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News of Bench and Bar

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NEWS OF BENCH AND BAR

FIRST DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED

In the interest of the State Bar Association, an automobile party including President and Mrs. George O. Dix, Vice-President and Mrs. William A. Pickens, Secretary and Mrs. Joel A. Baker and daughter, Jo Anne, toured portions of the Third and all of the First Congressional District, beginning Saturday, May 22, at Bedford and concluding the trip at Evansville on the 25th. They were joined at West Baden Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Hatfield, of Evansville, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Richman, of Columbus.

The route included Bedford, Salem, Paoli, Orleans, Jasper, Petersburg, Princeton, Mount Vernon, Boonville, Rockport, Tell City, Cannelton and Evansville. In each county seat a meeting was held with members of the bar and in several counties every lawyer, not already a member, signed application for membership to the State Bar Association. In all fifty-two applications were secured on the trip.

The party was delightfully entertained Monday evening at the Evansville Country Club by Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walker. Mr. Walker spent Tuesday with the party visiting the county seats east of Evansville including Cannelton in the Third District.

The ladies, with Mrs. Hatfield as a very capable conductress, visited New Harmony, Lincoln City and other historical places in the First District.

On Tuesday evening the Evansville Bar Association, James T. Walker, presiding, entertained at dinner for the man and a number of other visiting lawyers in the district. The principal address was by Mr. Dix with the subject "Bar Organization" and short talks were made by Messrs. Pickens, baker and Richman .

At the conclusion of the dinner, the First District Bar Association was organized with Mr. Hatfield as President and Richard R. McGinnis of Evansville Secretary-Treasurer and a vice-president from each county in the district. Phelps F. Darby of Evansville was appointed chairman of a committee to formulate a constitution and by-laws.

The reception given the party at each county seat indicated that there is a wide spread interest among the lawyers in the organization of Bar Associations. The oratorical contests and the work of the committee of the State Bar Association on Education in the Fundamentals of Constitutional Government were mentioned frequently as contributing to the movement by Indiana lawyers toward more effective bar organization, not only for the purpose of elevating the standards of the profession but also to promote the cause of good government.

FIRST DISTRICT

At a meeting of the Vanderburgh County Bar Association, held at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Evansville on Tuesday, May 24, the first district bar association was organized. Officers elected were:

President, Frank A. Hatfield, Evansville.

Vice-President, Judge Roscoe Kiper for Warrick County.

Vice-President, John K. Chappel for Pike County.

Vice-President, Charles O. Baltzell for Gibson County.

Vice-President, L. N. Savage for Spencer County.

Vice-President, Phelps F. Darby, for Vanderburgh County.

Vice-President, William Espenschied, for Posey County.

Secretary-Treasurer, Richard R. McGinnis.

This was a significant meeting in many ways: The important work of organizing the first district Bar Association was accomplished; a large

number of lawyers were present and among them numerous applications for membership in the state Bar Association were secured; and there was a memorable address by President Dix dealing with bar organization with particular reference to the criminal law situation in this country. The guests of honor for the occasion were President George O. Dix, Vice-President William A. Pickens and Secretary Joel A. Baker of the Indiana State Bar Association together with Mr. Frank Richman of Columbus.

President Dix characterized the present practice of the criminal law as a sporting event between contesting counsel in which the judge acted as umpire. President Dix pointed out that the present situation with respect to the criminal law in this country had justly brought lawyers into disrepute. He stated that the handling of the criminal situation was the lawyer's job in co-operation with the other agencies of the state to the end that this and other work of the legal profession should be efficiently and honorably performed. He urged that adequate requirements for admission to the bar should be enacted and that there should be thorough organization through Bar Associations which would have the authority and moral prestige to win for the bar its rightful heritage of honor and efficient service.

In the course of their tour of the first district, President Dix, Vice-President Pickens and Secretary Baker visited Mt. Vernon and conferred with Judge H. F. Clements of that city. Good progress was made there in the membership drive. President Dix, Vice-President Pickens and Secretary Baker together with Mr. Frank Hatfield of Evansville and Mrs. Frank Richman of Columbus visited Princeton on May 24 and were entertained at a most successful meeting of the county bar association at noon. A very creditable number of applications for membership in the Indiana State Bar Association were received.

