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News of Bench and Bar

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NEWS OF BENCH AND BAR

FIRST DISTRICT

It was announced that the district Oratorical contest of the Constitution for the first district will be held this year at Princeton on April 30th. It was also announced that Mr. Ball of Muncie has financed the state prizes this year. The township contests will be held first. Prizes for these events will be \$25 in gold. The county contests will come next and then the district contests. A number of banks will provide money for the township contests while the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs will furnish the money for the county prizes and the local bar associations will assume their share of the district prizes. The subjects for the Oratorical Contests this year are "The Meaning of the United States Constitution Today"; "America's Contribution to Constitutional Government"; "Hamilton's Contribution to Constitutional Government"; "Franklin's Contribution to Constitutional Government"; "Webster's Contribution to Constitutional Government"; "Lincoln's Contribution to Constitutional Government"; and "My State's Contribution to the United States Constitution."

Honorable Charles F. Remy, judge of the Appellate Court of Indiana, spoke before the Vanderburg County Bar Association at its regular meeting on Monday, March 14th. Judge Remy attacked the lack of moral training in schools. He said that when he was in school they used the old McGuffey reader and in this book were contained stories which inculcated principles of right and wrong. Judge Remy said on the other hand that the readers used in the schools today contained stories that deal with matters of beauty and entertainment which may have inherent literary merit but do not contribute to moral character. Judge Remy took the view that the school books should serve first to train in character. He suggested that the lack of reading matter dealing with moral issues may be one explanation of the present crime wave among juveniles. Honorable F. Harold Van Orman, Lieutenant-Governor, also spoke before the bar association and stated that the law authorizing a bridge over the Ohio river was the most significant legislative enactment of the last General Assembly.

The regular monthly meeting of the Gibson County Bar Association was held at the Pullman Hotel in Princeton, Indiana, on Saturday, March 12.

It was announced that four cash prizes aggregating \$50 would be awarded the winners of the Vanderburg County section in the annual State Oratorical Contest under the auspices of the Indiana State Bar Association. The contest in Vanderburg County will be held April 11-16th, according to John L. Sanders, Chairman of the County Division. The winners of the Vanderburg County contest will participate in the district contest which will be held at Princeton.

SIXTH DISTRICT

The Rush County Bar Association held a meeting on Thursday, March 3rd, at the Social Club rooms at Rushville, Indiana. The Rush County Bar Association entertained members of the bar from surrounding counties at this meeting. Five circuit court judges from nearby counties were present. Federal Judge Baltzell and Circuit Judge Chamberlin of Indianapolis, were the guests of honor. Judge Will M. Spark, of Rushville, presided at the dinner.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Attorney General Arthur L. Gilliom has advised the Secretary of the State that it is his duty to publish the laws as proposed by the recent legislature in so far as they were approved by the Governor and that he is not authorized to publish the amendments which did not receive the executive approval at the end of the session.

Judge James A. Collins of the Criminal Court in Marion County has had difficulty in securing a proper judge to try Thomas Dillon, local Republican politician, on charges of violating the liquor laws. It is reported that Mr. Dillon was convicted of offense under the liquor laws once before and that Judge Collins was the trial judge. Judge Collins was anxious to secure a special judge and a special prosecutor to handle the case but for a long while was unable to find any such persons who would serve.

The *Indianapolis News* printed a vigorous editorial on Monday, March 14th, in commendation of the work of the Indiana Bankers' Association and the Indiana State Bar Association in securing the passage of the law creating the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in Indiana. The editor suggests that this new bureau will give a modern means of handling crime rather than continuing with methods of criminal law enforcement that were developed under very different conditions from those which now obtain.

It is reported that the National Crime Commission has given its hearty approval to the Indiana law establishing the Central Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. It is the opinion of the National Crime Commission that if there were uniform legislation on this matter in all states in the union, it would be a very great aid in reducing crime. It is helpful to have such legislation in each particular state but the effective control of crime is more permanently and certainly insured if the criminal cannot seek protection in other jurisdictions but is subject to the same effective control in every state.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Francis A. Shaw, former president of the Muncie Bar Association, has taken an active interest in the recent trial of Judge Dearth before the state Senate.

