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Professional Interest

North Dakota State Bar Association

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—By—

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PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

It has been suggested that legal publications and the meetings of lawyers might well give more of their attention to the discussion of methods for disposing of the routine things of the ordinary practice and that the usual consideration of subjects touching the history or philosophy of the law and the need of re-statement of the law and of reform in the processes by which it is applied, is beyond the interest, if not indeed beyond the comprehension, of the average member of the profession. Perhaps the mechanics of the practice should have more attention in professional literature, but we doubt the claim that the average lawyer is indifferent to the historical and philosophical aspects of the profession. If he is thus indifferent there should be discussion to awaken him. He who holds the true professional spirit realizes that back of every principle which he seeks to apply in his practice there lies historical and logical reason for it, and the law consists in this reason rather than in the bald statement of the principle which he cites as the law. This reason is shaped by the business and social and industrial and commercial conditions under which it found expression, and as these change in our kaleidoscopic civilization, the law itself must change to suit new conditions. Similarly the methods by which the law can be effectively applied in one age become unsuited to its application in a new age. The problem of the profession is to keep the law and its administration abreast of the needs of the day with unflinching adherence to principles which long since have been universally accepted as fundamental. It is our function to give voice to these fundamentals in terms of our changing social life. If one has an interest in the reason for the law, and its adaptation to the current life, he not only will understand what the profession through its associations and periodicals is discussing, but will resent an abandonment of the discussion as a failure to meet the challenge of a great duty and as a leveling of the profession to a calling concerned only with the material reward its plying will bring.