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## February Meeting of Denver Bar Association

Dicta Editorial Board

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Members of the Denver Bar Association, at the February 3, 1947 meeting, were treated to a very excellent presentation of the life of "Judah B. Benjamin, Lawyer and Statesman," by United States District Judge John W. Delehant of Nebraska. Judge Delehant held his lawyer audience motionless for several minutes beyond the usual time of adjournment in presenting the life of this remarkable lawyer of Jewish faith, who was born outside the United States, built up a tremendously lucrative practice, served the Confederacy in important positions after resigning from the United States Senate, and, after being exiled from the United States after the Civil War, built up another lucrative practice in England, and who died in France a wealthy man. Judge Delehant completed his address with the hope that some future historian would see fit to record, at length, the remarkable career of this remarkable lawyer and statesman.

The legislative committee reported on two community property bills before the General Assembly and recommended that they be opposed. The motion was laid on the table on the request of Lyman P. Weld, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who stated that another community property bill, which has not yet been considered by the committee, should be examined before definite action is taken.

## March Meeting of Denver Bar Association

William W. Crowds, of St. Louis, vice-president and executive director of the Missouri Institute for the Administration of Justice, addressed the March meeting of the Denver Bar Association on the subject, "The People of Missouri Approve the Non-Partisan Judiciary." Mr. Crowds said, in part:

Before the adoption of the present plan, Missouri was not getting the best men on the judiciary and the judiciary was not independent. There was a plague of incompetent judges in the early 1930's. Judges were elected by the bosses and machines—not by the people. The people do not know the qualifications of the candidates where there are long lists of candidates for the positions. Often judges were elected who were not well known even among the lawyers. In one instance a very unqualified judge was elected in spite of the bar primaries.

In one case where a judge had refused to vote in accordance with the instructions of the political boss, the judge faced a tremendous primary fight at the next election at the hands of the machine.

In 1936 the St. Louis Bar Association had a committee on judicial selection. In 1937 the American Bar Association called for the non-political selection of judges. The issue was taken up by the Kansas City bar and then the Missouri bar, but the lawyers couldn't do the job alone. In 1937 the Missouri Institute for the Administration of Justice was formed.