FORWARD AGAINST CRIME.

The arrest in Chicago of Stanton on a Wisconsin warrant is one of the signs of a change in the warfare against organized crime—a change highly desirable and encouraging. Another sign of the same significance was the pursuit of Foster and his arrest in California and return to Chicago. These proceedings mean cooperation among the authorities to an extent not hitherto practiced against the new organization of criminality. There has been until now no efficient coordination to meet the coordination of criminal activities, made possible by prohibition. The war on this new organization was local, although criminal cooperation was interstate. Killers were systematically exchanged between communities, thus enjoying an anonymity and immunity from local detection and prosecution which paralyzed justice. But the folly of this situation at last seems to be realized and under the vigorous leadership of Chicago cooperation against cooperative crime defense is being rapidly perfected.

This is a long step forward, and another is the application of the Illinois vagrancy law, which if courageously and persistently applied will not only break up the gangs in Chicago but offer an example to other afflicted communities.

The force of good citizenship is concentrating and making itself more effective day by day. The success of its efforts is already foreshadowed. Organized crime will not be decisively defeated until the great resources prohibition has brought to it have been shut off by prohibition repeal and the substitution of practicable measures of liquor regulation, but we need no longer fear that this is impossible or remote, and meanwhile improvement of methods of dealing with the existing crime situation proceeds at an encouraging pace.