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President's Page

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Through the regrettable death of my friend, Judge Bagley, the responsibilities of his office have now fallen upon my shoulders. The thought of trying to fill the place of a man whom I have for years looked up to as one of the outstanding members of the Bar of North Dakota is anything but complimentary to myself. I wish I might have been privileged to have served with him through a year for which he had planned much. I would like to have gone to school to him in the assurance that I would then have been better able to serve you. But the remorseless turning of the wheel of fate has made it necessary for me to carry on in his stead.

It is a responsibility that I accept, and one of which I shall try to acquit myself to the very best of my ability. I am fortunate in having been permitted to know in a large measure Judge Bagley's plans, and it shall be my purpose to assist in carrying out those plans. In all that I may do or attempt to do there shall be one underlying thought, and that is that I am carrying out the orders of my chief who is now gone. My work shall be done in a spirit of memorial service for him. The thought that I now have a larger responsibility in bringing to nearer fruition his hopes and ambitions for the Association shall ever be an incentive to me.

At my request he gave me the chairmanship of the committee on Local Organization. It was his firm conviction that only through an awakened local interest could the Bar Association rise to the position of influence in the State that it ought to hold. It was his plan that there should be an active local organization in every judicial district in the state, and, in the larger centers, country and even city organizations. He had planned before the annual meeting to visit every such organization. One of his last labors, and one on which he was working even when the hand of death was upon his shoulder, was the preparation of a message to the Lakes Association meeting held at Pembina, which he was to attend.

No one can read Judge Bagley's first and last message to the lawyers of this state, as contained in the October Bar Briefs, without realizing the loss to the Association of such a simple-hearted and genuine lawyer and man. While his work among us here is over and he has finished his allotted little day I do not believe that he has finished his life. I believe with Victor Hugo that "The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight; it opens on the dawn."—A. M. Kvello, President.