SECOND DISTRICT

In anticipation of the discussion of the Legislative Program of the Indiana State Bar Association, Judge Shea has written to a number of lawyers in Davies County asking their suggestions in regard to the proposed amendments to the state constitution covering the organization of the Appellate and Supreme Courts which a committee of the State Bar Association has framed. Judge Shea is chairman of this committee and is making these inquiries in anticipation of the annual meeting at Michigan City, July 8, 9, and 10.

The annual banquet of the senior class of Indiana University School of Law was held at the Graham Hotel in Bloomington on May 29. The guests of honor were George O. Dix, of Terre Haute, President of the Indiana State Bar Association, William A. Pickens of Indianapolis, Vice-President of the Indiana State Bar Association and Louis B. Ewbank of Indianapolis, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana. Dean Paul V. McNutt of the Indiana University School of Law and President William Lowe Bryan of Indiana University spoke. Donald P. Shinn, President of the senior class and Paul E. Tombaugh were the committee in charge of the arrangements.

President Dix spoke on the relation of a young lawyer to bar organization. He pointed out that the lawyer of the old type, with the long coat, fedora hat and fog-horn voice had disappeared. Along with him had also disappeared the legal attitude that the lawyer was a person of contention and that his function in the business world was negative. In the place of such lawyers the successful men at the bar are legal experts whose contribution to the business and social life of our time is just as positive and useful and necessary as that of the engineer or the business manager. In view of the present tendency of organization among all classes in society, it is of the

first importance that lawyers should be organized to the end that they may maintain a high standard of legal ethics and develop the usefulness of the lawyer in the business and social life of today.

Chief-Justice Ewbank spoke briefly on the professional future of the young lawyer of today. He stated that the opportunities for the lawyer today were as great or greater than ever before in history. He said that he was disinclined to caution young men on many points in their professional work. He suggested that if they were industrious and regular in attending to their business that these qualities were of the first importance in professional success. President Bryan, of Indiana University, spoke in welcome to the guests of honor and in brief commentation upon the ethical and professional position of the lawyer in the community.

Russell R. Judd of the Senior class was the class orator. Because of the number of addresses that had already been given Mr. Judd's speech was of a very brief and informal character. Mr. Judd is the first scholar in the Senior class and has led his class each year during the law school course.

Mr. George M. Barnard, an Indianapolis attorney, delivered the Memorial Day address at Spring Hill, Indiana. There was an impressive Memorial Day service.

The Dubois County Bar Association held an important meeting on Monday, May 24 at Jasper, Indiana. The meeting was called especially to cooperate with the district and State Bar Associations. Practically all the members of the DuBois County Bar Association are members of the State Bar Association or became members at that meeting. The guests of honor ident George O. Dix, Vice-President William A. Pickens and Secretary Joel were a committee of the Indiana State Bar Association consisting of Pres-A. Baker together with Mr. Frank Richman of Columbus, and Mr. Frank H. Hatfield of Evansville.

The Orange County Bar Association held an important meeting in connection with the drive for membership that is now being carried on by the Indiana State Bar Association. The meeting was addressed by a committee of the Indiana State Bar Association consisting of President George O. Dix, Vice-President William A. Pickens and Secretary Joel A. Baker. The speakers pointed out that there are nearly 4000 lawyers in Indiana and that less than half of this number were members of the Indiana State Bar Association.

FOURTH DISTRICT BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Fourth District Bar Association held its spring meeting at the Madison Country Club Saturday afternoon and evening, May 22nd. Of approximately one hundred practicing lawyers in the district, sixty were present and in the afternoon provided entertainment including automobiles for drives to the points of interest in the vicinity. C. L. Cummins of the Cummins Engine Company of Columbus took several parties of lawyers for short trips on the Ohio River, in his cruiser Ceco. Most of the Greensburg contingent played golf.

Dinner was served at six o'clock with a local orchestra providing the dinner music.

The program included an address of welcome by John McGregor, Vice-President for Jefferson County, a splendid paper on the Constitution by Casius C. Shirley, senior member of the firm of Shirley, Whitcomb and Dowden of Indianapolis, and short addresses by Mr. Marshall, former Supreme Court Judge O. H. Montgomery of Seymour, Judge Julian Sharpnack of the Bartholomew Circuit Court, and Thomas E. Davidson of Greensburg. Mrs.

