



1930

Bar Board Referendum

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for the splendid service that he rendered the cause of justice, is entitled to the commendation of all. So many times the legal fraternity is unjustly accused of seeking to defend the known guilty that the case of Mr. Knox stands forth in bold relief as an instance of real service, an instance of loyalty to his oath that redounds to the credit not of himself alone, but to the law profession as a whole."

May we be pardoned for directing attention to two phrases in this editorial, to-wit: "So many times the legal fraternity is unjustly accused" and "the case . . . stands forth in bold relief as an instance of real service"; and to suggest, not too boisterously, and with due respect, that it is primarily because the legal fraternity is so frequently unjustly accused that a case like this stands out in bold relief to those accustomed to accuse.

The legal fraternity does not claim to possess the sum total of human virtues, but it has always been convinced that its component human parts possessed a very reasonable proportion of those virtues, and could never understand why Mr. Average Citizen should speak in derogatory terms of the fraternity because, occasionally, individuals were found who did not measure up to the general standard. The explanation may lie in the fact that the very nature of the service rendered by attorneys continually places them in the limelight, which makes the single flaw conspicuous against a background of innumerable good deeds.

BAR BOARD REFERENDUM

The Bar Association has just completed the most successful referendum in its history. Seventy-seven per cent of the lawyers of the state exercised the privilege of balloting for names to be presented to the Supreme Court in recommendation of appointment to the Bar Board. In view of past records, this is a most satisfactory showing, but one wonders why all of the lawyers of the state did not mark and return the ballots.

An incidental record made on this referendum is not so complimentary, either. Some thirty of the ballots returned, over 6 per cent, were defective. Notwithstanding the fact that the official ballot contained the notation: "Vote for three names only", the stated number voted for four or more names on the ballot.

The canvassing committee appointed by President Traynor consisted of the following: F. E. McCurdy, Katherine Morris and L. J. Wehe, all of Bismarck. They reported the recorded vote to be:

DePuy, H. C., Grafton	164
Murphy, C. J., Grand Forks	254
Palda, L. J., Jr., Minot	188
Sinness, Torger, Devils Lake	203
Weeks, J. J., Bottineau	119
Wyckoff, F. F., Stanley	117
Knauf, John, Jamestown	196

The recommendations that went to the Supreme Court, on the basis of this referendum ballot, therefore, were: C. J. Murphy, Grand Forks; Torger Sinness, Devils Lake; John Knauf, Jamestown. The Supreme Court announced the appointment of Mr. Murphy on January 10th.