The Rotary Clubs of Indiana in conference at Fort Wayne adopted a resolution in hearty approval of the oratorical contests on the Constitution that are sponsored this year by the Indiana State Bar Association.

The rules for the fourth National Oratorical Contest on the Constitution were announced on Monday, March 16th, by Mr. James A. Van Osdol, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Education of the Indiana State Bar Association. The rules provide that every contestant must have been under nineteen years of age on February 1st, 1927; each oration is to be original and to take not more than ten minutes in delivery; and the judges in each contest are to vote separately and they are requested to use the low-point system of judging.

Mr. Frank C. Ball, of Muncie, has made a gift of \$1,000 to provide the state prizes in the Indiana Oratorical Contest on the Constitution. Mr. Ball wrote to Mr. James A. Van Osdol, vice-president of the Indiana State Bar Association, announcing his gift:

"I will be much pleased and consider it a great privilege to contribute \$1,000 to the Indiana State Bar Association to be distributed as state prizes in the National Oratorical Contest.

"I believe this a most worthy movement and should have the hearty encouragement and loyal support of all good citizens.

"It will broaden their knowledge and strengthen the appreciation of the fundamental principals of our government on the part of those who participate in the contests, and they in turn will impart this knowledge and appreciation to thousands of others through their discussions.

"The movement is bound to result in a higher type of citizenship wherever its influence is felt.

"The Bar Association is to be commended on its effort in this good cause.

"Please draw on me when you need the prize funds.

"Yours truly,

"F. C. BALL."

Mr. Randolph Leigh has prepared a list of references that is considered valuable for those preparing for the Oratorical Contest on the Constitution.

An important meeting of the Muncie Bar Association was held on Saturday, March 19th. Mr. Thomas E. Bracken, President, presided. Mr. Bracken was elected President two weeks previously to succeed Francis A. Shaw.

At a meeting of the Muncie Bar Association on Saturday, March 5th, Thomas E. Bracken was elected President; A. E. Needham, Vice-President; William Mann, Treasurer. Thomas L. Ryan presented five volumes of "Bacon's Abridgment" to the Muncie Bar Association in honor of his father who formerly owned the books.

TENTH DISTRICT

(The activities of the Gary Bar Association have been inadequately reported in the recent issues of the *Journal*. This is the fault of the Editor. It is much doubted if any bar association in the state would claim that its activities were of such value to its members and to the profession at large during the past year, as those of the Gary Bar Association. We are fortunate in receiving a fuller account of some of these activities from W. W. Miller, Esquire, President of the Gary Bar Association. Mr. Miller's account of the activities is given here.)

The Gary Bar Association held a very successful and enthusiastic meeting at the Lake Front Pavilion in Gary, Indiana, on the 19th day of January, 1927, at which there were present one hundred thirty members and guests. The lecture was delivered by Dean John H. Wigmore of Northwestern University. Dean Wigmore is the author of "Wigmore on Evidence," which is regarded as one of the monumental works in this field. The Dean lectured on the "Ancient Law of the Egyptians, Chinese, Hindus, Greeks and Romans," which lecture was illustrated by colorful lantern slide pictures, which were photographic reproductions of ancient documents, drawings and paintings discovered in the tombs of the Egyptians and inscriptions found on stones and tablets of the Greeks and Romans, as well as the Hindus and Chinese. The will of an Egyptian, who lived four thousand years ago, was reproduced. This will contained a trust and a life estate in favor of the wife. It bears a striking similarity to the modern day wills. A building contract entered into by the municipality of ancient Rome, bears a very striking similarity to the modern day building contract. Dean Wigmore's production is the only lantern slide illustration of the growth of the law that has ever been attempted. It is interesting beyond description.

