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President's Page

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

My Dear Fellow Lawyers:

This is the time of the year when most of us are becoming vacation minded, but no place to go. In all probability, if I could tell an honest-to-goodness fish story, that had some resemblance of truth, most of you would be more interested in that than anything else I could say.

The writer was called to Bismarck about a week ago on Bar Association business pertaining to certain interned enemy aliens now confined at Bismarck, North Dakota. The immigration department is desirous of giving each enemy alien an opportunity to be represented by counsel. Consequently, I am calling on the members of the Morton and Burleigh County Bar to volunteer their services for this work. Needless to say, it will have to be done without compensation, but regardless of what our personal feeling may be, we should adhere to our fundamental American principal of allowing everyone a fair trial.

Incidentally, I heard the comment from a party in a position to know that he believed the lawyers of the State rendered more uncompensated service than any other professional group. Personally, I believe that this statement is correct and I also believe that the Bar receives very little credit from the public for what it is doing. It logically follows that the Bar should
(Continued on next page)

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be given more publicity in what it is doing so that the public will be generally informed and can more fully appreciate the services rendered. Wouldn't it be a good idea to give a little more publicity to the activities of the Bar through the newspapers and other mediums of publicity?

Sincerely,

ROY A. PLOYHAR
Acting President.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN NORTH DAKOTA

On April 20th, 1945, one hundred and seventy-five questionnaires were mailed to practicing attorneys in every county of the state, and since that time one hundred and twenty answers have been received. Out of these, twenty-three are of the opinion that there are openings in different towns, generally other than where they practice. Several of them agree on certain towns. Twenty-nine refer to returning veterans that have connections which will care for the needs in certain communities. Five others are of the opinion that there is always room at the top and including ten more who agree that it depends on the individual.

Several state the same effort required to build a law practice will bring much larger rewards in most any business field and that the law requires from three to five years to build an income so the average practitioner can afford to marry and have a family.

The rest believe their communities have enough attorneys and that many are merely existing now. That the practice of law as we commonly speak of it—the general practice—is declining and suggest government employment or most any other business.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Special Committee on the Economic Condition of the Bar
of the American Bar Association, 1945

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

Many who are admitted to the bar do not practice law, yet each finds law training a valuable asset in his life work. You must decide what you want to do before you can determine how and where to apply the benefits of your law training.

THE PRACTICE OF LAW

General Practice. Most practicing lawyers, even in the larger cities, engage in what is called "general practice." This means that the lawyer, or the firm with which he is associated, is held out as willing to accept employment with regard to any legal mat-