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POLICING THROUGH THE PRISM OF TIME: MODERN PROBLEMS AND EXPERIENCE FROM THE PAST

During the early history of policing, individual citizens were largely responsible for maintaining law and order among themselves. Those who served as constables and justices of the peace did so voluntarily and were not typically paid for their services. Shire reeves, or sheriffs, were employed full-time to oversee law enforcement activities within their shires in England and their counties in the colonies.

This loosely-based system of social control worked quite well for centuries, particularly in more rural and less populated regions. However, the late 1700's and early 1800's saw a population explosion in major cities in the United States and England. Riots and civil unrest was common, and it became increasingly clear that there was a need for a more permanent and professional form of law enforcement that would carry the official authority of the government [4].

London was fast reaching a size unprecedented in world history, due to the onset of the Industrial Revolution. It became clear that the locally maintained system of volunteer constables and "watchmen" was ineffective, both in detecting and preventing crime. A parliamentary committee was appointed to investigate the system of policing London. Upon Sir Robert Peel being appointed as Home Secretary in 1822, he

established a second and more effective committee, and acted upon its findings. Royal Assent to the Metropolitan Police Act was given, and the Metropolitan Police Act established on September 29, 1829 in London as the first modern and professional police force in the world.[3] The concept of a centralized, professional police force was a tough sell initially, and was met with a tremendous amount of resistance. There was a fear that a police force would essentially behave as another arm of the military. As result, there was an understandable reluctance to agree to be controlled by what many assumed would be an occupying force.

In order to overcome this opposition, Peel is known for laying the framework for what a police force should be comprised of and how a good police officer should conduct himself. While there is debate as to whether he ever clearly enumerated his ideas in any sort of list format, it is generally agreed that he created what are to this day considered to be the primary principles of policing:

- The purpose of the police force is to prevent crime and maintain order.

- Police depend on the approval and trust of the public in order to effectively do their jobs.

- The ultimate goal of policing is to achieve voluntary compliance with the law in the community.

- Police must be unwavering in their duties and adherence to the law, maintaining impartiality and avoiding the temptation to be swayed by public opinion.

- The use of force and physical control is to be used as a last resort, only when other forms of persuasion have failed.

- Police officers must remember that they, too, are members of the public and that their purpose is to serve and protect the public.

- The true measure of the effectiveness of any police force is not the number of arrests or police actions taken, but the absence of criminal conduct and violations of the law [2].

A few centuries have passed since the first professional police been established, but be the primary principles of policing composed by Sir Robert Peel are still relevant. But we either got used to them and partly forgot, or simply underestimate its necessity and weight in policing system.

Consequently we have the next problems police is facing today:

- Police and citizens relations lack faith. As a result, citizens do not always know what to do in certain extremal conditions.

- People are just afraid to get involved in investigation process;

- Police force is usually run by politicians rather than professionals. It was mentioned in Theresa Mary May first speech as Home Secretary of the UK;

- "Criminal justice agencies have grown accustomed to looking upwards to the centre instead of devising local, collective responses to law and order issues" - says ex-Chief of the New York City Transit Police, Boston Police Commissioner, then New York City Police Commissioner.

And we have possible ways of policing improvement:

- The use of data with new statistical tools and other advanced technologies turn traditional police officers into "data detectives" who not only solve crime but predict it (according to the "predictive policing");

- The independence of the police (to allow them to use their discretion and professional judgement);

- Rebuilding public confidence in the criminal justice system on the principles of increasing transparency, clearer accountability, real local control and greater citizen involvement [1].

Whole modern approach to policing is composed of solving abovementioned problems and implementation of the ways of improvement.

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