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Report of Dicta Committee

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Report of Dicta Committee

The Dinner preceding the Annual Business Meeting is being held on April 29, being the last Monday in April and the date prescribed by the By-laws.

Respectfully,

April 25, 1929.

WILLIAM M. BOND, *Chairman*

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REPORT OF DICTA COMMITTEE

Here and now, for the first time in any language, including the Scandinavian, your Committee on Dicta respectfully submits the report of its activities since it first took over the publication of the Association's periodical in September of 1928. Having had the advantage of first reading over the reports submitted by all other committees, this committee feels sure that it can present something bigger and better. In other words, just as in any convivial group assembled to do homage to Ananias, the first man hasn't got a chance.

First of all, we believe that we have probably shortened the lives of Homer and Van—two sturdy pillars of our printer's establishment—by approximately five years, due to our cheerful but somewhat erratic methods in submitting copy, changing lineups, and all in all, defying them to outguess us as to matters of amount and set-up of material to be submitted, and submitted.

We have also achieved the distinction of having our periodical cited on two occasions in legislative halls, as an authentic and weighty authority. On one of these occasions, its authority was bowed to; on the other, the forces of darkness conquered.

We have achieved "The Front Page", with all the embellishments of large black type, and are become a power in the land, battling for truth, virtue and justice, undaunted amid a desolate and bleak isolation. Except for a prior copyright, we would hang out an "Oh Justice" shingle ourselves. Furthermore, we have achieved and are achieving great things as an advertising medium. For example, twelve copies of the old "Record" would have extended, in any direction where headed, only 108 inches. Our new and virile "Dicta", under similar conditions, would have extended 120 inches, showing a net gain of twelve inches. Even a layman will readily ap-

preciate the additional advantage this gives us as a selling point in soliciting advertising.

By printing each month a digest of the decisions of our Supreme Court, we have greatly enhanced the power and prestige of that august body, for two reasons:

First: Nobody before ever realized that that Court actually did so much work and was so prolific a producer of law.

Second: A vastly increased number of the brethren are actually reading the original opinions, in order to come around later and tell us how rotten our digests are.

Another remarkable feat we have accomplished is that we have received and utilized a host of excellent suggestions (also a few orders!) from our relentless and energetic president, Henry Toll, without allowing him any of the credit for the benefits accruing from them—cleverly pretending to the public that the ideas were all our own.

By no means undeserving of mention is the remarkable co-operation we have received from the members of the Bar in general. Although they have come to realize that their consent to contribute to Dicta will entail more troubles than signing up an installment sales contract, yet they have always been very cheery about it all and have helped out in able fashion on every occasion.

As a matter of fact, the year has been a very pleasant one for us (particularly for the editor, inasmuch as the mighty Jack Pierce has done practically all the hard work and all of the worrying). The official organization of the Association has lent every aid and assistance to us in attempting to make Dicta really a worth-while and worthy representative of our Association. The Bench and Bar have exhibited a most kindly patience with our many obvious failings and have been more than generous in extending praise to us whenever any opportunity arose. Particularly gratifying has been the ready co-operation and assistance rendered us by the members of the judiciary who, although often overwhelmed with their own work, have never failed to lend a kindly ear to our needs.

The careful reader may discern that no very detailed account of our year's work is contained in this report. On serious consideration, however, such a reader will readily perceive that for us to go into such detail would indicate a feeling that

the members of the Bar had not eagerly devoured every item in each issue hitherto published. Perish the thought!

In closing, we wish to state that we have not yet been sued for libel—which is more of a tribute to our editorial restraint than the reader may at first believe.

Respectfully,

S. ARTHUR HENRY, *Editor*

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REPORT OF DICTA COMMITTEE ON SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Your committee on digesting Supreme Court Decisions has been working in perfect harmony during the past year and it has endeavored to faithfully digest the Supreme Court Decisions and to print them in Dicta just as soon as they could be printed after the Decision became final.

On account of the great necessity of condensing the Decision, it has been almost impossible to make a complete statement of either the facts or the law, but in the plan that we have adopted we have tried to make a very short review of the facts in one paragraph and a brief summary of the law in another paragraph. Necessarily, this cannot cover the entire case, as it has not been intended as a complete digest, but rather as a brief synopsis.

During the year we have not received any suggestions from the members of the Bar in regard to improvement of our method of digesting, and we would be very happy to receive such suggestions.

We trust that this department has been of beneficial interest to members of the Bar.

Respectfully submitted:

C. CLYDE BARKER, *Chairman.*

MAX P. ZALL

HAROLD B. WAGNER

April 5, 1929.

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REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee submits herewith the following report:

1. *Changes and Improvements:* With the active and zealous cooperation of President Toll, we have effected