Gretchen Hall Cole of Vevay and Mrs. Estella B. Prince of Brownstown, the only two women lawyers in the district, were present and made brief talks.

Rev. Jesse Tidball, Pastor of the Madison Presbyterian Church, delivered the invocation and his daughter, Miss Grace Tidball, soprano, accompanied by Mrs. Tidball, sang two groups of songs.

Resolutions thanking the lawyers and guests who furnished the entertainment and program were adopted as prepared by a committee consisting of Lincoln Dixon of North Vernon, Judge John W. Craig of Greensburg and Thomas N. Honan of Seybour.

Frank N. Richman of Columbus, president of the association, presided. The next meeting of the association will be held in November.

FOURTH DISTRICT

The Bartholomew County Bar Association held a meeting in the circuit court room in Columbus on Monday, May 10. The meeting was called to consider the proposal of approving rules under which admission to the bar should be regulated. A committee of the Bartholomew County Bar Association under the chairmanship of Judge Francis T. Hoard has approved the "Uniform Rules for Admission to the Bar." The meeting was called by the Vice-President, W. C. Duncan, in the absence of President John W. Morgan. The new constitution of the Bartholomew County Bar Association was read and approved. Mr. Frank N. Richman read an invitation from the fourth district Bar Association inviting all the members to attend a meeting of the district Bar Association at Madison on May 22.

The Fourth District Bar Association held a most successful meeting on Saturday evening, May 22 in the parlors of the Madison Country Club. Honorable John McGregor, President of the Madison County Bar Association, welcomed the Fourth District Bar Association to Madison. Mr. Frank N. Richman, President of the Fourth District Bar Association and chairman for the evening, welcomed the large number of members who attended. Honorable Cassius C. Shirley of Indianapolis was the principal speaker of the evening. His subject was "The Democracy of the Federal Constitution." Miss Tidball was much praised for her songs in entertaining the meeting. Among those who spoke briefly were Judge Mont of Seymour, Curtis Marshall and Judge Julian Sharpnack.

Over one hundred lawyers attended. There were representatives from every local Bar Association in the district.

FIFTH DISTRICT

The *Terre Haute Spectator* printed an editorial on Saturday, May 22 in which the work of the INDIANA LAW JOURNAL was commended and the professional recognition which the Journal has already obtained was especially referred to.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

The Indianapolis Bar Association entertained the graduates of Indiana Law School and Benjamin Harrison Law School at a dinner on Wednesday evening, May 19 at the Claypool Hotel. The speakers were Zach T. Dungan, Clerk of the Supreme and Appellate Courts; James A. Rohbach, Dean of the Indiana Law School, and Sumner A. Clancy, Acting Dean of the Benjamin Harrison Law School. This meeting of the Indianapolis Bar Association is the last meeting for this year. President James M. Ogden invited the guests and presided at the meeting.

The graduating class of the Benjamin Harrison Law School held a banquet at the Spink-Arms Hotel on Tuesday, May 18. Scholarship awards

were announced and diplomas were conferred upon the forty-one graduates of the School. William W. Thornton, Dean of the School, presided. William R. Forney, Secretary of the School announced the scholarships and presented the diplomas. The principal speaker of the evening was William D. Headrick.

The members of the graduating class to receive the L. L. B. degree were: Stephen Abel, Jr., Charles M. Anderson, Alfred C. Baumgart, Sarah R. Bernstein, Peter A. Cancilla, Clyde C. Carter, John V. Coffield, Herbert R. Condrey, Arvy B. Cook, H. Anna Courtney, W. W. Davenport, George L. Diven, Albert L. Fishman, Winifred M. Foster, Andrew G. Gabriel, Charles E. Garrison, Walter T. Gurley, Joseph R. Jeffries, Jr., Francis J. Koesters, Key W. Kurtz, Paul A. Lennington, Oscar A. Lentz, John O. Lewis, James E. McClure, Carl McDaniel, Charles C. McFarland, Bayard C. Marsh, Frank L. Martino, George C. Mercer, Guy K. Mills, Douglas R. Morris, Charles M. O'Connor, Fred L. Perry, Maurice D. Pleak, John E. Regnas, Hobart F. Ricketts, Harry W. Roembke, George W. Sanders, Robert S. Smith, Sanford W. Whitacre, William E. Wilson.

