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## The President's Page

John H. Lewis

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At this time attention is naturally centered on the annual meeting, to be held at Valley City on Sept. 4 and 5. Our efficient secretary, and the hospitable lawyers of Valley City, have the program well in hand. As usual, the securing of an out of the state speaker is fraught with last minute disappointments, and his name cannot yet be announced. The speakers from our own bar have been announced in a previous issue of BAR BRIEFS. We shall have the pleasure of having with us as our guests a representative of the Manitoba Bar Association and, I hope, the president of the South Dakota Bar Association.

I hope the attendance at Valley City will be large. Our bar association, like many others, has been through various vicissitudes, and at times has had a struggle for existence. Since its incorporation by the legislature, interest seems to have increased consistently from year to year. Some of the meetings years ago were attended only by a corporal's guard. I have had the pleasure of attending most of them for many years, and, speaking generally, it has been a pleasure. I have felt it to be a duty also for a lawyer, when he reasonably can, to take part in the organized activities of his profession. There is so much that is waiting for us to do, that we can do if we really try; and I think we are trying harder, and accomplishing more, year by year.

It is hoped that most of the committee reports will be printed in this issue of BAR BRIEFS, and they should be well worth careful attention.

The splendid suggestion of Secretary Wenzel in regard to young children at the Mandan Training School has attracted much attention and is bearing fruit. I have appointed a committee, with Judge Christianson as chairman and H. F. Horner as vice-chairman, to study this problem and to present a report to the annual meeting, looking toward the passage of legislation which shall give these youngsters a square deal. This is the kind of reform which the Bar Association should bend all its energies toward accomplishing.

JOHN H. LEWIS,  
President.

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 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

## FEE SCHEDULE

My report will necessarily be brief.

I have received perhaps a half a dozen inquiries during the year from attorneys who were in doubt about some item of the schedule.

I have endeavored to ascertain, as much as possible, whether the schedule was being used and its standards maintained by the bar generally. From information obtained I believe that it is. Here and there I find complaints by attorneys that it is being violated. The worst offenders that have come to my notice are in the bar of the City of Grand Forks. I am sorry to say that the complaints that have come to me have been against some of the leading attorneys of that city. This is regrettable, inasmuch as the schedule is certainly low enough for attorneys to make a living wage.

To my mind, the schedule of fees involves more than an economic proposition. An ethical principle is involved, as lawyers who charge less than the stipulated amount are not only unfair to themselves and their