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## AN OCTOPUS of JUSTICE for the SHARKS of CRIME

### The New Bureau Proposed to Combat Foes of Law and Order

"I URGE the state and municipal authorities, not of New York alone, but of every city and section affected by alien criminal conditions, to co-operate with the officials of the Immigration Department in the eradication of anarchy and the suppression of crimes and criminal modes of life among those who have made this the country of their adoption."

In these words, after a long and apparently futile endeavor to evolve some method which should reliably repress anarchy and criminal socialism in the United States, Oscar Straus, secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, offered the germ of a plan of co-operation, by which all law and all constituted authorities can unite for the preservation of private safety and public order.

Already — quietly, effectively, almost mysteriously — the police officials and the leading detective organizations of the large cities have combined in an organization for the overthrow of the more dangerous among our native criminals.

The most far-seeing among the law's guardians are agreed that only by the establishment of a central, national bureau of crime, endowed with resources commensurate with the newly discovered magnitude of the task, can the swift, appalling avalanche of thuggery, burglary, blackmail and anarchy be held in check.

They would create some mighty octopus of righteousness, equipped with myriad arms, operating in noiseless secrecy with mechanical accuracy, able to stretch its tentacles from border to border and from sea to sea, instantly grappling with the sharks that prey upon the body social and political, and paralyzing their powers for evil at the first, unescapable touch.

Why is so huge an engine of protection needful — and how, if ever, is it to be attained?

LET us turn again to Secretary Straus, well-intentioned head of a cabinet department, puzzled man of affairs in the face of an emergency which the founders of the republic never dreamed could arise.

He reviewed the endeavors of Congress to guard against undesirable immigrants. But the immigration law extends for a period of only three years subsequent to the arrival of the alien criminal, and for those crimes only, committed prior to landing, of which the alien has been convicted or of which he makes confession.

Anarchists, or persons who believe in and advocate the overthrow by force or violence of this government, or of all government or forms of law, can be denied admission. Federal statutes make the propagation of anarchic doctrines an offense, and define as a capital crime attempts to assassinate officials of certain classes.

But, the secretary was candid to admit, there is no power in the hands of the federal government, under the immigration act, to deport any alien for crimes committed after he has succeeded in entering the country.

To many the feasibility of the European passport system has made an appeal, as being a protection presenting ideal features for the exclusion of the dangerous, and even the undesirable, alien.

"But," observed Secretary Straus, "we have found, in the administration of the law for the exclusion of the Chinese and in separate investigations of individual cases of European aliens bearing passports, that the falsification of passports and the securing of the passports of aliens who have no criminal records by those who have is a matter of such ease and fre-

quency that to impose a passport regulation would be merely to build up a flourishing traffic in passports abroad.

"Then, again, we would be infringing on the right of asylum, which is one of the funda-

mental principles of the republic.

"From our colonial days we have been a haven of political refuge. In all of our treaties with other nations is embodied the political refugee clause maintaining a principle in com-

mon with Great Britain, Holland and Switzerland.

"If we were to make a passport regulation we would prevent all citizens of foreign countries who have come into political disfavor from

exercising this right of asylum, because they would be unable to obtain the passports from their government, or, as we have already found by experience in the immigration department, their political enemies would continue to trump up charges involving moral turpitude, which would throw them back into the oppression from which they seek to escape."

So the passport system affords no promise. Yet, as the secretary emphatically avers, every added crime and outbreak enhances the necessity for a strong, clean-cut and, withal, sanely considered movement to stamp out the ferment of violence that is fastening itself upon the social structure. And the federal government, single handed, can not cope with it.

But anarchy, startling as is its every manifestation, from the wanton assassination of the priest at the sacred altar and the desperate attack upon a great city's chief of police in his own home, to the typical, hurled bomb in crowded Union Square, has accomplished far less actual ruin and has spread far less genuine terror than a single other imported crime, the secret dastardliness of the Mafia.

Anarchists who dare the practice of their



theories are few in comparison with Black Hand thugs, whose livelihood is their readiness for assassination; the bombs of anarchy, thus far at least, have played the ludicrous role of squibs beside the wrecks of humanity and property that call for vengeance on the Mafia's cruel and cowardly hands.

All of them together would make a highly profitable exchange for the aggregate loot, rapine and murder which can be laid at the door of our own native criminal, vastly more numerous as an active offender, vastly more daring in his latest guise as the indomitable yegg, vastly more wanton in his annual destruction of human life and more costly in the amount of property he counts as the fruit of his exertions.

These classes of criminals do not, as a rule, amalgamate; but they do overlap. New York has its unhappy distinction of being a notorious center for yeggs, Mafia and anarchists; Chicago has its anarchists and thugs; a state such as Pennsylvania holds all three, while a neighbor like New Jersey has anarchy in the north and the yegg ubiquitous.

Today, the most complete collection of photographs in any "Rogues' Gallery" of the United States is in the possession of the National Bureau of Identification, whose headquarters are in Washington.

Organized some years ago with the police departments of the various large cities, the great detective organizations best exemplified by the Pinkertons, and the national government's officers represented among its subscribing members and its directors, the national bureau has perfected a system of identification, specially directed against the native criminal, which needs only elaboration and extension to render it practically efficient in other directions.

At irregular intervals the bureau sends to its subscribers a pamphlet containing the portraits and the records of the newest recruits to the ranks of burglary, highway robbery and all classes of lawbreaking which stigmatize the career of the professional criminal.

There is the native crop of rascals for an extended period, handy for the detective in the presence of a suspect, fairly reliable as to all

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