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Dicta Observes

Dicta Editorial Board

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"LAW DAY"

ATTRACTING to the conference some two hundred lawyers from Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska, the first annual Law Day, sponsored by the School of Law of the University of Colorado, was pronounced a distinct contribution to legal development in the State of Colorado. The general subject for discussion at the Law Day held at Boulder, May 19, 1934, was the rule-making power of the Supreme Court. The morning conference was devoted to a discussion of the power of the Supreme Court to bring about procedural reform through the rule-making power. Further inquiry into the extent of the rule-making power occupied the attention of the afternoon conference, particularly with reference to bar organization and discipline.

The Hon. Earle W. Evans, President of the American Bar Association, was the guest speaker of the day. Speaking before a large audience of lawyers and their guests, Mr. Evans stressed the changes which were creeping into the attorneys' field as he outlined a program of enlarged activity for the younger members of the bar.

One thought became increasingly evident to those attending Law Day and that thought was that not only did the Supreme Court of Colorado have a vast inherent power to bring about procedural reform and bar integration, but that the Court was even discussing the problem with a view toward bringing about an integrated bar in Colorado. It also became increasingly evident as the conference progressed that Colorado was lagging far behind neighboring states in the matter of bar organization, as all of the surrounding states, except Nebraska, had already committed themselves to some plan of bar integration.

The morning session, presided over by Ernest H. Rhoads, President of the Colorado Bar Association, was opened by a paper read by Judge Robert Steele, which paper made a preliminary survey of the field of discussion and pointed out the problems and the possibilities attendant upon the rule-making power.

Following Judge Steele, Mr. John H. Denison suggested several innovations in the code of civil procedure, and urged the reform of pleadings and the elimination of waste of time and money over unnecessary haggling in pleadings. The next speaker, Hon. Stanley Johnson, Judge of the Juvenile Court of Denver, read a paper in which he outlined needed reforms in the control of delinquents and in the state homes for dependents and offenders. The last paper of the morning was read by Roy O. Samson, editor of DICTA, who discussed procedural reform in the justice courts, emphasizing the need of purging the justice courts of persons who practiced there, although not licensed as attorneys.

The afternoon conference, presided over by Fraser Arnold, President of the Denver Bar Association, devoted itself mainly to the discussion of the possible integration and organization of a State Bar. G. Dexter Blount, the incoming President of the Denver Bar Association, pointed out clearly in a paper which he read that the Supreme Court of Colorado had the inherent power to discipline and to organize the bar, and he showed further that the present machinery and organization now set up was inadequate and entirely out of date. In his discussion of the integrated bar movement, Allan Moore, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, pointed out the many channels which the integrated movement had taken and tentatively suggested the advisability of a judicial council.

Following Mr. Moore, Lowell White, President of the Law Club of Denver, discussed the problem of bar organization in Colorado under rule-making power of the Supreme Court demonstrating that the Supreme Court had the power to integrate the bar.

Although the conference formally adjourned at 5:30 p. m., many of the attendants were present at the annual dinner of the Bar Association of the Eighth Judicial District.