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Committee on Powers, Terms and Salaries of Judges

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Board satisfactory proof of citizenship, age and good moral character, and of pre-legal education, sufficient to show that applicant has all the requirements for admission to the Bar upon completion of his law course.

"3. That all students matriculating at the College of Law of the University of North Dakota, who expect to practice law in this State, shall make a similar application for registration as law students with the State Bar Board at the time of matriculation."

4. This recommendation asks for legislation that will put an end to the illegal practice of law by bank employees and real estate, loan and collection agents, limiting the practice of law to those duly admitted and licensed, the contention being that there is little use of raising standards for admission unless this also be done.

(N. B.—It was pointed out by Mr. Silas H. Strawn, Chairman of the American Bar Association Committee on Legal Education and Admission, in an address before the Florida Bar Association in April, 1927, that the following represented the comparative requirements for the medical and legal professions, to-wit:

No. Jurisdictions Requiring	Medicine	Law
Graduation from Professional School	48	1
Two Years Preliminary College Education	38	5
Preliminary High School Education	44	20
Five Years of Professional Training	11
Four Years of Professional Training	49
Three Years of Professional Training	49	31
Examination by Public Authority	49	35)

COMMITTEE ON POWERS, TERMS AND SALARIES OF JUDGES

JOHN H. LEWIS, Chairman

Powers. There appears to be a considerable disagreement in the committee on this subject. The members who met together agreed that the recent statute, taking away from our district judges power to direct a verdict, ought to be repealed. They feel that it is too difficult to frame any intelligent issues to submit to a jury in cases where, prior to this statute, a verdict would undoubtedly have been directed, and that it is unjust to make the parties, who would otherwise have received the directed verdict, pay the costs of a transcript in order to move for a judgment notwithstanding the verdict.

"The views of the committee are at variance in regard to giving judges the power to comment on the evidence. Those who do not wish to see this power given, admit that in theory they ought to have such power but give as their opinion that a power which may safely be lodged with judges appointed for life, as in Federal Court, may not safely be given to judges elected for short terms and inevitably more or less subject to the exigencies of politics.

"There is also disagreement as to the desirability of lessening the amount of our legislation as to procedure and leaving those matters to be dealt with by court rules. Some of the committee feel that such a change would make for greater simplicity of administration, while others feel that it would be unnecessary and dangerous.

Terms. The members of the committee attending the meeting seemed generally inclined to feel that the ideal tenure of judges was for

life, with appointment instead of election, but felt certain that no such method could at this time be obtained by law in this State. Such members were unanimous in recommending that a constitutional amendment or amendments be passed fixing the terms of supreme court judges at ten years and district court judges at six years.

Salaries. With one exception the committee was unanimous in favoring increase of judicial salaries. It was pointed out that the salaries have remained as before for a long time, while the cost of commodities in general, and therefore the cost of living, has approximately doubled since the beginning of the war. It was also suggested that men who take judicial positions see their law practice disrupted and find it extremely difficult to get back into practice after they leave the Bench. The members felt that there ought to be substantial increases in judicial salaries, at least proportionate to those which have been made in the salaries of the federal judges. One member, who was not present at the meetings, but stated his views in a letter, thinks that the salaries now paid are at least high enough, compared to the income of lawyers and farmers."

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES

JOHN THORPE, Chairman

In its report the committee lists, and briefly outlines, the public utility legislation of the 1927 Session of the Legislature, being Chapters 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236 and 197. The recommendations follow:

"Your committee recommends for the future less legislation and more cooperation between the utilities and the public. Such cooperation cannot be secured until there is a better understanding of public utilities by the general public. To secure such understanding would seem to be a duty resting upon the public utilities, which duty they can best perform by taking the general public more into their confidence, granting a larger degree of courteous service, together with intelligent publicity.

"We recommend the adoption by this State, together with other states, of a uniform public utilities act. It is a fact well known to lawyers acquainted with utility litigation, that the laws of this State, relating to that subject, are at best a hodge-podge. A great many sections of the law are unworkable, others not understandable, and more are useless. What is true of this State, is true of many other states. A special committee of the National Association of Railroad Commissioners is working upon this at the present time, and a tentative draft of such law has been prepared, copies of which have been submitted to various members of this committee. We believe that a special study of this should be made by a sub-committee, composed of not more than three members. A larger committee would not do the work. If found feasible and workable, when applied to conditions as they exist in this State, we believe that this Association should cooperate in securing its enactment. This would be a benefit not only to the utilities operating in many states, but to the general public, and particularly to the attorneys, who have to do with utility litigation in various state jurisdictions.

"We recommend the repeal of Section 139 of our State Constitution, in order that local franchises may be abolished and that there be substituted for the same, indeterminate permits, to be issued by the