

Editor's Note—This is the fifteenth of a series of articles by General Butler on his work in the Philippines. He has been dismissed early this year. The articles will appear daily. The Times owns exclusive rights to the articles in this country.

By Smedley D. Butler

One less hold-up a day!

That was the record of the police during 1924, as compared to 1923.

A hold-up is known in police circles as the "key" crime. Hold-up statistics are indicative of crime activity. Hold-ups include what are described as highway robberies and stick-ups in stores—always with guns in evidence.

Hold-ups are the most feared of crimes, by citizens, for the hold-up man carries a revolver.

In 1923, the year before I took office, there were 955 hold-ups in Philadelphia. In 1924 the number had been decreased to 635, a reduction of 350.

Robberies, the next most serious of crimes, were reduced by some 200.

Auto Thefts Drop

Automobile thefts decreased during that twelve-month period from 3,160 to 2,486—in other words, almost two less automobiles a day.

At the same time, arrests of criminals increased. In 1923, with 955 hold-ups, police arrested 374 crooks in connection with those crimes. In 1924, with but 635 hold-ups, police arrested 492.

The number of murders in 1924 was about 25 per cent less than in the twelve preceding months.

The vice activity of the year will indicate, in great measure, why and how crime was thus reduced.

Comparative statistics are the best guide.

In 1923 police raided 499 disorderly houses. In 1924 the records show 1,049 such places raided. Raids on speakeasies increased more than ten-fold; from 220 in 1923, to 2,566 in 1924. Raids on gambling dens more than doubled.

Heavy Liquor Seizure

More than \$2,000,000 worth of liquor was seized by police, while, stills, motor vehicles and other paraphernalia seized was valued at another \$500,000.

The arrests in 1924 totaled 129,403 as compared with 115,000 in 1923; an increase of about forty a day. Of the number arrested, more than half, or 53,743, were on charges of intoxication.

The other arrests are rather interesting and indicative of the life of a city. Arrests for violation of the State dry-act numbered, 8,935; 2,463 as inmates of disorderly houses, 170 as prostitutes; 3,305 as frequenters of gambling houses and 231 as proprietors of gambling houses; 599 as dope addicts and peddlers.

More than 7,000 motorists were arrested during the year on charges of speeding and reckless driving. Of this huge number only a few were even fined. As a result of automobile and street accidents, 5,277 motorists were arrested on charges of assault and battery by automobile.

Officers Carried Out

I consider that I had carried out the instructions given me by the mayor. Crime had been reduced materially during a year when crime in other great cities had increased.

Vice had been bitterly fought and conditions improved. The change was readily apparent. In 1923 a stranger could walk into any one of

the 955 hold-ups and be arrested. In 1924, with but 635 hold-ups, police arrested 492.

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