

January 1926

Plans for the American Bar Association Meeting

Denver Bar Association Record

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Recommended Citation

Plans for the American Bar Association Meeting, 3 Denv. B.A. Rec. 11 (1926).

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If there is anything in the old tradition, we should have fair legal weather during the coming month, for March was ushered in by a rip-roaring crowded meeting where plans for the approaching convention of the American Bar Association were discussed at some length by those in charge of various phases of this important work.

President Butler, introducing Mr. James G. Rogers, president of the Colorado Bar Association, explained the purpose of the meeting and the importance of Mr. Rogers' task in laying plans for the coming convention.

THE PROBLEM OUTLINED

Mr. Rogers said that he would briefly outline the problems confronting the Association in entertaining the American Bar; what the meeting involved; and how it ought to be handled.

The committee had very frankly told the executive committee of the national association, he said, that it would be impossible for Denver to accommodate the delegates at the time of the usual fall session and so they had changed their convention date to July in order to accommodate us, making a second change subsequently from July fourteenth to July twenty-second for our convenience.

The 'performance' would last for about two weeks, he explained, the week preceding the convention proper being devoted to meetings of the Committee on Uniform State Laws, which would have its headquarters at the Brown Hotel and would have from seventy-five to a hundred members in attendance. Monday and Tuesday of the convention week would be taken up by meetings of the Executive Committee and the Attorneys General, from forty to fifty delegates being in attendance at these two meetings.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

The convention proper would commence Wednesday morning and would continue through Wednesday afternoon and evening, Thursday morning, afternoon and evening, and Friday morning. Friday afternoon would be open and Friday evening would be the time of the Annual Banquet as well as of the annual dinner to the ladies in attendance, which latter affair would be in charge of the local association. A program of entertainment would have to be arranged for Friday afternoon and, following the usual custom, Saturday would be devoted to a general excursion

which would probably include a trip to the mountains. Most of the delegates would leave on Saturday night of the convention week, Mr. Rogers thought.

The meeting would be at its best, Mr. Rogers pointed out if, it had a 'house-party' atmosphere which would be in accordance with the traditions of the association. The first annual meeting of the American Bar had been held, he explained, at Saratoga Springs and lawyers had been selected to attend that and subsequent meetings who would be socially and otherwise congenial. It was only during the past two or three years that the association had had an extensive membership and the old spirit still survived, so that it was of the utmost importance that we should endeavor to make it a personal affair and it would be successful in proportion to our success in that effort.

DENVER'S LAST BAR CONVENTION

The 1901 meeting of the American Bar, which was also held in Denver, was a landmark in its history, Mr. Rogers explained, and at that time there had been three hundred delegates in attendance. The delegates had been taken on a special train, with a well stocked buffet car, down to the San Juan country and, while few remembered anything about the scenery on that trip, the occasion was none the less memorable in other important respects. They were coming to Denver this time, he said, with the idea that we had made a record for hospitality and would sustain it.

In a general way, Mr. Rogers said that the plan of the committee in charge of plans for the convention was to make a sort of general executive committee of the Colorado Bar Association, the Denver Bar Association, and the Denver lawyers. Each member, Mr. Rogers explained, would have a definite function to perform in connection with the meeting and the committees already appointed were the following: Finance: Tyson Dines, Chairman; Horace N. Hawkins, Vice-Chairman; Robert L. Stearns, Secretary; Accommodations: Erl Ellis, Chairman; Maybelle Carter, Registrar; Entertainment: (not yet completed); Transportation: Myles P. Tallmadge, Chairman. Altogether, Mr. Rogers said, there would be six or seven committees which would be constantly in session.

NOT AN 'ORDINARY' CONVENTION

The meeting of the American Bar could not be conducted along the same lines as

an ordinary convention, Mr. Rogers said; first, because of the traditions of the association; second, because of our own history; and, third, because lawyers expected to be treated quite differently from ordinary commercial convention delegates. There was no outstanding large hotel here, he pointed out, and we would be obliged to rely to a large extent upon the small ones. The new Cosmopolitan Hotel would, however, be available, and would be used as headquarters.

The committee would arrange a series of dinners for distinguished members but each one must do his part in the entertainment of the rank and file and personal attention and contact were indispensable to success. Attendance in the past had varied from 1400 to 1800, Detroit having entertained 1839 members, in addition to 1,000 to 1,500 members of visiting delegates' families, and there would doubtless be at least 1,500 delegates in attendance here with about the same number of members of their families as well. However, it was impossible to definitely predict how many would come and, because of the change in date and the coincidence of vacation time, we must be prepared for expansion of our plans on short notice to meet the situation.

