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## The Follies of 1925 Reviewed

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## *The Follies of 1925 Reviewed*

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When, if ever, Robert Hickman Walker tires of the law, his fortune is assured in vaudeville, as everyone who heard his talk on "The Follies of 1925 Reviewed," at the November 2nd meeting of the Association will freely testify.

As the program for this meeting had been arranged by the Law Club, President Butler entrusted his gavel to the care of Henry W. Toll, president of the Law Club, who introduced the speaker.

Mr. Toll said that the Law Club meetings of the Association had first been annual, then perennial, but were now spasmodic. He told of Judge Denison having addressed the Law Club on the subject, "How to Write a Brief," and of Mr. Robert Hickman Walker then having spoken upon the subject, "How to Write an Opinion," since which time, Mr. Toll declared, there had been a marked improvement in the quality of the Supreme Court's decisions. Mr. Toll said that Mr. Walker had been permitted to speak on the subject of "The Follies of 1925" upon condition that he would cast no aspersions on the last legislature and said further that he hoped the speaker would touch on the modern flapper who had been called a bungalow because she was painted in front, shingled on top, and had nothing upstairs.

Mr. Walker stated that the tedious purpose underlying the alluring title, "The Follies of 1925 Reviewed," would, he thought, disappoint the wicked expectations of the chairman and the audience but that he hoped that this disappointment would not vent itself in any rude manner and to insure himself against this he would await the removal of the dishes before speaking.

He would speak of a show, he said, though he could not put one on. The actors of this show had now been dispersed and had gone back to their homes in the sixty-three Colorado counties, and whether the show would ever reassemble was within the knowledge and volition of only one man—the governor—who, he thought, would not call the actors back to the stage without radical changes in the personnel of the cast. (Looking meaningly at Senator Henry Toll.)

Now that the curtain was down and the footlights were out, Mr. Walker said that it would be appropriate for the lawyers of Denver to examine the deposits of *lex scripta* left by this show—the Twenty-fifth General Assembly. He did not know whether or not the delay in the printing of the Session Laws had been due to the Secretary of State's tardiness in spelling Columbine not with a "K" but with a "C" as in cider but he did know that the record of the show was now available at a price practically within the reach of all. He would consider the results of the session as shown by this record. He had found, he said, on every notable act of the session the mark of Senator Toll's masterful oratorical outflow and he spoke particularly of the Columbine Act. As Henry Toll passed these gentle flowers in the future, Mr. Walker prophesied, each Columbine would murmur "God bless Henry Toll."

Mr. Walker then read with great impressiveness the ambitious title of "An Act to provide for the extermination of jack rabbits," which he declared to be the supreme achievement of the legislature because it transcended human power. The only way, he said, a jack rabbit could feel safe now was to cross the Kansas line and if he didn't hurry doing that he would either lose his life or forever afterward drag about a paralyzed rear.

Had the legislature done nothing more than pass this jack rabbit bill, Mr. Walker declared, it would have fully justified itself. The Committee on Uniform State Laws and Legislation of the Colorado Bar Association had issued a report stating that the last general assembly had enacted fewer laws than any assembly in recent years. If this report were intended as a criticism, Mr. Walker said he would denounce it as a libel for the results of the legislature's activities were represented by a book of nearly 600 pages.

In discussing the laws passed by the legislature, Mr. Walker said he would adopt the classification of the civil law—"real personal and mixed."

The majority of the statutes affecting real property were chargeable to Senator Golding Fairfield, the speaker declared, whereupon he discussed

them all, most amusingly, dwelling especially upon the law validating releases of trust deeds "made by anyone" during the Sabin-Fairall controversy.

Time would not permit him to discuss in detail the "mixed" class of statutes the speaker said, but at the head of the list was the divorce law, drafted by three "E and C statesmen," than which nothing could be more mixed. This law the speaker discussed until he had the audience howling with glee.

On the criminal side, the speaker advised the West Side practitioners to invest \$1.50 in the Session Laws of 1925. The act making the possession of a still a felony, the speaker said, was an answer to Edmund Burke's famous inquiry on how to draw an indictment against a whole people.

The civil practitioner, Mr. Walker said, would find amusement in the statute requiring jurors to both speak and understand English and in the law making the District Court a sort of probate court for defunct corporations.

There was only time for a passing glance at the statute relating to the insolvency of banks, but the speaker noted that it had an emergency clause.

The work of the legislature, Mr. Walker said, could not be properly as-

sessed or the public's debt of gratitude adequately measured without a consideration of the opportunities the legislature had enjoyed to enact laws that had not been enacted. A tribute at this point to the little band of senators who had courageously stood in the path of the passage of laws by a faction which had not demonstrated its right to power brought forth a storm of applause.

Mr. Walker then read the title of a bill which he declared Henry Toll had set his heart on—"A Bill for an Act to Determine and Define Hairdressing, Beauty Houses and Beauty Culture, etc., and to Create a State Board of Hairdressers." When the bitterness of the present moment had passed and the happy day arrived when this hair-dressing bill became law, then, concluded Mr. Walker, just as it was said that "what he thought of the Republic was written upon the brow of every Roman, so the incalculable benefits of his wise legislation would be seen upon the very faces of our women."

As the speaker took his seat, the audience roared with laughter and shook the building with applause. He had lived up to his reputation as a speaker of "scintillating satire and one of the masters of after-dinner oratory."

—J. C. S.

## *Minimum Fee Survey*

A recent survey of the fee situation by our recently appointed committee on minimum fees has revealed some interesting and instructive data.

Ralph R. Hawxhurst, Chairman of the Committee on Fees and Schedules of Charges of Illinois State Bar Association in 1919-1920, wrote an article which appeared in the American Bar Association Journal of December, 1920. In this article he said, "The fees charged by professional men, especially lawyers, is a subject concerning which very little is written and much spoken. It is even conservative to state that the spoken word concerning said fees is not always complimentary.

"The opinion of many laymen, in jest or otherwise, seems to be to the effect, in general, that lawyers as a whole charge not illiberally for their services and that no two lawyers charge alike, it being largely a ques-

tion of which is the higher charge. There is even a large body of laymen who feel that many lawyers charge excessively for the service performed. This is unfortunate and should be remedied, if possible. On the other hand, the lawyer, especially the young lawyer, is met with a serious problem at times in fixing a fee for services which shall fairly compensate him for his work, be satisfactory to his client, and not be out of proportion to the charges made by other counsel in like matters.

"The many elements which enter into the make-up of a proper legal fee distinguish it markedly from any other character of compensation. There is the magnitude of the interest involved; the intricacy of the subject matter; the actual time spent upon the matter; the condition or peculiar relation of the client; the success or lack of success achieved in the particular case; the financial