

in finding a jury, no unavoidable delay, and the prosecuting attorney and his assistants are deserving of all praise for the skill and energy displayed in bringing the case to a satisfactory conclusion. It must also be remembered to their credit that in dealing with such a gang of cut-throats as they had to encounter the service was one of considerable danger. But under the American system of criminal procedure it is a far cry from sentence to execution, and though Becker has been tried, convicted and sentenced, his end is not yet. He has money and influential associates, and neither legal skill nor ready cash will be spared to take every advantage of any delay that the law will allow, and many months may, and indeed must, elapse before he can be seated in the fatal chair, which has taken the place of the proverbial gallows.

This trial, and many which have preceded it, are teaching the people of the United States that, in their desire to secure the utmost freedom to their citizens, they have made the authority which in every country is necessary to control the disorderly, protect the peaceful, and punish the criminal, so weak that it often fails to accomplish the object for which it was created.

The machinery of the courts of justice is so clogged with safeguards for persons accused that the wheels can scarcely revolve. At every turn a brake is applied, and time and opportunity given to devise fresh means of obstruction. At the very beginning of the trial difficulties arose. So careful is the law to secure an impartial tribunal that days and weeks are often spent in finding twelve men who can be trusted to well and truly try, and true deliverance make, upon the solemn question of the guilt or innocence of the party on trial, and all through the proceedings questions are raised—technical, philosophic, and sentimental, such as are never heard of in our courts, and each is debated at such length, and with such earnestness, that the minds of the jurors must be completely befogged before the real issue is presented to them. Then, when at last the wearisome business is at an end, and the judge has given his charge, generally at great length and particularity, the jury have given their verdict, and sentence has been pronounced, the law steps in to prevent