be of disadvantage to them in this land. If the laws of a State are to continue to permit this free change of name, the new name permitted to be chosen should be (unless some reason better than those noted above is set forth in the application) one distinctly suggestive of the blood and original nationality of the applicant. Under the operation of State laws, a great many in the past four years have availed themselves of this ease of change to disguise their German blood and nationality by the adoption of surnames less suggestive of their origin. While we can fully sympathize with their desire in the matter, we maintain that a surname or patronymic is an unavoidable blood inheritance, and unless, in the eyes of the law, some very strong reason is given for its change, it should remain a permanent possession of the inheritor."

The following observations are from our esteemed contemporary *Law Notes*, of Northport, New York:

At common law a man could change his name at will, and in but few American states has any statutory restriction been imposed on the right. A writer in the CANADA LAW JOURNAL (January, 1920), writing from a Province wherein the common law obtains, makes a forcible argument for restriction. He fails, however, to distinguish clearly between two entirely distinct things, the taking of one or more assumed names as an aid to the concealment of identity and a permanent change of name by a person maintaining a fixed residence. The former is, as he says, the common practice of criminals, and is habitually resorted to by the promoters of sporadic business ventures which are criminal or on the verge of criminality. This practice is of course wholly vicious, is adopted in aid of an illegal enterprise and is frequently an important element in its success. But it is not altogether clear how it can be prevented. Change of name without prescribed formalities may be made a criminal offence, but nine times out of ten the project in aid of which the change of made is itself criminal, and the adding of one more penalty will avail nothing; certainly it will not deter the burglar or "con man" with a long record of felonies behind him from taking a new alias at the scene of each new crime. Nothing short of the establishment of a complete