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The President's Page

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The work of the Citizenship and Americanization committee, under O. B. Herigstad of Minot, as chairman for the last two years, has been splendid. Those who attended the last meeting of the Bar Association will remember the high grade essay on the Constitution which took first prize, read as a part of the program by the young author, Helen Pravda of Velva. This year the committee is conducting a similar contest among the grade schools on the subject, "Why Every Citizen Should Vote." The best essays from each county are being selected locally, and those from each congressional district are being judged by three judges in each district, and prizes awarded; and the best three from the State are then being judged by a final committee. This is a magnificent work for the development of American citizenship, carried on in an eminently practical manner. Last year's theoretical study of the Constitution is this year being reinforced by a study of the practical duty of taking part in government. The committee felt, wisely I believe, that the grades were the right place to conduct this educational contest.

I know of no better way of developing citizenship than by stressing this subject in practical form in the common schools. A far flung republic cannot permanently survive unless it is based on intelligent participation in government by its citizens. Universal compulsory education is its bedrock, and such education should include history and government, as well as economics. The many other movements to encourage this in the schools, such as oratorical contests on the Constitution, fostered by the newspapers, and essays on the foreign policy of the United States, sponsored by the Daughters of the Revolution, are all to be welcomed. They should be based, as I believe they are, not on fetish-worship of the Constitution or any other document or theory of government, which is properly subject to change with changing conditions, but on earnest study of the basis of government and of popular welfare. Such a study does more to combat successfully enemies of our country than any number of speeches which merely "make the eagle scream." It is constructive statesmanship.

The program for the annual meeting at Valley City is being rounded out. There will be four half hour addresses from our own members, followed by discussion. W. H. Stutsman of Mandan will give a paper on some feature of the law of grain and storage receipts; General Ritchie of Valley City on military law; Philip Bangs of Grand Forks on the Minimum Wage; and Mack Traynor of Devils Lake on Mortgage Foreclosures.

All lawyers who find themselves able to do so will wish to attend the testimonial to Judge Kneeshaw, to be held at Cavalier at 1:00 P. M. on June 26th, under the auspices of the Old Settlers Association. The State Bar Association and many local associations will be represented and will present resolutions. From most parts of the State the return trip can be made in a day. It is a pleasure to do honor to a distinguished jurist who has sat on the Bench for over a quarter of a century and gained the respect and admiration of all who know him.
—JOHN H. LEWIS, President.

 JURY TRIALS

This is the second installment of the article by John H. Wigmore in the April issue of the Journal of the American Judicature Society. Last month we published his comments on these two items: 1. De-