



1942

The Legislature

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

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M. L. McBride, Editor

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THE LEGISLATURE

This is the month the Legislature meets. Many important matters will confront the lawmakers this year. Much war legislation will have to be adopted. The report of the code revision committee will be before our representatives and senators for consideration. Many matters that vitally affect the material welfare of our people should have their early and serious attention.

We have a very capable legislative committee headed by former Governor Shafter that will give valuable assistance to the Legislature and to the Governor in drafting the necessary war legislation. That is going to be a big job and will require much time and work on the part of this committee, so it will not have much time to devote to other important legislative matters.

In the early days of our country most of the national as well as state laws were drafted by lawyers. Of late years much of that work has for some reason or another passed out of the hands of lawyers.

It behooves every lawyer in our State to take a deep interest in the work of our Legislature and when any important measure comes up for consideration, study it carefully and let your representatives know your views on it. If all the lawyers would do that, our association could exert a great influence for good

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in our State, for I sincerely believe that the lawyers are better qualified to give sound advice on legislative matters than any other group of men in our State. They have no axe to grind, they are not looking for any legislation that will particularly benefit them, they are more interested in the welfare of the State as a whole.

Our lawmakers, both in the State and Nation, are at all times besieged by pressure groups that are there for the sole purpose of securing the passage of measures of particular benefit for that group regardless of whether it is of benefit to the State or Nation as a whole. If Democracy is to survive we must get away from that kind of legislation.

Let the lawyers of America awaken to their great responsibilities and to their great opportunities for service.

O. B. HERISTAD
President.

BAR BRIEFS

Bar Briefs has been published in its present form for three years. That is, the first page for the President, then a brief on a live legal question by a student of the Law College of the University of North Dakota, then the syllabi of all decisions of the Supreme Court of North Dakota, this for eight or nine issues, these are all eight page issues each year, then two or three four page issues, one devoted to the annual number.

Before that for three years it was a four page publication with an occasional eight pages, and before that it was four pages for several years.

Many favorable comments have been received over the years on the eight page Bar Briefs, some on the President's page, some on the Law College briefs, and others on the publication of the decisions.

However, some members have thought the publication of the decisions needless, because the Northwestern advance sheets publish a full report of each decision of our Supreme Court, and then others have expressed themselves critically about the College Briefs.

Those criticising the publication of the syllabi of the cases are all members who are able to have the advance sheets of the Northwestern Reporter, but the great majority of our members do not receive them.

And in support of the briefs from the Law College many favorable comments have been received.

At the present time the Bar Briefs monthly and Bar Briefs annual cost from six hundred and forty dollars to seven hundred