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American Bar Association Meeting

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The faculty of the Harvard Law School will conduct a crime survey in Massachusetts during the coming summer and fall and will submit its recommendations to the 1927 legislature. The survey will be wider in its scope than the Cleveland survey which also was under the direction of Dean Pound. It will cover not only the administration of justice but general crime conditions as well.

The Indiana State Bar Association has recently put to a test the rule long prevailing in that state whereby the only qualification for admission to the bar was a good moral character. Judge Fortune refused to admit an applicant without an examination testing his legal knowledge. Upon application by the applicant to the supreme court for a writ of mandamus, the issuance of the writ was refused.

In *Robins v. Jones*, 277 S. W. 333, the Kentucky supreme court takes cognizance of the decreased purchasing power of the dollar, in allowing an attorney's fee of \$6,000.00 for successfully defending a will contest. There is greater likelihood, the court says, that attorneys will do themselves injustice in the way of charges for services outside of litigated matters than that they will deal unjustly with clients in their charges for services in litigated matters.

Senator Thos. J. Walsh of Montana at a meeting of the Tri-State Bar Association, consisting of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana delivered an address against reform in federal procedure. He contended that the task which the bill now before congress imposes upon the supreme court is one entirely beyond the power of that court to perform. In his opinion the reformed procedure is unnecessary, would aggravate the evils which it is intended to remove, and would introduce confusion in the practice.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

The American Bar Association meeting will be held at Denver on July 14th, 15th and 16th. On the first evening Hon. James M. Beck will deliver the annual address, and the following evening Thomas J. Norton of Chicago will speak on "National Encroachments and State Aggressions." Duncan Campbell Lee of London will represent the English bar at the meeting. On the afternoon of July 14th, there will be a symposium on the "Enforcement of the Criminal Law" with addresses by Guy A. Thompson of St. Louis, prominent in efforts to improve the administration of criminal justice in Missouri, and Richard Washburn Child of New York City, who has devoted much time to an investigation of the administration of criminal justice. In the afternoon of July 15th, there will be a symposium on "Greater Efficiency in Judicial Procedure," with addresses by Robert C. Dodge of Boston, a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Council, Edson R. Sunderland of the University of Michigan Law School and Roscoe Pound of Harvard University Law School. Three half day sessions will be devoted to committee reports. July 13th, preceding the opening of the sessions, is set apart for the sectional meetings. Those of the criminal law and judicial sections have programs of unusual interest. The afternoon of July 16th, and the whole of July 17th,

are set apart for motor trips for members of the association and their ladies as guests of the Colorado and Denver bar associations.

The program throughout is an unusually strong one. Excursion rates from North Dakot points are reasonable and Denver is so accessible by automobile that the bar of this state should be well represented. There is a distinct advantage in membership in the American Bar Association. The membership fee is only \$6.00, and in return members in addition to other advantages receive the American Bar Association Journal and a bound volume of the proceedings of the annual meeting. These are of great value to all who would keep in touch with the developments within the profession.

RE-STATEMENT OF THE LAW

At the recent meeting of the American Law Institute both President Wickersham and Director Lewis brought out the fact that teachers of law are beginning to make use of the tentative drafts in class room work, and that such use offers a valuable opportunity to familiarize the Bar of the future with the undertaking. Director Lewis further remarked that many law professors had obtained valuable suggestions from the doubts and questions of bright students, and there was no reason why the Institute might not find profitable suggestions through the same source. Due consideration is being given to the comment or criticism of all who take the trouble to present either in order that the work may become the work of the profession as a whole.

INCORPORATION OF THE BAR

Last month we poked fun at the arguments of the New York attorneys who opposed incorporation of the Bar. We still feel that the character of the opposition deserved the light treatment. The following from the American Bar Association Journal, however, is entitled to more serious and respectful consideration: "It is universally held by all the decisions that a lawyer is an officer of the court, that he owes to it a special allegiance and resulting duties of a well defined character, touching not only his demeanor in the court room, but the determination of his qualifications for admission to the bar, and his accountability to discipline for every act done in the exercise of the privileges and prerogatives bestowed upon him by the license to practice. It has been held that because of the fact that lawyers are officers of the court, the legislature invades the judicial province when it attempts to prescribe the qualifications which will entitle an applicant for admission to the bar to a license, and that such laws are therefore unconstitutional and void. (In re Day, 181 Ill. 73) Since, therefore, lawyers are officers of the courts and are a part of the judicial institution, why is it necessary to seek for any further grant of power from the legislative department? Has not the judicial department inherent power to deal with the question of the organization of all its officers, the creation of subdivisions, geographical and functional, and the assignment of special duties to spe-