Twelve graduates of Indiana University School of Law were admitted to practice today before the Indiana Supreme and Appellate Courts. Indianapolis members of the class were Theodore L. Sedwick and Bruce E. Silvery. They were admitted before Judge David A. Myers of the Supreme Court.

Each member had been admitted to practice before the courts of his local county before applying for admission before the courts of last resort. They were also admitted to practice before the federal district court by Judge Robert C. Baltzell. The motions for their admission were made by Professor James J. Robinson of Indiana University School of Law. Those and Lloyd C. Bryer, all of Bloomington; Lawrence L. Baker, Aurora; admitted were: Mrs. Pearl L. Vernon, Chester G. Vernon, William L. Broom Samuel B. Davis, Newport; Virchow E. Kissinger, Bicknell; Charles O. Mattingly, Jasonville; James L. Shannon, Greensburg; Donald P. Shinn, Marion; Glen L. Steckley, Kendallville, and Lynn A. Thompson, Monon.

Prosecutor Wm. H. Remy delivered an address before the Loyalty Club of Immanuel on Tuesday, May 18. He spoke upon the problem of law enforcement and stressed the importance of eliminating bribes from the police department as a prerequisite to any important law enforcement in Indianapolis. "We never will have proper law enforcement in Indianapolis until we have a police department which takes its pay from the department and not from the people the officers are supposed to arrest," declared Mr. Remy. Mr. Remy stated that one man had recently admitted that he had paid \$1000 to the police department for protection during the past year.

Ethan A. Dausman, Justice of the Appellate Court of Indiana spoke before the Century Club on Tuesday, May 18. The subject of his address was "Ethical Justice." Judge Dausman urged that judges, sheriffs and other officials connected with the courts should be appointed rather than elected and should hold office during good behavior. He deplored the inadequacy of our legal system to protect the rights of the people. Judge Dausman said, "It is a well known fact that multitudes of men and women submit to injustice and oppression rather than apply to the courts for protection. The amount of injustice thus suffered by the masses is appalling. Fraud is rampant. The sum annually taken from our people for fraudulent practices is amazing."

EIGHTH DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Jay County Bar Association was held at the courthouse on Monday morning, May 3. The following officers for next year were elected:

J. A. Fleming, President.

S. W. Haynes, Treasurer.

James C. Jay, Secretary.

It was resolved that a book should be purchased in which the names of all the members should be recorded.

At a luncheon meetnig of the Muncie Bar Association held on May 1, a very interesting program for future meetings was outlined. The subject for discussion and the leader of the discussion for several meetings were fixed. The meeting May 14 was to be on the History and Development of Public Utilities under the Common Law and under State Regulations. The leader of the discussion was Wm. H. Bales. The subject for the meeting on May 28 was "Fixing of Rates and Valuations for Rate Making Purposes." The leader of the discussion was Ray W. Clark. For June 11 the subject was Public Utilities from the Standpoint of the Public and the leader was Arthur D. McKinley. The subject for June 25 was Public Utilities from the Standpoint of the Public Utilities and the leader was William T. Haymond. A further meeting was planned for July. The subject was given as "Practice and Procedure before the State and Federal Courts." The leader for this meeting was not announced.

This program of the Muncie Bar Association is a matter of great importance to Bar Associations all over the state. It surely marks a great advance in the value and service of Bar Association activity. It is expected that similar professional interest will manifest itself in other Bar Associations and, indirectly, from these discussions of legal questions material for the *INDIANA LAW JOURNAL* will be developed.

NINTH DISTRICT

The Howard County Bar Association held an important and interesting meeting at the Courtland Hotel on Tuesday, May 18. There were two principal speakers for the occasion whose addresses were of peculiar value. Lloyd McClure spoke on "City Planning and Zoning." C. T. Brown spoke on "Search and Seizure" under the Indiana law. Mr. McClure pointed out in his address that city planning and zoning had its origin in two principal causes—the necessity of regulating the height and bulk of buildings and the desire to evade nuisances. After these two causes there came the elements of health, comfort, morals and convenience and safety to justify these zoning ordinances.

