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Dicta Observes

Dicta Editorial Board

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DICTA

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THE CHALLENGE

The suggestion that the bar today is subject to widespread adverse criticism is not a new one.

The lawyer, in former days, was the dignified, scholarly gentleman whom all the world looked upon with esteem and respect. He was an educated and cultured individual among neighbors and friends to whom a college education was rare. By reason of his training he was looked upon as a champion of the people, a protector of their rights and liberties. He was their spokesman at all gatherings; their proud representative whenever called upon.

The public respected the legal profession as officers of the Court sworn and selected to courageously stand for principles of right, justice and honor.

With the passing of years education has increased, and the glamour of the bar as the class of distinction through education has dulled. Then too the early drama of the Revolution, the Civil War and the necessity of molding and remolding our fundamentals of government, has progressed almost to completion. The world as well was progressing in its march toward materialism. The demand for wealth and the luxuries of life it afforded was as cogent an appeal to members of the bar as to others. In the race for wealth the rights of the just and oppressed and deserving were overlooked. The service of the member of the bar has been too often limited in its scope and extent to the amount of remuneration. This type of service rendered by the bar lowers it to the par of a "trade" rendered strictly upon the basis of remuneration.

The world debacle and its subsequent crises have again aroused the bar of our country. Just as the balmy days of

wealth brought an indifference to substantive rights, and more attention to material matters, so the present depression should again bring the bar back to its esteemed place in society. It is a challenge to the bar to render such service as to regain its dignity as a profession and not merely to be in the classification of a trade. The opportunity is here again for the bar to serve our country, our cities and our people with a deep-seated sense of duty, guided by a sense of honor, carried forward by the ideals of a noble profession to place at the command of the people its finest brains and noblest characters to solve the present dilemma; to again elevate our profession to its rightful sphere and perform its duties with honor and dignity and with equal rigor serve the impoverished or the wealthy when the causes are just.

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NATIONAL BAR EXAMINERS CONFERENCE

This body has successfully completed its first year of existence. Its objects are to increase the efficiency of examiners and examinations so as to admit only those qualified to enter into our profession. Members of the Denver Bar who have been interested in the movement and assisted in its accomplishments are Wilbur Denious, Will Shafroth and Stanley T. Wallbank. Mr. Shafroth serves as Secretary and Treasurer for a second term and publishes monthly the "Bar Examiner", the organ of the Conference. Mr. Wallbank was appointed to serve upon its Executive Committee.

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PRECEDENTS

Recently Clarence Darrow is reported as having said "Lawyers are interested in preserving the past. There is nothing sacred to them unless it has existed before. They are against anything new". This statement was seized by the press as a prize morsel of criticism of the bar. It is granted that as a rule lawyers are conservative and carefully seek for precedent upon which to be guided in present problems. The law however is progressive and changing with the times. Its progress is necessarily slower since it desires to build solidly and firmly. Being guided by precedents is no more than applying the common adage "experience speaks".