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DICTA

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Dicta Observes

From time to time plans and programs are adopted for the purpose of speeding up the trial of civil cases. The Ohio Bar Association report of October 16, 1933, mentions the following:

“A plan to save both time and money in the handling of civil cases in Common Pleas Court has been adopted by the Ashtabula County Bar Association. The plan calls for setting up a Court of Conciliation at which attempts would be made to settle cases without going to trial, and for trial of lesser cases before a jury of six instead of twelve. Members of the Bar Association voted unanimously in favor of the changes in court procedure rules, which became effective immediately. The plan is to be tried during the September term of court, and if found successful, will be continued as regular procedure. Common Pleas Judge Charles R. Sargent is to preside at a court of conciliation for about a week at the opening of the term. During this time, attorneys handling the various cases are to meet with the judge to attempt a settlement. Cases which cannot be settled at that time are definitely marked for trial. If opposing attorneys agree, the case will be tried before a jury of six. Once marked for trial on the date set, the cases will be tried or dismissed for want of prosecution.”