Mr. McClure is attorney for the Kokomo city planning commission and was able to give many practical details in the field of zoning law.

Mr. Brown's paper was of great interest to all the members. He has made a thorough study of both national and state prohibition laws and was able to show many indirect legislative and legal effects of these laws.

TENTH DISTRICT

The Gary Bar Association held a judges meeting at the Gary Commercial Club on Wednesday, May 19. It was the reverse of the usual court room procedure since the judges were asked to present their cases to the members of the bar. Two judges of the United States district court and six of the Lake county courts together with three other Indiana judges were the guests of the association. A dinner preceded the meeting at which the principal

addresses were given by Federal Judge Robert Baltzell of Indianapolis and Federal Judge Thomas W. Slick of South Bend. Judge Slick dealt principally with the prohibition law, advocating its loyal and conscientious enforcement. Judge Baltzell gave a valuable legal address on procedure in the Federal Courts.

W. W. Miller, President of the Gary Bar Association announced after the meeting that if twenty members from the Lake County District could be secured they would have a private car direct from Gary to the meeting of the American Bar Association in Denver. Of course such a car for members of the Gary District would be an addition to the facilities already announced for the members of the Indiana and Michigan Bar Associations who plan to attend the meetings of the American Bar Association in Denver.

In addition to the Federal judges the other guests of honor were: Judge H. H. Loring of Valpariso, Judge C. Richter of LaPorte, Judge Bingham of South Bend, Deputy Attorney General White of Indianapolis, J. J. Farnam, President of the LaPorte Bar Association, Judge E. Miles Norton, and Judge Martin Smith of the Criminal Court of Crown Point, Judges Morris E. Crites and V. S. Reiter of the Hammond Superior Court, Judge C. E. Greenwald of the Gary Superior Court and Judge C. M. Greenlee of the Gary City Court.

Mr. W. W. Miller, President of the Gary Bar Association, presided at the dinner for the visiting jurists, who were welcomed by Judge Reiter, Senior member of the Lake County Bench. This meeting of the Gary Bar Association in honor of the visiting judges was held in connection with the steel mills in Gary. The guests of the Association were escorted through the steel mills, as guests of the officers of these concerns. The trip through the city of Gary occurred in the afternoon and preceded the dinner.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

Pursuant to the Uniform Admission Rules the Huntington County Bar Association appointed a committee to work without a plan for enforcing such admission rules in Huntington County. This committee has submitted the plan to Judge Kenner with recommendation to the Bar Association. He put it to work in the circuit court.

Among the things the committee suggested were the following questions which were to be asked of each applicant:

1. Name and nativity of the applicant, and whether he believes in the government of the United States.
2. Name, residence and occupation of parents.
3. Name of schools, colleges and universities attended.
4. Name of law school attended and time of attendance.
5. Name of law office in which applicant has studied and nature of study and employment.
6. Whether application has ever been made previously for admission to practice.
7. Details as to other occupations pursued by applicant.
8. Whether engaged in any business or profession on the applicant's own account.
9. Whether ever a party to any legal proceedings.
10. Reasons for desire to practice law.

In regard to the nature of the examination the committee reports as follows:

"That the association comes, through its president, George M. Eberhart, and presents the following membership requirements: That a committee of three on admission to the bar shall be appointed by the judge of the

court; that one shall be appointed to serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years, and thereafter one shall be appointed each year to serve for three years; that in case of a vacancy, the judge shall appoint a member for the unexpired term; that the applicant shall be of good moral character and a legal voter in the county and shall be required to pass a satisfactory examination in writing in the following branches of the law: Contracts, torts, code, pleadings, Indiana code, equity, evidence, private corporations, real property, sales, negotiable instruments, agency, wills, criminal law, legal ethics, trusts and constitutional law; that at least two examinations in writing shall be held each year, one the first Monday in February, and the other the first Monday in July; that the questions for examination shall be provided by the Indiana Bar Association."

There was a special meeting of the Huntington County Bar Association on Monday evening, May 17. President George M. Eberhart presided. The purpose of the meeting was to dispose of the report of a committee on rules and regulations and the report of the committee on legal ethics. The chairmen of these committees who made the reports were Milo Feightner and J. V. Sees. It was announced that there would be another meeting of the association on May 31 when Mr. C. W. H. Bangs would speak on "Legal Education". The last meeting of the association will be held on June 29 when the election of officers for next year will take place.

