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Announcements

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ANNOUNCEMENT

THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP COMMITTEE; PRESIDENT VAN OSDOL'S APPOINTMENT

There is no phase of the work of the Indiana State Bar Association which has received more hearty support from its members than the work of the American Citizenship Committee, which was originally appointed through the efforts of James A. Van Osdol, President of the Indiana State Bar Association this year, and chairman of the American Citizenship Committee from its beginning. Perhaps we may say without any danger of over-statement that this committee engages in more constant and arduous work than any other committee of the Association. Its chairman writes and answers as many as a hundred letters in a single week dealing with the Americanization work; and this constant and important correspondence is continued practically uniformly throughout the year. The committee acting through its chairman appoints the district and county managers for the oratorical and essay contests and arranges with the almost numberless high schools for their individual participation. The burden of insuring oratorical and essay contests in each one of the 92 counties and later in the 13 districts and later in the state and nation falls upon the chairman of our American Citizenship Committee. During much of the year the work of this committee could reasonably occupy nearly all the time of its chairman. The financial burden of defraying the office expense incidental to the oratorical and essay contests and the other Americanization work is very considerable. The constant demands upon the chairman's time is still more burdensome when we consider that he must have personal contact throughout the year with the hundreds of lawyers and school

superintendents and contestants who are so splendidly co-operating in this work throughout the state.

James M. Ogden, of Indianapolis, chairman of the American Citizenship Committee this year, is generously and loyally doing the work that Mr. Van Osdol has carried in previous years. Now that he is freed from the immediate executive work of the American Citizenship Committee, President Van Osdol has continued his great interest in this subject and has manifested this interest in a signal way by the publication of a series of brief comments on constitutional history which are highly interesting to lawyers and will be of incalculable aid to contestants and instructors in the various high schools in their work for the oratorical and essay contests on the Constitution. "Sketches from Our Constitutional History" by James A. Van Osdol has been published by the Indiana State Board of Education as Bulletin No. 96 of their publications and will be distributed to all high schools in the state for their aid and guidance in the Oratorical and Essay Contests that are now being conducted under the auspices of the Indiana State Bar Association. Mr. Roy P. Wisheart, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has generously distributed these bulletins to all the members of our Association and has accompanied it with a letter which will be set forth later in this announcement.

In recognition of his pioneer work in behalf of the American Citizenship Committee of our Association and in recognition of its importance to the national work in that field, President Van Osdol has been appointed a member of the American Citizenship Committee of the American Bar Association. This is a fitting national recognition of his service, in which all our members rejoice.

State of Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Indianapolis

27 February 1928

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION:

In sending to each member of your Association, our Bulletin No. 96 (one of which is enclosed herewith), this Department wishes to express to you its appreciation of the interest shown and the aid you are rendering to the cause of education in Indiana.

The preface to that bulletin explains how it came to be prepared. You may be interested in knowing that it has been placed in the hands of each school official and each teacher in this state, who is required to teach the grades eligible to participate in the National Oratorical and the State Essay Contests now being sponsored by your Association.

We understand that ours is a government of laws, and that our federal and state constitutions constitute the foundation upon which that structure rests.

We are required to teach these constitutions; and, lest as school people we might be prone to regard these two instruments too much from the scholastic viewpoint, or merely as abstract theories of government, it is well that we have the viewpoint of those whose contact with the Constitution has to do with its practical application to human affairs. For this we naturally look to the members of the legal profession.

With this in mind, we heartily welcome the 1928 program which your Committee on American Citizenship has recently issued, a copy of which has been sent by this Department to each high school principal in this state.

If the work, as planned in that program, is carried forward, it cannot fail to result in great and lasting good.

We welcome your co-operation.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) ROY P. WISEHART,
State Superintendent.