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The Judicial Salaries Amendment

Hamlet J. Barry

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The Judicial Salaries Amendment

stantial guest of the Seattle convention.

Mr. Toll closed the meeting with a survey of the various committees of the Denver Bar Association which must be filled for the coming year. He was gratified to learn what willing responses were continually forthcoming from Denver lawyers whom he had asked to serve.

The following new members of the Association were unanimously elected:

Gentry Norton Bircher
 Samuel Haines Crosby
 Keith M. Ferguson
 Mahlon L. Harker
 Gilbert L. McDonough
 Jackson M. Seawell

The Judicial Salaries Amendment

AMENDMENT number one on the ballot to be voted at the November election has for its object an increase in salaries for judges of the Supreme Court and of the District Courts of Colorado.

For exactly forty-five years the salaries of judges of the highest court in the state and of the trial judges have remained precisely the same. Incomes of all other occupations, except of judges, have doubled during that period.

Pay for judges was fixed in the Colorado constitution. That constitution must be amended to give the judges a chance to get reasonable compensation for their services. This is the purpose of Amendment No. 1, giving to the legislature the power to fix judge's pay.

Qualifications for judgeships are high. The judge must be a lawyer. That requires many years spent in acquiring an education. That requires money, too. The judge can have no law practice. He must leave that behind when he ascends the bench. The term in Colorado is short, ten years for a Supreme Court Judge, six years for a District Court Judge. If the judge retires from the bench at the end of his term he must begin his practice anew. Years have been lost to him and his clients have gone to other lawyers. This should be com-

pensated in part at least by a better salary while he is on the bench.

There is only one state in the American union that pays less than Colorado to its Supreme Court justice and it pays just \$200 less a year. Only three other states pay so little as Colorado, \$5,000. Forty-three states pay more than Colorado. New York pays \$25,000 and the thinly populated state of Wyoming pays \$7,000.

A mere statement of the condition in Colorado ought to be enough to convince every voter that he is doing the state, the judges, and all the people an injustice to permit this to continue when he has a chance to change it. The duty devolves upon members of this Association and of the Bar in general to aid actively in spreading information as to this situation, not only by calling it to the attention of every client but by active personal work throughout their respective neighborhoods.

A vote "Yes" on amendment No. 1 at the November election will remedy this serious situation and put Colorado in line with ninety per cent. of the states of the Union. And the cost will be about two good movie shows for each voter.

HAMLET J. BARRY,
*Chairman Special Committee
 on Judicial Salaries.*