge in our detectives that is often the root of the evil.

A business-managed police department should have an advertising appropriation. It should have the means, for instance, to get out five thousand or ten thousand post-cards at a half day's notice, with the photograph and description of the fugitive wanted. It should be empowered to print hand-bills and posters, with the conspicuous data of escaped criminals. Displayed in public places—railroad stations, post-offices, store windows—these should be an inestimable aid to the machinery of justice. A case by way of illustration:

Two or three years ago, a peculiarly atrocious double murder and robbery were committed in the city of Washington. Handbills and post-cards, giving a description of the man suspected of the crime, were sent broadcast through the country. Three months later, a poster in a Texas postoffice lobby caught the eye of a lounging farmer, who recognized the description as that of a new "hand" working in his neighborhood. The suspect was taken into custody, sent back to Washington, tried and convicted.

Reverting to the greater efficiency of the police department as an organization and the specific evils to be charged against it, we must face the fact that reform is not entirely a question of methods and personnel. Periodically the country is swept by a police-graft exposé. We are told that our police system has degenerated into an organization of money-leeches, preying on the denizens of the underworld, and we are given startling facts in support of the charges. It is not the purpose of this article to deal with the question of graft in public office. Certain phases of the so-called graft epidemic, however, as related to our police system, it seems to me are not given their proper significance. We are too prone to deal with results rather than with causes. The probe of our reform may be sincere enough but it does not go deep enough.

For instance, the problem of the Tenderloin. It is generally admitted, I believe, that the most general phases of police-corruption are traced to two conditions; illegal saloon activities, and the trade of fallen women. As a matter of fact, neither of these evils should be a police problem. The question of their control or lack of control is not properly a detail of police administration.

Graft-campaigns are excellent, if only as public alarm clocks. Most of our graft crusades, however, merely change the recipients of the graft. The big question of the graft itself is left where it was. And with, at least two of the main roots of public

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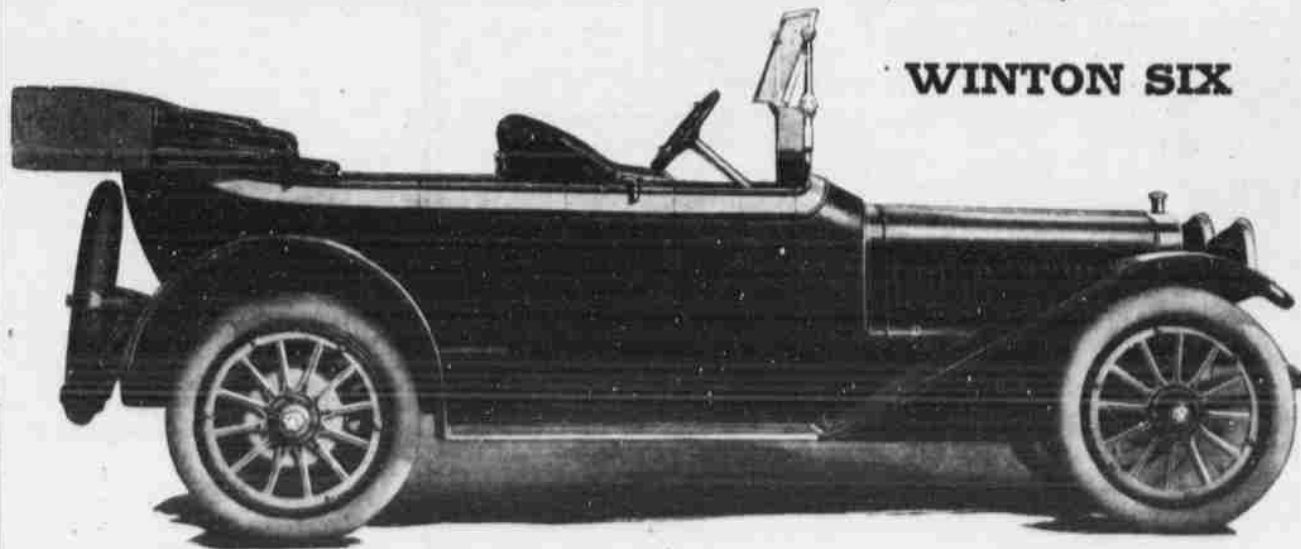
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