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Editorial Comment

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Unless the LAW REVIEW receives notice to the effect that a subscriber wishes his subscription discontinued, it is assumed that a continuation is desired.

The REVIEW is pleased to announce the recent gubernatorial appointment of Dean Max Schoetz, Jr., to the office of Commissioner from Wisconsin to serve in the National Conferences of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. At the annual meeting held at Detroit, Michigan, in August, Dean Schoetz was selected as a member of the committee on co-operation with other organizations. He was also appointed to the committee on uniform acts for compacts and agreements between states.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws is composed of commissioners from each state and from the territories. They are appointed by the executive authority and are chosen from the legal profession, being lawyers and judges of standing and experience, and teachers of law in some of the leading law schools.

The object of the National Conference, as stated in its Constitution, is "to promote uniformity in state laws on all subjects where uniformity is deemed desirable and practicable." Each uniform act is the result of one or more tentative drafts subjected to the criticism, correction, and emendation of the Commissioners, who represent the experience and judgment of a select body of lawyers chosen from every part of the United States. When finally approved by the National Conference, the uniform acts are recommended for general adoption throughout the jurisdictions of the United States and are submitted to the American Bar Association for its approval.

One has merely to think of the number of uniform national laws now in effect to realize the good work accomplished by this organization. The REVIEW is justly cognizant of the honor bestowed upon Dean Schoetz by his appointment to this important body.

In Wisconsin alone, there are over 13,000 notaries public, designated by law as state officers, and appointed by the governor without regard as to learning, ability, or character. Approximately 10,000 notaries are without legal training and nearly all profess the art of drawing deeds, wills, leases, and similar contracts. Some venture so far as to render "legal" advice, devoting themselves particularly to questions on titles, abstracts, and the domestic relations of husband and wife. An illustration of the bounds that may be overreached is the case of a notary who took an acknowledgment and had a deed executed by a dead man, placing a pen in the cold fingers of the corpse to make his "mark," and interpreting the silence of the deceased as an acknowledgment.

In most foreign countries, notaries public are educated and fit for the duties of their office; hence our large foreign population become the victims of notaries who are not qualified for the duties they seek to perform. That it is wilful misconduct on the part of a notary to practice law without a license is beyond doubt. But to detect each violation among a body of such vast proportions is well nigh impossible, especially in view of the fact that each notary is presumed to know the extent of his office.

This subject was considered at the last meeting of the American Bar Association where it was suggested that notaries be divided into two classes, "commercial" and "ministerial," with limited jurisdiction. There is also a movement started whereby the governors of each state will receive written suggestions for drastic action to relieve the situation in so far as it is possible under existing law.

The only practical solution is a uniform national law—evolved and agreed upon by every state in the Union—with a more stringent rule as regards the qualifications of applicants for the notaries' seal. Leastwise, let us hope that some remedy will be found to relieve this disagreeable situation.

The annual meeting of the Wisconsin State Bar Association was held at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on June 25, 26, and 27 last. Outside of the fact that the members indulged in considerable speech-making, there was very little accomplished.

One of the interesting features was a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of non-par stock with regard to its effect upon the administration of the Blue Sky Law. This discussion was opened by

Professor Carl B. Rix of the Marquette Law School, and L. A. Lecher, an alumnus of Marquette University. The argument was closed by Arthur Snapper, a 1922 graduate of the law school and at present legal advisor of the Blue Sky Commission. Mr. Snapper very ably discussed the different views on the administration of the Blue Sky Law.

Roy P. Wilcox of Eau Claire and a member of the Marquette University advisory board, was elected president of the association for the ensuing year. The office of vice president from the twentieth judicial circuit was allotted to Walter A. Kuzenski of Oconto, and a member of the graduating class of 1922.

The graduates of Marquette University should take a more active interest in the proceedings of the Wisconsin Bar Association. With approximately one thousand Marquette lawyers practicing in Wisconsin, they should prove of considerable assistance in the advancement of legal matters in this state. The REVIEW appeals to these men because it carries forward each year the ideals and principles which they were taught and is ever desirous of seeing the alumni of Marquette gain recognition in the legal profession.

At least two years of college training is now necessary for admission to the school of law. This requirement was adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the American Bar Association and continues Marquette University in the classification of a Grade A law school.

It is gratifying to note that this new requirement has not materially affected the number of students enrolled in the law course. Besides eighteen degree men, there are twenty-one colleges and universities represented in the present freshmen class. The colleges include Lawrence, Champion, St. Norberts, Bay City, Carroll, Ripon, and Colgate, and Milwaukee, Superior, and Whitewater normals. The universities are as follows: Columbia, Iowa, Cornell, Michigan, Marquette, Northwestern, St. John's, Creighton, Chicago, and Kansas.

Surely, this is a proper response to the statement of Mr. Chief Justice Taft, in speaking of the requisite training for the practice of law, before the Conference of Bar Associations held in Washington in February, 1922, when he said:

"This (the practice of law) calls for a good and trained memory, great intellectual industry and facility, a power of analytical and synthetic reasoning, and a very wide general information of society and the practical affairs of men and government, adapting him to quick acquisition of knowledge, accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable him to advise those who seek his assistance, and to maintain or defend their rights in every walk, profession, or business in our kaleidoscopic society."

J. O'B.