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SERVICES OF GEORGE H. BATCHELOR TO THE INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

GEORGE O. DIX*

George H. Batchelor, on October 14, 1925, tendered his resignation as Secretary of the Indiana State Bar Association in the following letter:

George O. Dix,
President, Indiana State Bar Assn.,
Citizens Trust Building,
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Dix:

I herewith tender my resignation as Secretary of the Indiana State Bar Association, to become effective not later than November 1st.

This is a hard thing to do, after more than eighteen years of continuous service. In that time I have seen the Association grow from a membership of about two hundred to a membership of over one thousand. When the Association was smaller and its activities not so extensive, and my time was my own, I found it possible,—although not without considerable sacrifice to my private affairs, to do the secretarial work required, but with the large increase in membership, the increased committee activities, and particularly the work incident to the publication of *THE INDIANA LAW JOURNAL*, the work involved has become onerous and requires more time than I can afford to give it.

Three years ago I accepted special employment, which I have found to be both congenial and remunerative, but the duties of which for their proper discharge require the full measure of my time and ability. At that time I discussed with the officers of the Company the advisability of relinquishing this post, and only retained it because they urged me to do so; and while they have kindly provided me with secretarial assistance to enable me in part to meet the increased duty, I find that the time and attention it requires is greater than I can afford to give it in justice to my other work, and even though the Company is willing for me to continue, I am not willing to do so, as I must have more time to devote to my personal affairs, if nothing else.

You will therefore regard this decision as irrevocable.

Respectfully,

GEORGE H. BATCHELOR,
Secretary.

The resignation did not come as a surprise to the other officers of the Association who have realized for some time that Mr. Batchelor was carrying on the Association's work at a great personal sacrifice to himself. It has been his love for the organization which he has been so much a part of for so many years which has kept him from resigning long ago. Mr. Batchelor was elected Secretary to succeed Merrill Moores at the July meeting, 1907. Mr. Moores, who had been Secretary for several years, was elected President of the Association at that meeting.

* See biographical note p. 32.

During the twenty-nine years of its existence, the Association has had but five Secretaries. John R. Wilson was the first Secretary, serving but one year. Noble C. Butler served the second year and then came Mr. Moores who served eight years, followed by Mr. Batchelor who has served almost nineteen years, and now the present Secretary, Joel A. Baker, who was selected by the Board of Managers to succeed Mr. Batchelor.

Perhaps no other man in the whole history of the Association has given so much of his time to the Association as has Mr. Batchelor. He has watched it grow in size and influence from infancy to young manhood. He has guided and guarded it while many Presidents, brilliant in the legal and political history of Indiana, have come and gone. During his incumbency, the Association has been connected with many worthy activities. During his first year, the Association adopted the *Canons of Ethics*. This code, with the amendments made the following year, has since guided the lawyers of this State in their professional practice.

At the meeting in 1909, Addison C. Harris read a carefully prepared paper on "Modern Views of Compensation for Personal Injuries." Daniel W. Simms was President of the Association at that time. This paper, which discussed the then new idea of Workmen's Compensation, made a profound impression on the members. It was referred to a Committee, of which Mr. Harris was Chairman, for further study and report at the next annual meeting. The following year during the administration of John T. Dye, the Committee made a further careful study of the subject, and submitted a lengthy report at the annual meeting recommending that the Association undertake to draft and promote the passage of a Workmen's Compensation Act at the next session of the legislature. Although the Association's Bill did not pass, it was the beginning and formed the basis of our present Workmen's Compensation Law.

In 1913, William A. Pickens proposed that the Association draft and endeavor to promote the passage by the State legislature of a new General Corporation Act. A Committee was appointed, and after much labor and perseverance, an Act was passed in 1921.

Also during Mr. Batchelor's term in office, the Association has aided in securing the passage of the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Act, the Juvenile Court and Indeterminate Sentence Laws, the Act increasing the salaries of judges and a number of laws relating to practice and procedure.

In 1913, Mr. Batchelor pointed out the necessity of a new constitution and by-laws for the Association, which resulted in the final adoption of the present Articles.

It was during Mr. Batchelor's incumbency that the Association entered upon the important work of constitutional education. The

Constitutional Education Committee, under the leadership of James A. VanOsdol, has perfected an organization in every County in the State, and last year thirty-two thousand young men and young women in the high schools of the State participated in the oratorical contests on the constitution.

Mr. Batchelor had much to do with the starting of THE INDIANA LAW JOURNAL, and most of the work of gathering and editing the material for the first issues fell to him.

As Secretary, he was *ex officio* a member of the Board of Managers, and was also called upon to attend the meetings, and assist in the work, of the more important committees.

During his term as Secretary, he never missed a meeting of the Association, and between meetings, he has always been on hand to take care of the many needs and duties and the large amount of detail work of the Association. His personal acquaintance with the lawyers of the State, and his intimate first hand knowledge of the history and traditions of the Association, have been invaluable. It is fortunate for the Association that he still remains on several important committees, and that his advice is still available and will be freely given. The Association and the lawyers of Indiana owe a debt of gratitude to George Batchelor.



GEORGE H. BATCHELOR