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## Northwest District Bar Association

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Bar and their ladies and friends, and assert that they hope to make this convention the best yet. Devils Lake's sporty golf course will lure many of the devotees of the game to remain over Sunday, making a week-end of profit and pleasure for all concerned. With good roads and good weather, the largest attendance ever had at a state bar meeting is anticipated.

At last year's meeting a very interesting discussion was had upon the report of the committee having to do with the matter of automobile liability and compulsory insurance. The majority report was made by Honorable C. H. Starke of Dickinson, and the minority report by P. W. Lanier of Jamestown. No action was taken upon the report at that meeting. The committee was continued in force with instructions to again report at the annual meeting this year. An intensive study has been made of the problem and it is anticipated that majority and minority reports will be again made and that a most lively discussion will follow and that recommendations will be made by the body of the convention to be submitted to the state legislature.—Program Committee.

#### NORTHWEST DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION

The Northwest District Bar Association was reorganized at Minot, May 31st. Prof. P. W. Viesselman, of the University Law School, gave a very interesting address on "Education for the Practice of Law." He discussed modern tendencies in the teaching of law, and urged a closer co-operation between the bar and the law school.

President A. M. Kvello was present and gave an interesting talk on the relation of the bar to the public, with special reference to the criticism of the bar by the public, and the necessity for constructive reform in procedure to obviate such criticism. He urged the necessity of closer co-operation of the members of the bar through District Associations.

Hon. F. T. Cuthbert, first President of the Lake Region Bar Association, was also present and gave an interesting address. He urged conservatism in procedural reforms.

The meeting was opened by an address of welcome delivered by Hon. James Johnson, president of the association, in his usual jovial manner. Hon. Geo. P. Hommes of Crosby responded to the address of welcome, stressing the idea that the bar of the state are pioneers, in a pioneer state, and that the state needs the leadership of the lawyer.

This association is composed of the lawyers of Divide, Burke, Renville, Bottineau, McHenry, Ward, Mountrail, Williams, and McKenzie Counties. All counties were represented at the meeting though only about half of the lawyers in the District were present. Those present were apparently strongly in favor of the organization of the district association, and the association promises to be a success, though it can only be so by reason of the co-operation of the entire bar. One purpose of the district organization is to reach the individual lawyer and to secure his co-operation with his fellow lawyers in the State Association. President Kvello promises us plenty of work in discussing and furthering the purposes of the State Association. He wishes the new association to hold a business meeting shortly before the State Association meets to discuss the reports of the various committees which will be submitted to the State meeting. He also requests the bar to urge the adoption of the amendments increasing the length of judicial terms of office.

The business meeting was preceded by a banquet held Friday evening at the Industrial Room of the Waverly Hotel. The banquet was well

attended, many of the lawyers being accompanied by their wives. Every one present seemed to have an enjoyable time. Hon. James Johnson, the oldest member of the bar of the district and the pioneer lawyer of Ward County, presided as toastmaster. The laugh of the evening was produced by Jim when he remarked that all good things were put up in small packages, and then exemplified his remark by calling on Hon. F. B. Lambert for a few remarks. Frank is no small package.

The association organized by adopting a constitution and by-laws. One feature of the constitution is the provision for a Vice-President for each county. These Vice-Presidents, with the President, constitute the Executive Committee.

The officers of the association for the ensuing year are: President, John H. Lewis; Vice-Presidents, James Johnson for Ward County, E. J. McIlraith for Divide County, Earl Walter for Burke County, P. M. Clark for Renville County, W. H. Adams for Bottineau County, T. D. Morrow for McHenry County, F. W. Medbery for Mountrail County, Ivan Metzger for Williams County, and Robert Norheim for McKenzie County; V. E. Stenerson of Minot is Treasurer. All lawyers of the district will be members of the association on remitting to the treasurer the annual dues of \$1.00. C. E. Brace of Minot is secretary. —O. B. HERIGSTAD.

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### JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

In the November, 1928, issue of Bar Briefs we broached the subject of bar endorsement of groups of names for presentation to the general electorate as competent material for judicial positions. Among other things we said, "Properly safeguarded as to secrecy of ballot, and properly regulated as to manner and method, a self-governing bar like North Dakota's, including, as it does, every member of the profession, might well consider the advisability of presenting to the people of the state, from time to time, groups of names for the various judicial positions. It is reasonable to suppose that selection might be made, from such groups or lists of names, with credit to the state, the bench, the bar, and the individual citizen casting a ballot at the general election."

It was presented as the individual viewpoint of the editor without Association or executive committee endorsement, with the hope that during the two-year interim between elections it might result in discussion, in proper spirit and with due regard to the merits of the proposal. Following that publication, the editor kept silent on the subject.

The first reaction came recently in some of the district re-organization meetings, where references were made to the subject in constitution or by-laws. This fact encourages us to approach the subject a second time, and to offer the experience of California, as presented in an article by Lawrence L. Larrabee of the Los Angeles bar, to-wit:

In 1920 the officers of our bar association began the work of devising a method by which an authentic appraisal of the qualifications of judiciary candidates could be obtained and results given to the voters. It was in that year that the association's first plebiscite was taken. The vote was convincing in the majorities given, and the endorsements were published. There was no doubt expressed by anybody as to the dependability of that opinion or of the sincerity of the association in its desire to serve the public by offering it for the guidance of the voters.

In connection with every judiciary election since 1920 the associa-