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Communications

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Communications

Until very recently a case at issue in Los Angeles in which both parties were ready for trial would normally be set on the calendar for eighteen months hence in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, although that court has a Secretary whose business it is to transfer cases from one Department to another, where, for example, one Court has several cases ready for trial, and the calendar in another court "blows up" leaving the Department free to try other cases.

Recently one of these Departments of the Superior Court in Los Angeles County (which is the equivalent of the District Court at Colorado)—and there are now thirty-eight departments of the Superior Court—was set aside to handle what is known as the short cause calendar cases being sent to this department in which the parties agree to submit the entire case within the limitation of one hour. Already the council has accomplished wonderful results. The investigation and recommendations of the Judicial Council resulted in the legislature this year increasing the number of Judges in Los Angeles County upon the Superior Bench from twenty-eight to thirty-eight. Judges have been assigned from the Superior Bench to the District courts of Appeals to relieve the congestion, and Judges from outside Counties have been assigned to the larger Counties where the calendars are congested, and during the summer as many as ten outside Judges were sitting at a time, assisting in hurrying up the calendar. The Council is constantly working upon suggested changes in procedure, both criminal and civil. The clouds of congestion are still darkening the horizon in the Los Angeles Court, and in the appellate courts, but the light of relief is commencing to shine through, and unless litigation increases disproportionately California will, before long, have a

situation where justice may be obtained within a reasonable time.

(In view of the constantly increasing intercourse, commercially and otherwise, between Colorado and California, request has been made that the writer furnish the Denver Bar Record with a series of articles throwing light upon such differences between the law and procedure of the two States as may be of interest or of value to the Bar of Denver. This is the first of the series.)

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A gentleman who follows closely the proceedings of the Committee on Professional Ethics has, in a communication touching upon some of the questions previously presented for the Committee's opinion, taken occasion to submit the following to the chairman:

"I am always embarrassed by the word "ethical". In my own mind degrees of lawyers' undesirable conduct are ranked: undignified, unprofessional, unethical, and unbearable. Placing any given conduct in its class is often difficult, but I have specific conduct in mind for defining each class:

"Undignified—

Carrying the breakfast egg to his office on his coat.

"Unprofessional—

Refusing a case because there is little or no money in it.

"Unethical—

Expressing a public opinion as if an uninfluenced opinion when in fact his opinion is influenced.

"Unbearable—

Lying, cheating."

Believing the classification indicated may be of interest to readers the point is passed on to the Record.

E. D. UPHAM