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Our Justice Courts

Dicta Editorial Board

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Our Justice Courts

constitutional question fraught with unusual interest to lawyers, judges, statesmen and the public at large. The legislative trend is undoubtedly toward price-fixing, expansion of public control of business and continual increase of administrative boards, bureaus and commissions.

References: *Block v. Hirsh*, 256 U. S. 135, 155, 41 S. Ct. 458, 459; *Munn v. Illinois*, 94 U. S. 113, 24 L. Ed. 77; 39 *Yale Law Journal*, 1089, 1094; *New State Ice Co. v. Liebman*, 52 S. Ct. 371, 285 U. S. 262; *People v. Nebbia*, 262 N. Y. 259; *Frost v. Corp. Commission*, 278 U. S. 515; *German American Co. v. Lewis*, 233 U. S. 389, 34 S. Ct. 612.

OUR JUSTICE COURTS

The following is taken from the Ohio Bar Association report of April 1, 1935:

"An opportunity to end the crying evil of the justice of the peace courts in Ohio is offered to the legislature in the pending Wilkins bill, which has been recommended for passage by the Judiciary Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives.

"The brand of 'justice' dispensed by many of these courts, especially in the vicinity of large cities, is indefensible. The only requirement for a justice of the peace is that he be a voter of the district in which he functions. He may be corrupt; he may be ignorant—but if elected he is the man to whom a large part of the population must look for justice in minor civil and criminal cases. * * *

"This bill is the product of thorough study by an Ohio State Bar Association committee, headed by Henry G. Binns, Columbus attorney. It has the approval also of the Judicial Council of Ohio, composed of the chief justice of the Supreme Court and representatives of the other judicial benches in the state.

"It promises even-handed justice for the small litigant and the minor offender, now at the mercy of incompetent, sometimes venal, squires. The legislature should pass the bill without hesitation and open the way for a long needed reform."—*Columbus Citizen*.

Denver is fortunate in having as the justices in our two Justices of the Peace Courts, Mr. Henry S. Lindsley and Mr. James N. Sabin, two young lawyers who have devoted a great deal of time and effort toward improvement of Justice Court practice and who have been patient and courteous at all times and have given universal satisfaction in their administrations.

The crying evil connected with our Justice of the Peace Courts is that unauthorized practice continues in full and uninterrupted sway.