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## Law School News

O. H. Thormodsgard

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## LAW SCHOOL NEWS

Fifty students were enrolled in the School of Law during the 1948 Summer Session of eight weeks. The following courses were offered: Contracts (a), Damages, Personal Property, Public Service Companies, Legislation, Federal Courts and Federal Taxation. Courses in law will be offered in the Summer Sessions as long as there is a demand on the part of law students who are veterans.

Commencement was held on Thursday, August 12, 1948. Thomas J. Clifford of Grand Forks was granted the Juris Doctor degree. The Bachelor of Laws degree was conferred on Richard Lewis Child of New England, N. D., George E. Duis of Fargo, N. D., Ray R. Friederich of Fredonia, N. D. and Maurice E. Garrison of Wyndmere, N. D.

In recognition of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the School of Law, the University invited Honorable L. E. Birdzell as the commencement speaker. Mr. Birdzell served as Professor of Law from 1904 to 1912 and from 1914 to 1916. Upon recommendation of the law faculty with the approval of the University Council and the Board of Higher Education, President John C. West conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on the commencement speaker. Dean O. H. Thormodsgard delivered the citation.

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### CITATION

Luther Earle Birdzell is a graduate of Illinois. He is a charter member of the first chapter of The Order of the Coif, an honorary legal fraternity, which was organized "to foster a spirit of careful study and to mark in a fitting manner those who have attained a high grade of scholarship." For one year he practiced law in Chicago. He taught law in the University of North Dakota Law School from 1904-1912. He then served for two years as the first Tax Commissioner of this state. In 1914, he resumed his law professorship until he was elected in 1916 as a Judge of the Supreme Court of North Dakota. He served as Chief Justice for the years 1922 and 1927 and again became Chief Justice on September 1, 1933. Chief Just-

ice Birdzell resigned on November 1, 1933 to accept the appointment as General Counsel for the Federal Deposits Insurance Corporation and served for seven years. At present Mr. Birdzell is Vice-President and Senior Trust Officer of the Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association of San Francisco, California.

Under the leadership of Dean Andrew A. Bruce with the assistance of Professor Birdzell and the other law teachers the University Law School reached maturity and was admitted to membership in 1910 in the Association of American Law Schools. Many of the successful lawyers and able judges of this state studied law under Professor Birdzell. He has always been loyal to this University. After he retired as a law teacher, he continued to work for the University. Through his efforts the School of Law was granted in 1925 a chapter of The Order of the Coif.

Learned in law, with scholarly experience in the teaching of law, Mr. Birdzell brought to the service of the Supreme Court of the state of North Dakota, physical strength, industry, passion for exactness, and clear analysis of the facts and the law. He was always courteous and kind to attorneys who appeared before the Supreme Court and especially helpful to the inexperienced young lawyers. His opinions reveal that he had a vast and accurate knowledge of many branches of the law.

The School of Law will begin its fiftieth school year within a month. In recognition of one of the builders of the School of Law, on behalf of the University Council, I recommend that the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, be conferred on a gifted law teacher, jurist, a competent counsellor and a wise administrator, Judge Luther E. Birdzell.

Dean O. H. Thormodsgard.