TWELFTH DISTRICT

Dean Paul V. McNutt of the Indiana School of Law was the principal speaker at the regular meeting of the Allen County Bar Association, held at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 11. William H. Shambaugh, president of the association, acted as toastmaster. President Shambaugh announced that the next meeting of the association would be on June 17 and that Professor E. R. Sunderland of the University of Michigan Law School would be the speaker.

Dean McNutt pleaded for a better adaptation of laws to their principles and a better understanding in the community generally of what should reasonably be accomplished by a statutory enactment. Dean McNutt pointed out that you could not make people good by law. He stated that there were distinct limits as to what could be accomplished by the force and sanction of the state behind legislative laws. He stated that he regarded the strength and quality of the people not in proportion to its obedience to retain laws, but in proportion to its obedience to moral and social laws which were enforced by individual conscience and social standards of morality rather than by the sanctions of the state. Dean McNutt said that much of the maladjustment of the law of present needs was in the failure of lawyers themselves to recognize that law was a social science and that legal rules and principles must be adapted to the actual needs of the time.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT

Over one hundred members attended the regular meeting of the La-Porte Bar Association held on Monday, May 24. President J. J. Farnan presided. Professor C. P. Manion of the Law Schools of Notre Dame and Georgetown Universities, was the principal speaker. Professor Manion treated liberty in its relation to law and urged that it was the basic principle through which harmony was secured in society. Professor Manion paid a high tribute to the function of the lawyer as to human rights and liberties. He pointed out that lawyers belonged to the intellectual aristocracy of the world.

This meeting of the LaPorte County Bar Association was known as ladies' night. Both the members and the ladies of their families enjoyed an interesting and stimulating evening.

The newspapers of Michigan City have run a number of articles dealing with the State Bar Association meeting on July 8, 9 and 10. The details of the program and of the entertainment by the Michigan City Bar Association are given in each instance.

OBITUARIES

Judge George E. Downey died at Washington, D. C., on Monday, May 24. From 1882 to 1883 Judge Downey was co-editor of the *Brookville Democrat*. He practiced law for many years in Aurora in partnership with Mr. Frank Shutts. He was mayor of Aurora from 1894 to 1902 and judge of the seventh judicial circuit from Indiana from 1903-1913. He was controller of the treasury from 1913 to 1915 by appointment by President Wilson who also appointed him judge of the court of claims in 1915.

Samuel L. Innis died the latter part of April at Rushville and the Rush County Bar Association adopted resolutions in honor of his memory at a meeting held May 1. The committee which proposed the resolutions consisted of John A. Titsworth, J. T. Arbuckle, and Douglas Morris. These memorials extolled Mr. Innis' qualities as an able and conscientious lawyer who retained the confidence of his clients and the confidence of the community in which he lived.

Robert W. McBride died at his home in Indianapolis on Wednesday, May 15 at the age of 84 years. At the time of his death Judge McBride was serving his fourth term as Judge Advocate General of the National Grand Army of the republic. He was one of the few of the surviving body-guards of President Lincoln. He had a distinguished term of service as one of the justices of the supreme court of Indiana. He was a thirty-third degree Mason. He was active in Bar Associations. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the Indiana Bar Association.

At a special meeting of the Indianapolis Association held on Tuesday, May 18, a committee was appointed to draw resolutions in honor of Judge McBride's memory. James M. Ogdon, President of the Association, presided and Mr. Bambaugh was appointed chairman of the resolutions committee. In the course of his professional and social work Judge McBride came in contact with leading men in Indiana. It was a very comforting thing for his friends to read the tributes to his memory that were paid by the many men who had known him during his long career.

Wrighter R. Steele died at his home on Thursday, May 20. The Henry County Bar Association appointed a committee to draw up resolutions in honor of his memory. The committee consisted of William O. Barnard, Chester M. DeWitt, and John Morris. Mr. Steele had been practicing law in Henry County for many years. He was elected in 1896 and 1898 to be prosecuting attorney for the fifty-third judicial circuit.