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President's Page

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I have on my desk a copy of the address that was prepared by our late President Horace Bagley and which was to have been delivered by him at the district meeting at Grafton on October 19th last. I feel that nothing would be more appropriate for the commencement of this year than to give a brief summary of his views as outlined in this document.

He calls this Association the dream-child of Hon. John E. Green, of Minot, who for many years was our secretary. He notes the fact that this is the first involuntary incorporated organization in the United States; that it has been and still is largely an experiment; and he asks this question: "Is compulsory incorporation of the Bar a success or a failure?" His answer is: "Probably neither," and his explanation of his answer is this: "Judged by the chaos that went before it may be pronounced a great success. Judged by the actual results from a professional standpoint its success is very limited, to say the least. It is safe to say that the real benefits to the Association lie in the womb of the future, to be born or not to be born largely as the activity and intelligence of the officers and members of the Association may determine."

In other words, it is wholly dependent upon a greater realization by the members of their personal responsibility for its affairs. He regrets the fact that the lawyers, the natural leaders and builders everywhere, are not a greater influence in the state. When we are as closely knit together as, for instance, the dentists, doctors or bankers are, we will then be able to exert a far greater influence over our own membership as well as being a more decided influence in matters that aid general progress. He then outlines how this can be best accomplished and it was this work to which he had set himself for his year of office. In this work every lawyer in the state was to have given a part. It was intended to bring home to every member that this was HIS organization and not that of merely the secretary and other officers, and that its growth and advancement depended largely upon the individual effort of the members. And this can best be done by building up your own local organization and getting into active working contact with every other lawyer in it. Judge Bagley's plan should be the major objective of the Association. If you do not have a city, county or district organization now you will have soon as the committee is hard at work on the details. But you can boost right now by letting your district committeemen know that you are ready and willing to do your part. As Kipling phrases it: "For its the everlasting teamwork of the everlasting whole."

My New Years wish for the Association is that it may have an increasingly abundant measure of that team work through a realization of Judge Bagley's vision and plans. A. M. KVELLO, President.