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Admission to Practice

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ADMISSION TO PRACTICE

On March 29, 1932, the Massachusetts State Senate submitted to the Supreme Judicial Court of that State certain questions relating to a bill dealing with the admission of persons to practice law. The Court answered April 20, 1932, and we quote a portion of that answer, which reviews the following citations: *131 Mass. 376; 10 Met. 239; 9 Gray 430; 220 Mass. 472; 248 N. Y. 465; 19 How. 9; 11 Allen 472; 224 Mass. 169; 268 Mass. 373; 30 Ariz. 407; 181 Ill. 73; 134 Ind. 665; 88 N. J. L. 157; 23 S. D. 43; 208 Cal. 439; and other cases.*

"There is nothing in the Constitution, either in terms or by implication, to indicate an intent that the power of the judiciary over the admission of persons to become attorneys is subject to legislative control. . . The inherent jurisdiction of the judicial department over attorneys, although recognized by statute, is nevertheless inherent and exists without a statute. . . Numerous statutes have been passed making provision in aid of the judicial department in reaching a proper selection of those qualified for admission as attorneys to practice in the courts. . . They have been enacted to enable the courts to perform their duties. They have been enacted, also, in the exercise of the police power to protect the public from those lacking in ability, falling short in learning, or deficient in moral qualities, and thus incapable of maintaining the high standard of conduct justly to be expected of members of the bar. . . Statutes respecting admissions to the bar, which afford appropriate instrumentalities for the ascertainment of qualifications of applicants, are no encroachment on the judicial department. They are convenient, if not essential. . . When and so far as statutes specify qualifications and accomplishments, they will be regarded as fixing the minimum and not as setting bounds beyond which the judicial department cannot go. . . These conclusions flow irresistibly from the provisions of the Constitution. . . The provisions of the pending bill fall within the same class as would proposed statutes fixing the passing marks for admission to the bar, the branches of law on which applicants should be examined, the number of questions to be asked, the length of time to be devoted to examinations, the tests of moral character to be adopted and the means for meeting those tests, and other like matters. If subjects similar to these were held to be within legislative cognizance, it would be vain to say that final power over admission to the bar was within the control of the judicial department."—*(See 180 N. E. 725.)*

ANNUAL MEETING

Recent contacts with the members of the Fargo Committees, which, under the general direction of George Soule, are preparing for the annual meeting, indicate that this year's meeting will be a record-breaker. It is going to be delightfully different in many respects.

Let us quote from the most recent statement received:

"Ample evidence of exceptional interest in the annual meeting of the North Dakota State Bar Association at Fargo this fall is brought forth by the number of replies received to the questionnaire sent out to determine the most suitable dates. The weeks of August 22nd and September 5th are running neck and neck, while Wednesday-Thursday