Editorials

Kentucky Law Journal

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EDITORIALS

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KENTUCKY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Before this issue comes from the press the 1929 meeting of the State Bar Association of Kentucky will have been held at Frankfort. The session begins on Thursday, April 4th, and continues through Friday, April 5th.

In addition to the reports of officers and committees, the principal features of the program are as follows:

Address of welcome by Leslie W. Morris, President of the Franklin County Bar Association.
President's address by Harry Brent Mackoy, of Covington.
“Sixty Years at the Kentucky Bar,” by W. L. Porter, of Glasgow, Ky.
“The Legal Story of Mammoth Cave,” by John B. Rodes, of Bowling Green.

The annual dinner will take place on the evening of April 4th, and the annual address will be delivered by Robert M. Hutchins, Dean of the Yale Law School.

Friday the program is as follows:

“The Lake Cargo Cases or the Rate Cases as They Affect Kentucky,” by J. Vandyke Norman of Louisville, Ky.
“Some Great Lawyers of Kentucky,” by Hugh Riddell, Irvine, Ky.
Among the important committee reports will be one by the committee on Proposed Casualty and Liability Insurance Legislation, of which B. R. Jouett, of Winchester, is the Chairman.

Mr. Harry Brent Mackoy is the retiring President of the Kentucky State Bar Association. Mr. Mackoy was born in 1874 and graduated from Yale in 1894, and from the Cincinnati Law School in 1897. He has been a member of the Bar and in active practice both in Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio since the year 1899. He is one of the well known corporation lawyers of both states. There is probably no lawyer in this state who has had a greater interest in legal education and in the problems of citizenship than Mr. Mackoy. He is a life member of the American Law Institute, whose annual sessions in Washington, D.C., he regularly attends and in whose deliberations he takes great interest. The Kentucky Law School feels that in him it has a friend devoted to its interests. He has been concerned not only with the improvement of legal education but with the strengthening of the requirements for admission to the Bar.

Just now he is much concerned with a proposed bill to be introduced in the legislature providing for the organization of the Bar that it may function more effectively and establish and enforce certain improved standards for lawyers.

The Kentucky Law Journal hopes to give a brief account of his successor in a later issue.

PROMPT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

A writer in the last issue of the Kentucky Law Journal commented adversely on the trial and conviction of a prisoner within seven days of the commission of the crime. Criticism because justice is speedily meted out seems rather surprising in this country where there has been so much said and written about the law's delay. In fact one of the causes pointed out by investigators of crime waves is the long period of time that usually elapses between the time of the commission of the crime and the trial of the one accused. It has also often been pointed
out that in England where trials are speedily held there is a much lower percentage of felonies committed than in this country.

Doubtless the writer in question had in mind the danger of the accused not getting a fair and impartial trial if too short a time is allowed between the commission of the deed and the hearing—that there is a need of a "cooling time" for the public so that the demand for vengeance may allay. This cooling period is suggested by the practice of reducing a case of homicide from murder to manslaughter where sufficient time has not elapsed between the affront that led to the killing and the killing to allow the slayer's anger to cool.

The analogy, however, does not seem to be a good one because in the case of criminal trials, the law has provided that if the community where the case would ordinarily be tried is so wrought up that the accused is not likely to have a fair trial, there can be a change of venue to a part of the state where an impartial trial may be had.

It is probably true that much more progress has been made in Kentucky in the matter of securing prompt trials in criminal cases than in most of the states in the Union. While the prompt administration of justice in England is in a large measure due to the fact that the judge really tries the case and does not sit as an arbitrator for the attorneys in the case, the same result is reached in Kentucky to a great extent through co-operation between bench and bar.