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The New Law Building

Kentucky Law Journal
Today is a noteworthy occasion in the history of the College of Law of this institution. Eighteen years ago, the law school was founded by Judge William Thornton Lafferty, and I want at the outset to pay tribute to the work and memory of the founder of the school. It is truly remarkable that at a time when educational standards were comparatively low in Kentucky, Judge Lafferty aligned the new school from the start with the Association of American Law Schools and subscribed to the high ideals and purposes of that association. For fourteen years Judge Lafferty served the school as dean until his death in 1922, and no words that I could utter would justly measure his contribution to this institution and to the State.

For fourteen years he lived and dreamed and worked for this day, when for the first time the law school is adequately housed; and it would not be fitting to begin the exercises of this morning without this brief tribute to his memory. In sincere appreciation of his life and character, I can say for all the law students past and present and for the faculty that the school itself is his lasting memorial.
The new law building of the University of Kentucky was dedicated on Wednesday, October 27th. A general convocation of the student body which was attended by many lawyers and friends of the Law School, was held at ten o'clock at the University Gymnasium. The exercises were opened by the singing of America by the audience followed by the invocation by Dean Robert K. Massie of Christ Church Cathedral. After a song by the University Men's Glee Club, Dean Charles J. Turek, who presided in the absence of President Frank L. McVey, announced the opening of the new Law Building and paid tribute to the memory of the founder and first dean of the College of Law, Judge William Thornton Lafferty.

Honorable Charles S. Whitman of New York City, President of the American Bar Association, then delivered an address on "Some Modern Tendencies of the Law," which appears in another part of this issue. In beginning his address Governor Whitman paid a high tribute to the work of the College of Law and expressed his intention that the American Bar Association would cooperate in every way to support this school and all law schools which maintained proper standards. The exercises were brought to a close by the benediction pronounced by Doctor Gilbert R. Combs of the First Methodist Church.

After the exercises a great many people visited the new quarters which were kept open throughout the afternoon. Judge Richard C. Stoll, of the circuit court, entertained Governor Whitman and members of the Fayette County Bar at a buffet luncheon and a visit was paid to Ashland, the home of Henry Clay, and to the Idle Hour Stock Farm. In the evening, the Fayette County Bar Association entertained in honor of Governor Whitman at the Ashland Golf Club. Judge Stoll acted as toastmaster and addresses were made by Judge Samuel M. Wilson on the Fayette County Bar; Dean C. J. Turek on the Law School; and Governor Whitman on the American Bar Association. More than a hundred members of the bar from Lexington and the surrounding towns were present.

The new quarters are entirely adequate to meet the needs of a modern law school of moderate size. The class rooms are equipped with long narrow tables where the students can spread out their books and take notes with comfort. The library has
been furnished with the best library furniture of quartered oak by the Library Bureau, and the books are kept on new steel stacks. The reading room is well lighted and attractive in appearance, and is generally regarded as the most beautiful room on the campus. There are offices for each of the faculty, and one for the staff of the Kentucky Law Journal. Steel lockers have been provided for the students and a large airy room has been set apart as a discussion room for them. The entire work of remodelling the building, which formerly housed the Chemistry Department, has been under the personal direction of Maury J. Crutcher, the superintendent of buildings and grounds at the University, and to him and his staff of capable workers the College of Law is indebted for a building that meets every requirement of a modern law school.

A cordial invitation is extended to members of the bar throughout the state to inspect the Law Building on their visit to Lexington and to make full use of the library, which now numbers about ten thousand volumes.