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Report of Committee on American Law Institute

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE
To the State Bar Association of North Dakota:

Your committee on the American Law Institute begs to submit the following report to the 46th annual meeting, Valley City, North Dakota.

The American Law Institute held its annual meeting in Philadelphia on May 15, 16 and 17, 1946, in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel.

The Institute considered drafts of the proposed new Code of Commercial Law, which has been under preparation through the co-operative agreement made with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, December 1, 1944.

For over fifty years this National Conference, composed of one to three, or four, commissioners from each state, has received the active support and cooperation of the American Bar Association.

For many years, your chairman and the Hon. Clyde L. Young, past president of our state bar, have been commissioners representing North Dakota at the annual meetings of the National Conference.

Also, for several years, the late Judge S. E. Ellsworth of Jamestown acted as a commissioner from North Dakota, although he was never able to attend a meeting of the Conference, so his membership ceased shortly before his death.

The American Law Institute, now nearing completion, of the restatement of the law, has made a fine contribution to the lawyers of our country. It has been a prodigious task commencing about the year 1923 under the able leadership and direction of William Draper Lewis of Philadelphia, who was able to secure a fine contribution and donation from the Carnegie Foundation which has largely underwritten the work of the Institute throughout its course.

The fine productions of the Institute, include the new Commercial Code, the Code of Evidence and the Revised Sales Act, which we are advised will cost approximately, in its production and publication, about \$250,000. The Code of Evidence received the fine support and the active assistance of the late John H. Wigmore, formerly a commissioner representing the State of Illinois.

The subject of uniform legislation for adoption by our states has been before the bar of our country now for a great many years.

The desirability of such legislation has long been recognized in the field of commercial law as evidenced by the Negotiable Instruments Act now adopted and in force in every state of the Union.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. HUTCHINSON

G. S. WOOLEGGE

JOHN KNAUF

H. A. BRONSON, Chairman