

abhorrent character of so many witnesses, would result, at best, in a hung jury. Hence the general astonishment—which is also an unmistakable feeling of relief—at the verdict of murder in the first degree.

“This must be regarded as a most tonic event. It shews, for one thing, that justice in New York need not always move on leaden feet. The bold assassination of Rosenthal was done on July 16. In less than three months Becker was brought to trial. All the involved processes of first detecting his hidden responsibility for the crime, next of marshalling the evidence on which he was indicted, and then of getting his case before a jury with skill and force sufficient to cause his conviction, were got through successfully with great speed. The sword of the law was not allowed to rust in the scabbard. People had not forgotten what the crime was before punishment had been visited upon it. The net result cannot fail to restore confidence in our methods of criminal prosecution, and to make justice appear more swift and sure than the community had come to think it.

“Even more important is it to have the demonstration that the weapons of the law are sharp and strong enough to cut through the network of police collusion with crime. It has been the boast of the ‘system’ that it could snap its fingers at the criminal code and defy prosecutors and the courts. Nothing would happen. Everything would soon blow over. Even if any man was caught, he would be got off. That was the burden of the talk, as sworn to, between Becker and his hired assassins. The confederation between the police and favoured criminals was represented as too powerful, with too many ramifications, for the District Attorney to break into. But Mr. Whitman has knocked all that into a heap. He has shewn that the resources of criminal investigation and the agencies of the law are adequate to cope with the vilest conspiracies and the most intricate crimes that the ‘system’ can devise. The strong arm of the law has grappled with the strong-arm squad. We can easily imagine the shock given at midnight to all the corrupt and conniving members of the police force by the news that Becker had been