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Shall We Do or Just Resolve?

North Dakota Law Review Associate Editors

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many years ago. "Judge Morgan," said Mr. Bangs, "was one of the Court's most distinguished members," and, in presenting this portrait to the Court, he said he wished to "place in the record a few personal observations with respect to the man whose memory we so honor." The "few observations," however, proved to be as fine a tribute and word picture as we have heard in many a day.

Invitations

Invitations were received from two cities for the 1935 meeting of the Association, Grand Forks and Valley City. As usual, the meeting place will be determined by the Executive Committee at its first meeting, probably about the first of November.

Election of Officers

The election of officers developed only one contest. Vice President C. L. Foster, Bismarck, was advanced to the Presidency without opposition, and Col. M. A. Hildreth, Fargo, was the unanimous choice for Vice President. The opposition to the incumbent Secretary entered B. F. Tillotson, Bismarck, as a candidate. Since the meeting we have been advised that a rather spirited pre-meeting campaign was put on, but nothing in such information indicates that such campaign was not conducted in a fair and friendly manner, so as to leave neither bitterness nor qualms of conscience. The ballot count started R. E. Wenzel, Bismarck, on his fifteenth year as Secretary-Treasurer.

Addresses

The main addresses of the two-day session were presented by Prof. Leonarde Keeler, Northwestern University Law School, who spoke on "Modern Methods in Crime Detection," and by Andrew R. Sherriff, "Citizen-Lawyer," Chicago, who spoke on "Cooperation of the Press and the Bar" at the banquet, and on "The Spirit of the Constitution" at the general session the next day. All the addresses were very favorably received, with the last one excelling the others.

Supreme Court Services

A committee, consisting of Tracy R. Bangs, Grand Forks, John Knauf, Jamestown, M. A. Hildreth, Fargo, C. L. Young, Bismarck, and P. D. Norton, Minot, was appointed to arrange for a memorial program to be held in the Supreme Court Chambers at an early date, such service to commemorate deceased members of the Court.

SHALL WE DO OR JUST RESOLVE?

For some years past the Bar Association of this State has had under consideration changes in the plan of disciplinary action, several times voting in favor of the principle of the California system. Nothing, however, has come of the matter thus far, and we are wondering if, once again, resolutions are not to result in action.

In the Secretary's report this year attention was directed to a portion of the address of President Evans of the American Bar Association, and also to an editorial appearing in the September 4th issue of the Bismarck Tribune. We quote from the Secretary's report: The newspaper article "dealt with the subject of 'Dillinger's Lawyer'. After commenting at some length, and to good purpose, on that subject, it advanced this thought:

"'But the bar associations, national and state, are slow to act. The harm that a few members are doing the whole profession has been common knowledge for years. Yet few lawyers are disbarred, as witness the kindly tolerance the North Dakota association has for certain of its members.'

"You, yourselves, know whether or not there was any justification for the North Dakota reference. It does seem as if we have had some rather astounding situations in the past, and have some at this particular moment. The North Dakota Bar has a voice, but it doesn't use it sufficiently, and it has very seldom acted. The Committee on Press and Public Information should be taken seriously by the Bar, and the Bar, itself, needs to take itself more seriously about these matters. The Bar has a voice. It should use it. And it should act—act oftener, more definitely, and more quickly."

Right at this moment we wonder if we do not give up too easily when we meet with rebuffs at the hands of the Legislature. Having arrived at conclusions, after careful study and consideration, and, usually, several reconsiderations, why should we lose faith in the strength of our position or in our ability to convince others of the logic of our stand and our faith in its beneficial results?

BAR DELEGATE SYSTEM

We reprint from the August issue of the Journal of the American Judicature Society the following:

"The adoption of a conference of local bar association delegates has proved a valuable adjunct to state bar meetings in several states. In Florida and Ohio such conferences are held twice a year. In California, where experiment has been in process for a number of years, to stimulate members widely to discuss bar policies, there has been an open forum to which one afternoon is assigned; all resolutions offered in the general bar sessions must first be discussed in the forum, which gives the greatest freedom for debate and is checked by deferring final action until the following day. This year's meeting will see the forum abandoned in favor of a conference of delegates. Those who participate in the conference debates will be in a representative capacity. This will add to the influence of the many bar members who are unable to attend the meeting and will stimulate local associations to discuss live topics and select instructed delegates. It will also tend to stabilize discussion and opinion and prevent a stampede instituted by a determined minority."

For many years we have endeavored to put into effect something similar in North Dakota. Five or six years ago the Editor suggested that all reports of committees be filed in time to enable the various district meetings to discuss them prior to the annual meeting of the State Association, and permit the casting of a representative vote at the annual meeting. The past year the Executive Committee instructed the Editor-Secretary to carry the suggestion into effect, but we failed again because committees did not file their reports and only two of the six districts held meetings.