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Nor starred and spangled courts,
Where low-born baseness wafts perfume to pride.

But men, high-minded men,
Men who their duties know,
But know also their rights,
And knowing, dare maintain them."

MEETING OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

By G. DEXTER BLOUNT, of the Denver Bar

A NEW constitution was adopted by the American Bar Association at its annual meeting in Boston in August, 1936. The principal object was to make the Association more truly representative of the practicing lawyers in this country. As one of the means of accomplishing that result the new constitution provides for the creation of a House of Delegates and invests the House of Delegates with exclusive authority (subject only to referendum to the membership on certain questions) to formulate the policies and to control and direct the administration of the affairs of the Association.

The House of Delegates is composed in part of a State Delegate from each state representing the members of the Association in that state, a State Bar Association Delegate representing the principal State Bar Association in each state, a delegate from each of certain large local Associations, the Board of Governors, consisting of one Governor from each of the ten United States Judicial Circuits, the President and Treasurer of the Association, the Editor of its Journal and a delegate from each of certain similar organizations such as American Law Institute and American Judicature Society. Altogether, the delegates directly represent a total of about 90,000 of the 175,000 lawyers in the United States.

The first meeting of the House of Delegates (except a preliminary organization meeting held at Boston immediately

after it was created) was held in Columbus, Ohio, January 5, 6 and 7, 1937. It was probably the most representative meeting of lawyers that has ever convened in the United States of America. Accredited delegates from every state except Idaho, representing their respective groups and numbering about 165, were present. The sessions, which began Tuesday afternoon and continued morning, afternoon and evening through Thursday, were attended enthusiastically and conscientiously by the delegates. During the sessions the delegates adopted rules of procedure for the House of Delegates, and listened to the delivery of well prepared addresses, and also debates and discussions, on such pertinent subjects as the growth of bureaucracy in government, the adoption of a Federal Administrative Court to take over the judicial and semi-judicial functions of numerous federal commissions, special courts, bureaus and administrative boards, the adoption by states of improved methods for the selection of judges, and the development of means of solving the problems, economic and otherwise, that have arisen by reason of the increasing number of lawyers per capita of the population. They also considered at length a proposal to issue to the members a periodical service letter carrying notes on important decisions, comments on pending legislation and other subjects of interest to lawyers. Lack of necessary funds to finance the service letter at this time caused postponement of its adoption.

This meeting was of substantial importance. Points of view of lawyers from all sections of the country were expressed frankly and vigorously by their delegates. Each of the delegates has necessarily taken home with him a better realization of the structure and objectives of the Association and the extensive and effective work that the Association is doing on a broad front to improve conditions in the practice of law and to aid in the advancement of the well-being of the American people. The impressions gained by the delegates will necessarily be disseminated, at least to some extent, among the lawyers they represent.

The delegates from Colorado were Mr. L. Ward Bannister, who represented the Colorado Bar Association, and the writer, who, as State Delegate from Colorado, represented the members of American Bar Association in this state.