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Hopeful Facts about Wyoming

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design to deceive this Court and to deceive this jury in the hope that you would get a large award for an injury you never sustained?" "Yes, sir." Automatically, about that time, the Court very properly said: "Mr. Sheriff, you may take this man into custody. Mr. County Attorney, you will file a charge against him for perjury." While it has its funny side, the situation was charged with drama for that jury. You could have heard a pin fall. He was a fine looking young fellow; you couldn't help but like him. I remember one juror coming forward and saying when the thing was over: "I am so sorry about this. Why will men do these things?" I didn't say this at the time, but I say it now—that I guess the chap, whoever it was who said it, that "The love of money is the root of all evil" was about right. He would have been more nearly right had he said: "The love of *easy* money is the root of all evil." John was out to get some easy money.

I think I have talked long enough. I thank you.

HOPEFUL FACTS ABOUT WYOMING

DR. A. G. CRANE*

Members of Wyoming Bar:

I was pleased to receive an invitation to attend your meeting here and address you. Perhaps it is a little odd to find a schoolmaster mixed up with so many lawyers. On the other hand, the Office of Secretary of State has many official relations with the legal fraternity.

I have heard some discussion on the issue of advanced copies of laws enacted by the last Legislature. Perhaps some facts regarding this project would be of interest to you. It is the obligation of the Secretary of State's Office to supervise the printing of Session Laws following each legislative session. The process of printing the Session Laws is to have the material set up in convenient forms for proof-reading. By a simple devise of having the proof sheets printed in larger quantities, we had copies available for earlier distribution. The only additional printing expense is the expense involved in running more copies of the proof sheet. Some 500 copies were printed in this way as rapidly as the laws were enacted. It required some 500 copies to meet the mailing list. All bills carrying the emergency clause, making the law effective immediately upon enactment, were included and also other laws of immediate interest. The mailing list consisted of all public officials and all members of the Wyoming Bar. No charge was made to any individual for this service. Expense was paid by the State and amounted to \$1,243.00 for printing and postage. The mailing was performed by the regular staff of the Office of the Secretary of State. Six mailings were made.

*—Secretary of State, State of Wyoming.

This is the first time in the history of the State when printed copies of laws were issued before the Legislature adjourned. Under ordinary business conditions the advance printing of the Session Laws in the form of proof sheets would have expedited the final printing of the Session Laws, but the printers have been handicapped by general business conditions and by acute shortages in labor, paper, binding, materials, etc.

The plan worked so well and seemed to have been such a great service that it is now hoped to be able to carry the scheme farther at the next Legislature and have all bills distributed as enacted, thus making available most of the legislation while the Legislature is still in session.

We are also interested in Session Laws. Everywhere I meet the query, "When can we get the Session Laws?" It is a trying situation when citizens and the legal profession have to proceed in the dark without convenient printed copies of the changes made by the Legislature. The copy for the Session Laws has been in the hands of the printer for some time. The proof has been read, index made, and we are now expecting notice from the printer that the volumes will be delivered shortly.

The Wyoming Official Directory for 1947 is in the same predicament. It will be available as soon as the printers can finish the job.

This group of Wyoming citizens and members of the Wyoming Bar will be interested in some hopeful facts about Wyoming. The Office of Secretary of State is primarily an office of record, and not a revenue collecting agency. Nevertheless, the law requires moderate fees should be charged for recording and issuance of documents. The load of work in the Office can be gauged by the fees received. In the first six months of 1947, more money was collected by the Office than in the full calendar year of 1946. In fact, the receipts for the first six months exceeded the total calendar year of 1946 by \$17,000.00. To date, the fees in the Secretary of State's Office since January 1, have reached a total of \$898,085.10. We confidently expect that receipts for services in this Office will exceed a million dollars in 1947. The most plausible explanation of this large increase in revenues is increased business in the State. Corporation filings to date, old and new combined, are 43% higher than the same time last year. New corporation filings in the United States, according to Dun & Bradstreet, declined an average of 17.2% but Wyoming had an increase of 49% over the same period in 1946. There are on record in this Office 3,537 active corporations.

Another index of active business is the number of Notary Public commissions issued. There are now 1,371 on record in the Office. There is a record of 2,565 trade marks registered.

This group of men probably have more to do with Wyoming law and government than any other equally-sized group in the State. The lawyers write our laws, have an influential part in their passage by the Legislature, interpret the laws, enforce the laws, and teach citizens the proper observance of laws. State business is varied, complex and touches every citizen. It is the biggest business in the State—public or private. Members of the Wyoming Bar have much responsibility for the conduct of State business. The State depends upon you to secure just and equitable treatment of citizens before the law. The citizens look to your leadership for the effective operation of State government. The citizen looks to you to see that operations of government are carried on in honest, efficient, orderly fashion.

America boasts of progress in the understanding and control of physical forces. We lead the World in science and research, but we have lagged way behind in our knowledge of the art of human relationships. In the art of living together, we lag far behind our knowledge in the realm of science. In years to come we must give human relationships more study. The law should lead the way in this study. I am pleased to note the provisions made for simplification of court procedure as was presented yesterday by Judge T. Blake Kennedy. Simplification of court procedure should be a service to all citizens.

Together, the people of Wyoming are endeavoring to build the State of Wyoming. We are endeavoring to develop its resources. It is a State whose citizens believe in justice, equity and fair opportunity for all. It is your privilege to educate us. You must teach us what the law is, how to best observe it, how to proceed in the affair of private life and business. We depend upon you! In this program of education, perhaps the schoolmaster may not be out of place.

NOTE: The Honorable Tom Clark, Attorney General of the United States, addressed the meeting on the subject "Law and National Progress". Unfortunately, it was not known that Mr. Clark would speak extemporaneously until it was too late to obtain a reporter, so that no record of this excellent speech was made.

In Vol. I, No. 4, we failed to identify Mr. James Munro, author of "The Real Estate Broker and His Commission", as an attorney at Sheridan, Wyoming, member of the Illinois and Wyoming bars. Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming College of Law, 1945-1946.