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## A Question Answered

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But five of the states—Colorado, Virginia, Connecticut, Delaware and Washington—also have adopted the system, the two last named taking the step within the year. While the acts making the change are not uniform that enacted in the state of Washington will sufficiently indicate the general nature of the legislation. It provides in substance that the supreme court shall have the power to prescribe from time to time the forms of writs and all other process, the mode and manner of framing and filing pleadings and proceedings, of giving notice and serving writs or process of all kinds, of taking and obtaining evidence, of entering orders and judgments, and generally to regulate and prescribe by rule the forms for and the kind and character of the pleading, practice and procedure to be used in all suits, actions, appeals and proceedings of whatever nature by the supreme court, superior courts and justices of the peace of the state, the court having regard in prescribing such rules to the simplification of the system of pleading, practice and procedure in such courts to promote the speedy determination of litigation on the merits. It is provided that when and as the rules authorized shall be promulgated, all laws in conflict therewith shall be and become of no force and effect.

A movement which has gathered so much momentum elsewhere cannot be disregarded by our Bar. It is our duty to inquire into its merits. In arriving at a final judgment the results of the operation of the system in the states in which it has been adopted should serve as a material aid.

#### A QUESTION ANSWERED

In a recent issue of one of our North Dakota daily papers appeared an editorial under the heading "What Is It?" which read as follows:

"A Bar Association committee in a certain western state recently reported to the parent body that steps should be taken to prevent automobile associations from maintaining lawyers who would give free legal advice to club members. Such practice was 'unethical,' it was reported. Bar Associations love to pose as bodies gathered together to improve the standards of that Bar and to protect the public from unscrupulous and dishonest attorneys. But this sounds as though a Bar Association were nothing but a glorified and slightly grasping group, out for the ultimate penny. Just what is a Bar Association, anyhow?"

One of the members of the Committee on Correct Public Information of the North Dakota Association replied to the editorial. As the reply met with the approval of the Committee, a portion of it is here re-printed, to-wit:

"The particular Bar Association referred to in the editorial may or may not have acted wisely in recommending steps to prevent automobile associations from maintaining lawyers to give free legal advice to members. That is a debatable question, just as the question of the extent to which a trust company may go in giving legal advice, drafting wills and similar documents is debatable. Free or cheap legal advice, like the 'cure-all' and the 'yellow journal', is not very good as a rule. The American Bar Association and the North Dakota State Bar Association

are earnestly striving to eliminate the unfair, unqualified and dishonest practitioners of whom there are undoubtedly too many. Nevertheless, it does not behoove the press to slander the Bar Associations or the legal profession generally because of unfortunate experiences of individuals with particular members of the profession who do not conform to the desired standard. Lawyers are human just as journalists, doctors, scientists, artists and others are human. They are not any more given to posing than the members of any other profession or class. The press has a peculiar privilege in its control of the principal medium of present-day publicity. The abuse of this privilege is not conducive to enlightenment or good feeling. It is hoped that you will co-operate with the N. D. State Bar Association's Committee on Correct Information in seeking to improve the relations between the press and the Bar and to obtain a fair presentation of those matters pertaining to the legal profession."

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#### NOTES

A law school for women was recently organized in Kansas City.

The Supreme Court of Indiana, in *Gaffill vs. Bracken*, 145 N. E. 312, sustained the constitutionality of a law imposing a two-cent tax on gasoline.

The Burleigh County Bar Association has decided to hold monthly meetings at which subjects of general interest to the bar will be discussed.

The firm of Divet, Shure, Holt, Frame, Murphy and Thorp, recently organized in Fargo, is the largest law firm organized in the history of the state.

The Woman's Bar Association of Washington, D. C., which was organized in 1917 by a small group of woman lawyers, now has a membership of one hundred twenty.

The supreme court of the United States has refused to take jurisdiction of an action instituted to enjoin entry of the United States into the World Court on the ground that it is unconstitutional.

The Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate has refused to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Judge Wallace McCamant to the Circuit Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit.

The bill now before Congress which provides for the increase of the salaries of Federal Judges has created considerable interest. Both senators and all representatives from this state have pledged their support to the bill.

The Ward County Bar Association has a monthly luncheon. At that held on February 2nd, thirty members of the bar attended. The subjects considered were judicial salaries and other questions relating to the judicial office.

At a recent meeting the Cass County Bar Association considered the subject of judicial salaries and changes in the terms of judges of the supreme court. The association has appropriated \$25.00 for use of its Americanization Committee to purchase prizes for an essay contest