South Bend sent a delegation of thirty-two members, who chartered a special car to Gary. In this delegation was Judge Slick of the United States District Court, Judge Deahl, Judge Bingham, and ex-Judge Oare of the St. Joseph Circuit Court. The South Bend delegation traveled sixty miles to hear this lecture, and they unanimously declared it to be one of the finest lectures they had ever been privileged to hear. Michigan City also sent a delegation which included ex-Judge Tuthill. Visitors were present from Hammond, Whiting, East Chicago, Indiana Harbor and Crown Point.

The Gary Bar Association also held a most successful meeting at the Commercial Club in Gary, Indiana, on the 17th day of February, 1927, at which meeting Thomas J. Norton, of Chicago, delivered an address on "National Encroachments and State Aggressions." There were seventy-five members and guests present. Mr. Norton delivered this address at the request of the Gary Bar Association. It is the same address which he delivered before the American Bar Association at Denver. While the address may be read in last year's volume of the American Bar Journal, yet the splendor of this masterly treatise can only be appreciated when the personality of the writer is injected into it.

A special meeting was held by the Lake County Bar Association in the Woodmar Country Club on March 30th at Hammond, Indiana. The guest of honor was Dean James Parker Hall of the University of Chicago Law School who spoke on "Work of the American Law Institute." A large number of members and guests attended. The committee in charge of the program consisted of Jesse E. Wilson, Barnard C. Gavit, and Glenn D. Peters.

A meeting of the Gary Bar Association was held on March 16th at which Professor Edward W. Hinton, of the University of Chicago Law School, was the principal speaker. Mr. W. W. Miller, President of the Gary Bar Association, presided. Professor Hinton spoke on Code Pleading.

A recent meeting of the Tippecanoe County Bar Association was held on Saturday, March 9th, at Lafayette, Indiana.

Judge Florence H. Allen, of Ohio State Supreme Court, spoke before the fifth annual Citizenship Institute at Purdue University on Monday, March 28th. Judge Allen discussed the relations between this country and Mexico, saying that in her opinion our diplomatic policy toward that country recently had been entirely out of keeping with the principles of justice on which this country was founded.

TWELFTH DISTRICT

The Dekalb County Bar Association gave a farewell banquet in honor of Judge William P. Endicott and Prosecutor H. C. Springer. The banquet was held in the Masonic hall at Angola on Monday, March 21st. A large number of members of the association and other friends of Judge Endicott and Prosecutor Springer attended the banquet. Dudley W. Gleason, of Angola acted as toastmaster. In addition to Judge Endicott and Prosecutor Springer the dinner was in honor of the incoming judge, Clyde C. Carlin, and the new prosecuting attorney, W. B. Duff.

George Leonard of Fort Wayne was appointed judge of the new Superior Court for Allen County. The court was created at the last session of the legislature.

The LaGrange County Bar Association gave a dinner in honor of Judge James S. Drake who will retire from the bench after serving for 16 years.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT

Alan S. Widaman was elected president of the Kosciusko Bar Association.

A most successful meeting of the Laporte County Bar Association was held on Monday, March 7th, at Laporte, Indiana. President James J. Farnam presided. Martin Krueger, of Michigan City, was the principal speaker. He entertained the members with a series of delightful stories.

ERRATA

Judge V. S. Reiter is President of the Lake County Bar Association. Mr. Frank N. Gavit is a member of that association, but is not president as indicated in the last *Journal*.

In the Indiana Docket for the March issue, the heading "Appellate Court" should appear on p. 498 just before the case of *Biehl v. Guaranty Discount Corporation* (12696).

OBITUARIES

Willis Hickam, Sr., 75 years of age, died at his home at Spencer, Indiana, on Friday, March 18th. Mr. Hickam is survived by three sons and one daughter. The Owen County Bar Association met on Monday morning, March 21st to pass resolutions in honor of his memory. Members of the Owen County Bar Association and the bar associations of adjoining counties attended the funeral in a body. Resolutions in honor of his memory were passed by the Vigo County Bar Association and the Morgan County Bar Association. All of these resolutions were placed on the records of the Owen County Circuit Court.

W. A. Reading, age 72, died at his home at Indianapolis on Monday, March 7th. Mr. Reading was born in Indianapolis in 1855 and had practiced in Indianapolis for many years.