



1926

Committee on Uniform State Laws

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the Reporter, or one of his principal advisors or the Director, to be present on these occasions. Your committee suggests that the North Dakota Bar Association take the lead in the northwest by adopting resolutions looking toward the holding of such a joint meeting in this State."

Reverting to the purpose of the re-statements undertaken by the Institute, the committee again calls attention to the fact that the aim is "to promote the clarification and the simplification of the law and its better adaptation to social needs, to secure the better administration of justice, and to encourage and carry on scholarly and scientific legal work. Not that this restatement shall be adopted by the legislatures of the various states as a code, but that it may retain the flexibility and universality of the common law, and that the work shall be so pre-eminently well done that it shall be accepted by the bench and bar of the United States as persuasive authority; that the moral force of the lawyers and judges of the entire country shall be behind it; and so that he who disputes it shall have the burden of proving that it is inconsistent or erroneous."

COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

PAUL CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN

This committee makes an extended report, to which justice can not be done in the limited space at our disposal.

It deplores "lack of interest and lack of familiarity with the effort for uniformity, . . . that the incentive necessary to the sacrifice and work of accomplishment even among members of the committee is lacking, . . . and that we must find some means of arousing interest and getting behind this effort some agency, as to whom the necessary effort is not a complete sacrifice."

Attention is called to the necessity for changing the relationship of North Dakota to the National Conference on Uniform State Laws. "The commissioners are appointed from the several states by authority of the legislature, or in the absence of such by the executive authority; and in the case of the failure of each by the President of the Bar Association. There are usually three commissioners. In North Dakota, up to the present time, we have no legislative authority with reference to their appointment. The commissioners have heretofore been appointed by the Governor. As a result, their work, their time and even their actual expenses have been and must be met by the commissioners themselves. One of the first proposed acts desired is the legislative authority for the appointment of the commissioners, with provision at least for payment of their expenses, and, if possible, some allowance for their time and work, a very considerable amount of which is contemplated and required, if the work is to be carried on successfully. Your committee recommends that an effort be made, in which all of the various uniform law agencies and their representatives in this State co-operate, at the next session of the Legislature, to secure an act for the appointment of North Dakota Commissioners and with it some appropriation or provision to meet at least their expenses."

Continuing, the committee directs attention to the work required before an act, usually meritorious and desirable, can be placed upon the statute books of a state. "Somebody must do this work and some-

body must undertake and assume the initiative and responsibility for its being done. There really seems to be a thought and suggestion, discovered in our efforts, that all of this work and effort is at least to be initiated and the responsibility therefor placed upon our unremunerated commissioners."

As a means of attaining the fullest measure of success the committee suggests the organization of a Section or subordinate organization within the Association, with well defined powers and functions, so as to avoid encroachments as well as to supply a medium for effective action.

It is pointed out that there are the following thirty-three acts which have not been placed upon the statute books of North Dakota:

Foreign Acknowledgment Act, Bills of Lading Act, Child Labor Act, Conditional Sales Act, Extradition of Persons of Unsound Mind Act, Federal Tax Lien Registration Act, Fire Arms Act, Foreign Depositions Act, Interparty Agreement Act, Land Registration Act, Marriage and Marriage License Act, Motor Vehicle Operators and Chauffeurs License Act, Occupational Diseases Act, Proof of Statutes Act, Sales Act, Amendment, Warehouse Receipt Act, Amendment, Wills Act, Foreign Executed, Wills Act, Foreign Probated, Arbitration Act, Chattel Mortgage Act, Cold Storage Act, Criminal Extradition Act, Fiduciaries Act, Flag Act, Fraudulent Conveyance Act, Joint Obligations Act, Limited Partnership Act, Marriage Evasion Act, Stock Transfer Act, Vital Statistics Act, Workmen's Compensation Act, Written Obligations Act.

The definite recommendations are summarized as follows:

1. Enactment of legislative authority for appointment of commissioners and means to at least cover expenses.
2. Authority for organization of a Section on Uniform Laws.
3. Examination of proposed acts by members interested in any of them and their recommendations to the committee with reference thereto."

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION WITH PRESS

A. W. CUPLER, Chairman

"The subject of cooperation between the Press and the Bar has received the attention of the newspapers of the country and the editorial comment has generally been favorable. The decision of Judge O'Brien of the Criminal Court of Baltimore, holding newspaper publishers of that city guilty of contempt of court in publishing photographs taken during the trial of Richard R. Whittemore, and holding Captain Burns, chief of detectives, guilty of contempt in giving to newspaper reporters, in advance of trial, evidence claimed to be possessed against persons charged with robbery, affirmed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland January 21, 1927, focused attention of the Press on the subject and caused editors as well as prosecutors to consider their duty to maintain the dignity of the courts and aid in meting out impartial justice.

"The concluding sentence of an editorial on the subject in the New York Times of January 22, 1927, typifies the publishers' comment: 'If a change for the better can begin with prosecutors, and if clear and