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## Criticized But Needed/Volunteer Jurymen

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constitutional, resting its opinion on justice and public policy, and holding that it was the duty of every man to testify in a court of justice regardless of the state in which the case was pending.

### CRITICIZED BUT NEEDED

The personnel of President Hoover's Cabinet shows once more how inevitably and unerringly the legal profession is drafted for service in the nation's vital affairs. It is a practical estimate of the worth of lawyers, which is worth scores of careless and prejudiced views. It should give a momentary pause to the critics who merely echo traditional clap-trap about the profession, without stopping to inquire whether there is any truth in it or not. Six of the nine members of the Cabinet are lawyers and six of the seven new members belong to the profession. Henry L. Stimson, the new Secretary of State, became a member of the firm of Root and Clark in 1893, two years after his admission to the Bar. In 1897 he was associated with the firm of Root, Howard, Winthrop and Stimson, and in 1901 with Winthrop and Stimson. He was U. S. District Attorney for Southern New York, 1906-1909. He was commissioned Major Judge Advocate U. S. Reserve in March, 1917.

The new Secretary of War, James W. Good of Chicago, was City Attorney of Cedar Rapids before beginning his long career in Congress as representative from Iowa. In June, 1921, he resigned from that body in order to begin the practice of law in Chicago. Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts, Secretary of the Navy, was admitted to the Suffolk Bar in 1893. William D. Mitchell, of Minnesota, the new Attorney General, a lawyer as a matter of course, was promoted to a cabinet post from the responsible position of Solicitor General. Walter F. Brown, of Ohio, Postmaster General, has been a member of the firm of Brown, Hahn and Sanger, Toledo, Ohio, since 1908. Arthur H. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture, former Governor of Missouri, is also a lawyer and resides in Trenton, Mo.—*American Bar Association Journal*.

### VOLUNTEER JURYMEN

Among the more recent suggestions to better the administration of justice is one from a layman, who proposes the mobilization of citizens, through the various civic and service organizations, for volunteer jury service. He says: "If citizens, through their respective clubs and associations, are convinced that they can wield a tremendous collective influence through their parent organizations by forming units of a Legion of Volunteer Jurors there will be a surplus of representative citizens available for jury service; with the thousands of additional jurors the average term of service could be reduced to a few days every other year, and 'moron juries' would disappear, due to the united effort of jurors to raise their own standards."

Complimentary to the main suggestion is one for written or verbal reports by individual jurors to their respective units, setting forth their observations concerning such matters as perjury, badgering of witnesses, unnecessary loss of time, exploitation of legal technicalities and unprofessional conduct.

The "volunteer juror" proposal doesn't make much of an off-hand impression, but we are inclined to believe that well-considered reports by jurors to such an organization as our Judicial Council might provide valuable data for future action.