ELLIS ON ACCOMMODATIONS

Following Mr. Rogers, Mr. Erl H. Ellis, in charge of accommodations, said that Denver had but few hotels and that they could probably not supply more than 1400 rooms and if the attendance went much over that figure he couldn't say what would happen. There were twenty downtown hotels and if more than 1400 came we would have to place many of them in apartment hotels and other places on the Hill. He suggested that if requests for reservations came to individual members of the local bar they should be referred for convenience to the accommodations committee and the matter taken up with Miss Carter, whose headquarters were temporarily in Miss Mary Lathrop's office, though there would be no objection on the part of the committee to the matter being handled by the individual. He also suggested that the delegates coming from remote distances should be given special attention and that those from other points in the state should defer to them in the matter of accommodation at the larger hotels.

MR. McALLISTER SPEAKS

Mr. Henry McAllister, Jr., following Mr. Ellis, said that we were to be congratulated especially upon having Mr. James G. Rogers in charge of the plans

for the convention; that Mr. Rogers would give all of his time to this work and would carry it to a successful conclusion. He also emphasized the importance of personal attentions to delegates and the necessity for taking a personal interest in the problem and giving Mr. Rogers hearty cooperation. The financial problem was one of the most important ones, Mr. McAllister said, and a considerable sum must be raised in which task he bespoke the hearty support and generosity of all the members. The hotel situation, Mr. McAllister thought, presented a very serious problem, and had it not been for the availability of the new Cosmopolitan, the convention could not have been held here. It would be more difficult for us to handle 1500 American Bar delegates, he said, than for the Rotary Club to handle its 10,000 delegates.

Mr. Rogers then said that he did not regret having to devote his time to this task because he thought it would greatly benefit the local bar by contributing to our stock of ideas and giving us an opportunity to meet personally and listen to the leaders of the profession in America.

MR. HAWKINS TELLS A STORY

Mr. Horace N. Hawkins, Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, then explained something of the financial problem involved in the plans for the convention. He said that he objected to the title "Vice-Chairman" but presumed that it was a subtle tribute to his having at one time successfully represented some race-horse men who were in the toils of the law. The meeting really centered around the question of finance, he said, and it reminded him of an old story involving slander against two Jews and a Scotchman who were members of a certain Community Church. The pastor of this church gave notice of a free banquet and there was, as might have been supposed, a large attendance which included the two Jews and the Scotchman. When they were all seated, however, the pastor had explained that the story about its being a free banquet was all bunk; that he would now proceed to take up a collection, whereupon the Scotchman fainted and the two Jews carried him out.

Mr. Hawkins said that he wanted to pay a tribute to James G. Rogers, who, with the assistance of Platt Rogers, had obtained the American Bar meeting for Denver. They had been pitted against twelve lawyers from Seattle and a host from Los Angeles in their plea for Denver and "Jim" was the young David who slew these Goliaths and won the honor for his home town. The meeting would focus

the eyes of the entire legal fraternity upon Denver and Denver lawyers, Mr. Hawkins declared, and the committee had strong hopes that President Coolidge himself might be in attendance. He remembered well the American Bar meeting held here twenty-five years ago, he said, and all of the lawyers remembered it. And while we couldn't give them quite the same kind of entertainment, he had noted in the morning paper a new "gas and milk" process which might offer a solution. We could certainly furnish the gas and get the milk. One other means of entertainment had been suggested by some bright lawyer, who had written the committee suggesting that visiting delegates be given a "boat ride."

WE MUST "COME THROUGH"

Mr. Hawkins then referred to the generous contributions made by the Detroit lawyers at the time the American Bar meeting was held in that city. It was unthinkable, he declared, that Denver lawyers should fall down in the matter of financing the entertainment of the greatest lawyers in the country, for Denver was noted the country over for its hospitality, its climate, and its scenery, and we should not miss this opportunity of

adding to her lustre. The contribution of Detroit lawyers had ranged from \$1,000.00 down to \$5.00.

A committee, he said, would call on each lawyer for a contribution, and it must be borne in mind that we needed a lot of money for the convention and that if it were being held in any other city it would cost at least \$150.00 for any lawyer to attend. The amount the committee had determined to raise, he said, was \$25,000.00 and this sum would put Denver on the map with the bar of the United States. If more money was subscribed than was needed, he would give his word that the surplus would be returned to the contributors in proportion to their contributions.

COOPERATION INDISPENSABLE

Mr. Rogers, in conclusion, then said that all other cities had oversubscribed this convention fund; that the committee could be relied upon to handle the convention as economically as possible; and that they hoped that each member of the bar would keep closely in touch with them and make suggestions from time to time to assist the committee in its task.

—J. C. S.

"KEEP STRAIGHT AND WORK!"

Some men succeed while others fail
 Who have the self-same talents;
 And so, it seems, that Justice' scale
 Is sometimes out of balance.
 And some succeed, through luck, who shirk,
 But their success is hallow—
 This simple rule, "Keep straight and work!"
 Is best for all to follow.

J. C. S.