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lems will soon belong to you, and I welcome heartily every organization and activity which helps to fit the young recruit to take from the first an honorable place in the profession."

SOME FUNCTIONS OF UNIFORM STATE LAWS

By HONORABLE HARRISON A. BRONSON

Unmistakably all about us the test is being sought or applied whether our democratic form of government shall survive.

Throughout the world we see the trend towards the rule of the dictator or the rule of the mob in governmental matters.

Representative Governments Are Few

Great Britain, France and our United States stand now practically alone as the really representative governments of and by the people. Here at home strong agitation and major efforts are being made to fundamentally change our Federal Constitution and our dual system of government.

Here and there the question is becoming somewhat paramount whether the thrift, the energy and the initiative of a people, functioning through a government of their own choice and with individual enterprise, shall continue to furnish the mainspring of our civilization's existence and progress.

Shall our institutions, with their bills of rights preserved for the people in the founding of our Federal Government, survive? Shall our judicial functions continue to be performed by the courts; or, shall they pass largely to the executive or legislative branch who may act even without a trial by jury? Are states' rights preserved in our Federal Constitution worthy of retention?

Governmental Problems Are Presented

Such and similar questions need no elaboration for us to know that they are here and must be answered, as governmental problems. In this new complexity which challenges our fundamental concepts of law and of government, where is the place of the lawyer? How shall his learning and his experience in the law be recognized through public opinion. Shall this learning and experience in public respect go for naught and be disregarded when the rule-making power considers law prescription?

A vast aggregation of laws, rules, regulations, decrees, declarations, departmental rulings, official opinions, regardless of our court decisions, beset us on every side.

Legislative prescriptions and the exercise of executive authority curb the courts or hinder them in considering the law and in enforcing it through their mandates.

Like fiat money, the greater their abundance, the less the percentage of obedience and respect accorded.

So, we find today so many, seeking a way out and wanting political action or political preferment, who challenge now the fundamental legal concepts of our Constitution, disregarding the voices of experience or the lessons of history.

Law Institute Has Arduous Task

In the field of American jurisprudence, the American Law Institute is performing the arduous task of restating the law of our country.

I speak now of the work of the National Conference of Commis-

sioners on Uniform State Laws; also, of some of its functions which serve to aid in promoting less laws and better statutes, and in preserving the dual sovereignty of our government.

What pray does it mean to have a rule-making agency, merely advisory it is true, but ready, able, and willing to serve without pay in harmonizing, unifying and better prescribing laws and rules in government.

Some forty-five years ago this Conference was initiated through the efforts of the American Bar Association. It became then, and is now, composed of commissioners from the states and territories of our Union appointed by executive authority of these sovereign jurisdictions.

Simplicity Is Aim

Its big theme and purpose is to secure better expression of law, more uniformity and simplicity of law among the states, and greater uniformity of judicial interpretation, in those fields of law where uniformity of law is desirable.

It specifically serves as an agency to perpetuate our dual sovereignty of government preserving to the states their powers and fully granting to the Federal Government the constitutional powers it possesses.

This Conference prepares and proposes model acts for adoption by sovereign jurisdictions. In the course of its history they have so drafted and proposed some 58 model uniform acts. Sovereign jurisdictions have adopted them to the extent of about 700 legal enactments in the various states. For instance, the Uniform Negotiable Act is in force in every state. This Conference has proposed Uniform Highway and Automobile Acts, Uniform Aviation Acts, Uniform Machine Gun Acts, and many uniform commercial and other acts which have been adopted in many of the states. This Conference is now concerned with proposing interstate compacts in fields deemed desirable for action by the various states that may be concerned. It is concerned now in co-operation with the American Law Institute in certain fields of the law.

Cooperation Is Essential

It is quite essential that the bar and the courts in our country fully cooperate with this body not only in considering those proposed acts deemed desirable for passage and adoption in any given state, but also in advising concerning the experience of those uniform acts now so largely adopted in the various states of our Union.

President Hildreth states that President Ransom will deliver his address to the Bar Association on August 10th. The meeting will be held in the Federal Court Room.

Persons interested in purchasing Northwestern Reports, 208 volumes, also office furniture, write to Mrs. A. T. Faber, Bismarck, N. D.

The new annual list of attorneys is in the hands of the printers. Members who have not yet paid their license please hurry, so that you may be shown as authorized to do business.

President Hildreth has appointed as a Committee on Revision of the Probate Code to report at the Annual Meeting at Fargo, Chas. S. Buck, Chairman, Jamestown; J. E. Hendrickson, Fargo; Charles J. Bangert, Enderlin; Aloys Wartner, Harvey; L. J. Wehe, Bismarck, and W. F. Burnett, Fargo.