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Reports and Recommendations of Committees

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REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

NORTH DAKOTA REPORTS

The Committee held a meeting in December, 1924, and urged the publication of the volumes of Reports as soon as copy is prepared.

The Committee recommends that publication of advance sheets be not undertaken, as publication of syllabi in various daily papers and review of important decisions in Bar Briefs render such publication unnecessary.

COMPENSATION AND FEES

This Committee reports general commendation from attorneys on the adoption of the Fee Schedule, and that the ambiguity as to the meaning of one or two items of the Schedule has been cleared up.

It recommends that the possible correction of several of the items be considered at the annual meeting, and that the matter of enforcement of the Scheule be made a part of the work of the local associations.

PROBATE CODE

The Probate Code Committee reports the preparation and legislative enactment of a bill simplifying part of the Probate practice.

It suggests further work for itself by recommending that the Committee be delegated to prepare a set of simplified blanks for use in Probate Court in order to reduce the work of Probate practice.

UNIFORM LAWS

This report states that a meeting of the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws will be held at Detroit, Michigan, August 25th to September 1st, just preceding the annual meeting of the American Bar Association; that this meeting will be attended by the following representatives from North Dakota: Hon. H. A. Bronson of Grand Forks, and Hon. Sveinbjorn Johnson of Bismarck; and that a proper report of the work of that gathering will be prepared for presentation at the annual meeting of the State Association.

LEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSION

The Committee has submitted an extended report, which will be further supplemented later. It reports some lack of agreement among the nine members concerning the adoption of the American Bar Association standards, which may be summarized as follows:

1. Two years of college before admission to Law School;
2. Continuous law course of 3 years, part time courses to total 3 years;
3. Adequate library in the Law School;
4. Full-time instructors;
5. Public examinations in addition to degrees.

Six members of the committee favor immediate attempt at enactment of this standard into law; three are of the opinion that the time is not ripe to make the attempt, and fear the results of failure to carry it through; three, also, advocate, in addition to the American Bar Asso-

ciation standard, the requirement that the applicant engage in one year of actual practice in a private office after graduation and before admission.

CODIFICATION AND REVISION

At its meeting in December, 1924, this Committee came to the conclusion that codification of the North Dakota Laws was a pressing necessity. Investigation, however, indicated an expenditure of \$100,000 to carry out that conclusion, and a compilation (as that of 1913) would have run to \$50,000. Compilation of a supplement to the 1913 compilation was then considered, found to be feasible, and a bill introduced into the legislature. That bill was passed. The Committee reports the work progressing, the volume to be ready for distribution in a few months at a cost of about \$14.

The Committee, in its report, further indicates that the legislative amendment to take \$6,000 out of the Bar Fund to take care of the State's outlay (\$12 per copy for 500 copies) is not in addition to the \$10,000 appropriation of the 1923 Legislature; that no part of the \$10,000 appropriation of two years ago was used for the reason that there was a question of the constitutionality of the law; that the 1925 Legislature then passed a law transferring \$10,000 from the Bar Fund to the General Fund; and that the \$6,000 is to come out of that sum.

The suggestion is renewed that members of the Bar advise the Chairman, Hon. Sveinbjorn Johnson, of errors or omissions discovered in the 1913 compilation, so that the same may be corrected.

JUDICIAL

It was suggested at the last annual meeting that a body of judges and lawyers be created by legislative act to study the subject of "Judicial Reforms." The Committee which proposed the plan, and of which Hon. A. G. Burr is chairman, will again present it for consideration by the membership of the Association at the meeting in September. An outline of this Committee's conclusions, as a result of further study of the matter of judicial reforms, includes the suggestion for the establishment, by legislative enactment, of a Judicial Council, consisting of the following: Chief Justice of Supreme Court as Chairman, one Judge from each Judicial District, and the President and Secretary of the Bar Association. The Council is to be charged with the duty of ascertaining the state of judicial business, gathering statistical information regarding work of courts, examining rules of procedure, suggesting changes in administration, studying work of law enforcement, equalizing trial work, revising rules, and considering complaints against courts and their officers.

LEGISLATIVE

This Committee reports the introduction of the following bills at the 1925 Session: Amendment of Section 8719, passed in Senate but defeated in the House, relating to exemption of life insurance payable to personal representative of deceased, his heirs or estate; the same result is reported for a bill relieving administrators, executors and

guardians from personal liability where funds were deposited in solvent banks; bills passing and becoming law were those re Probate Practice, prepared by the Probate Code Committee, and the one requiring recording of power of attorney in foreclosure proceedings.

Recommendations are that the Legislative Committee should confine its efforts to subjects on which action has been approved by the State Bar Association; that suggested amendments be referred by individual attorneys to the Association, sent to the proper Committee for consideration, and final action at the State Association meeting; that introduction of bills sponsored by the Association be accomplished during the first week of the Session; that, after the bills are printed, the Legislative Committee meet in conference at Bismarck, and delegate one of its members to spend at least one week in steering the bills through.

The Chairman, J. F. T. O'Connor, expresses his appreciation of the associations formed and contacts had while a resident of the State, together with the hope that those who may happen to visit the city of his recent adoption, Los Angeles, will do him the honor to call upon him.

SECRETARY - TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer's report (incomplete at this time) will show the following receipts and disbursements since the 1924 annual meeting:

RECEIPTS

Cash on Hand	\$1,049.44
Received from Bar Board	2,710.00
Refund from Postmaster for regular postage advanced on three issues Bar Briefs	18.00
TOTAL	\$3,777.44

EXPENDITURES

Balance on 1923-1924 accounts	\$ 812.96
Printing and Postage	188.14
Executive Committee	68.28
Americanization Committee	149.34
Probate Code Committee	41.30
President	51.42
Secretary-Treasurer	360.00
Bar Briefs	206.45
Legislative	126.22
1924 Proceedings	399.76

TOTAL **\$2,403.87**

The Secretary's report will also show a detailed statement of the expenditures and a brief review of the referendum for recommendations to the Bar Board.

NORTH DAKOTA HEADQUARTERS

President A. W. Cupler announces that he will maintain headquarters for North Dakota attorneys attending the annual meeting of the American Bar Association at Detroit, Michigan, September 2nd, at the Book-Cadillac Hotel.