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## District Organizations/American Problems

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At a recent Cass County Bar Association meeting, Francis Murphy, Fargo, challenged the constitutionality of the 18th amendment, if press reports are reliable. His contentions, in brief, were stated to be:

1. That it is contrary to general principles and beyond the limit to which the government can interfere with personal independence;
2. That it is contrary to American conceptions of law on the ground that law is governed by the people and not by a small number of legislators;
3. That the 18th amendment is not an amendment in reality, but delegates to the federal government a new and independent power without the consent of the people.

Mr. Murphy, of course, acknowledged that the Supreme Court of the United States had upheld the constitutionality of the amendment, but intimated that it had never given any reasons for the decision. The third point, while interesting, loses forcefulness through further consideration and contemplation. The more effective, and, possibly, fruitful, effort is indicated through a direct attack for repeal of the amendment.

#### DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

President Kvello's enthusiasm and inspirational leadership made its impression upon the practitioners of the fourth and sixth districts the past month, and they responded magnificently to the challenge of their obligations and opportunities. With the organization of the fifth district (Minot) on May 30th and 31st, for which a most elaborate program has been arranged, North Dakota will have an organization that should function pretty close to 100 per cent.

The fourth district selected Aloys Wartner, Harvey, as President, C. L. Foster, Bismarck, as Vice President, and H. E. Dickinson, McClusky, Secretary-Treasurer. Its next meeting will be at Fessenden or Harvey.

The sixth district, with practically every city and town represented, chose J. P. Cain, Dickinson, as President; H. P. Jacobson, Mott, Vice President, and Thos. G. Johnson, Killdeer, Secretary-Treasurer. Bowman and Hettinger extended invitations for the next meeting.

#### AMERICAN PROBLEMS

Next to the Literary Digest, the National Economic League is the most efficient straw-vote organization in the country. At frequent intervals it endeavors to ascertain the judgment of enlightened men on various subjects. The most recent survey resulted from a questionnaire, listing 70 subjects, from which its membership designated the "paramount" national problems. The seven leaders in the ballot were:

Administration of Justice .....	2,209
Prohibition .....	2,068
Lawlessness, Disrespect for Law .....	1,699
Crime .....	1,642
Law Enforcement .....	1,573
World Peace .....	1,235
Agriculture, Farm Relief .....	996

Of the 11,422 votes which went to the seven leaders, at least 7,123 and possibly 8,358, may be considered as dealing with matters that are very much the concern of lawyers, at least the lawyers, with their special opportunities for studying the particular problems, should have very definite opinions concerning them.