

organizations frequently appear within the state viz., the mob, the vigilance committee, the law and order league. The mob usurps all the power of the state, the vigilance committee take the power of the prosecuting attorney, court and officers, and the law and order league assumes the duties of the prosecuting officers. That each in its time may do some good many will claim, that the law and order league does accomplish good, no one will doubt, but it is doubtful if the good it does is commensurate with the evil it will do if it is to be more than a temporary organization, for by assuming to do what the state should do, it impeaches the integrity of the state, and by teaching the people to distrust the government, weakens public faith and individual patriotism. If the law is defied by conspirators who are too strong for the state, the organization of good men should be to meet the specific danger, and should be limited to the existence of the necessity that called it into being, which will be the recovery by the state of the power to perform its own functions. If the failure of the law is caused by what a celebrated writer calls "atony" of the state, viz., political indifference, inattention and carelessness on the part of the citizens of the state, by which active bad men are enabled to control the state, and place their tools in executive office, the only remedy is to arouse the political conscience and patriotism of the citizens, and thereby increase the vitality of the state, and in this case the law and order league is a positive injury, because it acts as a sedative and individual conscience leads to a postponement of irksome political duties and increases the danger.

These organizations must have this effect, for the elector will say: "If we, to advance the interests of our party, elect a weak man, or a man pledged to the vile elements, the law and order league will stand behind the laws and the country will not suffer. Another business man will say: "I have not time to attend to the political caucus, and work for men who will enforce the law; I will give the law and order league fifty dollars, and it will look after things." Another injury these organizations must do is to teach the public that the special law they are organized to enforce cannot be made operative by the state, which, if true, proves the law defective. They give the prosecuting attorney a chance to shirk his duty by saying, "You have an organization to enforce this law, and why don't you do it?" The laws dealing with the liquor traffic should stand with all other laws, and their enforcement be made a political, and if necessary, a party issue. Tools of the liquor