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## Attention Committee Chairmen

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## 2. *Who Are Excused or Exempt?*

After stating who are competent, Section 814, as amended, proceeds to excuse from jury service persons engaged in certain pursuits or occupations, and then excuses all "members in good standing of any regularly organized fire company." Now, it is all right for those who belong to a paid department in a city where they have only a few men who are kept on duty to fight fires, but there are in many small cities and large villages fire companies which are more or less regularly organized, and the statute should be so worded that members of such companies will not be held to be free from jury service. In many places the large majority of our most able men for jury service would be exempt, perhaps as the law now reads. Then, there is an attempt made in this section to excuse women from jury service. I hope to examine that provision in another article.

Then there is Section 2430 of our Compiled Laws, which excuses from jury service each member of the active militia, who shows that he has performed his duty for the year "immediately preceding a summons to act as a jurymen," and also excuses any one who has been a member of the militia and been honorably discharged. No one, it seems to me, should be excused because he is or has been a member of the militia, unless it happens that he is called on such duty at the time the court meets. It is absolutely wrong to excuse any one from jury duty solely because his business is such as to make it inconvenient for him to serve, or because he might be injured financially, unless to such an extent as would lead all parties to excuse him at his own request. When all who are serving or have served on the militia, and all who are members of volunteer fire companies, and all who might suffer a slight financial loss, are excused by the Court, a large percentage of our very best material is lost. Many of our younger men, best fitted for jurors, are either volunteer firemen or members or ex-members of the state militia. Many business men get excused by the Court on the ground that business needs their attention. Some times I have thought they should not get excused so easily. The more his time is worth to himself, the better able is he, as a rule, to give some of his time for jury service. He is just the kind of man who is likely to have a suit some time and want good men to serve on his case. More of such applications for release from jury service should be refused.

The foregoing is part of an article submitted by Mr. C. E. Leslie of Hillsboro.

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## ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

As this year's annual meeting comes early in August, to-wit: on the 15th and 16th, it is important that committee reports be submitted a little earlier than usual, in order to have Bar Briefs—containing the printed reports—in the hands of the attorneys prior to the meeting.

The following chairmen are, therefore, requested to have their reports in the hands of the Secretary by the 30th of July:

- C. H. Starke, Automobile Insurance and Regulation;
- W. A. McIntyre, Constitution and By-Laws;
- R. W. Cooley, Legal Education and Admission;
- L. J. Palda, Jr., Public Utilities;
- William Lemke, Salaries-Terms-Powers of Judges;
- Harry Lashkowitz, Uniform Laws;
- P. B. Garberg, Bench and Bar Ethics.

Should there be recommendations, requiring the action of the annual meeting, in the reports of the following, the same request will apply:

- R. M. Cooley, American Law Institute;
- A. G. Burr, Comparative Law;
- A. W. Cupler, Co-operation with the Press;
- J. O. Hanchett, Jurisprudence and Law Reform;
- T. L. Brouillard, Law Enforcement;
- Lloyd Stevens, Legislation;
- Aloys Wartner, Citizenship and Americanization.

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#### NECROLOGY

This month we record the passing of two respected members of the profession, E. B. Goss, of Minot, and E. A. Williams, of Bismarck. Both had served the State of North Dakota in official capacities, and with considerable distinction.

Mr. Williams' service was in the early days, and primarily as a lawmaker, he being a member of the constitutional convention. Though he maintained contact with public affairs until the last, what one might term his "active record" was written some years ago, and it was a record of achievement, for which, happily, he had received many expressions of personal approval before he entered his last appearance.

Mr. Goss, however, was yet a comparatively young man, with many years of active participation in private and public affairs before him, when he was summoned. He had retired from the Supreme Court of this State just a few years ago, and was still, undoubtedly, one of the objects of that common public neglect, which fails to acquaint the outstanding public servant with the feeling of appreciation that exists, but that, so frequently, finds expression when it is too late.

The Bar Association joins with the several communities and with the people of the State, generally, in voicing their approval of the life well lived, the race well run.

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#### CANADA PAYS TRIBUTE

Mr. Justice Riddell, acting Chief Justice in the appellate division of the Supreme Court of Ontario, on March 11th opened his Court with the following reference to our late Chief Justice, Mr. Taft:

"The passing over of the Honorable William Howard Taft is mourned not only by his own country but by our continent and the whole English-speaking world.

"The only American citizen to occupy the high positions of President and Chief Justice, he never lost his spirit of democracy and comradeship.

"A great lawyer, he was a great man, with sympathetic feelings towards his fellowmen, and his sense of identity with the human race as a whole.

"A true friend to Canada, he ever delighted to show his warm regard for her and her people; all Canadians could not agree with him at all times, but none ever doubted his sincere good will and affection.

"To those who like me enjoyed his close personal friendship, the memory of the delightful and whole-souled companion, the charming man, the perfect gentleman, will ever be green. Requiescat in pace."