

NEWS SECTION.

The Class of '21 at the Bar.

Memphis, Tenn., July 29.

Dear Judge Vurpillat:

Last week I was informed by the bar examiners that I had successfully passed the examination of June 10. So I am writing this short letter to thank you and the other members of the faculty for the wonderful preparation I received at Notre Dame.

There were 118 candidates for admission. Of these about 40 failed. This is a very high average for Tennessee. Of course, it does not equal the number that fail in the much-vaunted Illinois tests, but it shows that the requirements for admission come up to the standard set by majority of the states.

I learned secretly—the statutes prohibiting any information concerning the grades of the candidates other than that they made a passing-mark—that my paper was the best of the 118. Of course this sounds a bit boastful, but I think we all have that privilege. Inasmuch as I am from Tennessee instead of Illinois, I cannot say that the exams were the hardest in the last decade. Hence do I say that I made the highest average. Other members of the bar who graded the papers assured me that mine was the highest.

The exam. consisted of four papers each containing 20 questions. Each question was in the form of a hypothetical state of facts covered by some point of general law—they did not give us much statutory stuff. On about a third of these questions I had answers that I had received at N. D. In many instances I was able to cite them cases that had been assigned for reading at school. Among

these were *Norrington vs. Wright*—a favorite of Prof. Tiernan—the *Detroit Free Press* case, *Woodward-Holmes Co., vs. Nutt*, and *Leisy vs. Hardin*.

There are other cases that I had looked up at Notre Dame that stood me in good on the examination, although I could not remember their exact titles. For instance, the *Mississippi* case on the proposition of compelling parties to refrain from bringing suits growing out of a single transaction, the case covering the disposition by administration of a decedent's real and personal property that is situated in different states, and the one often referred to by Judge Farabaugh on subterranean water rights. Incidentally, I managed to use the *Dartmouth College* case.

I have not yet hung out my shingle. At present, I am picking up the news for the paper around the police headquarters and the municipal court. I am not learning a lot of law in the latter place. About the only constitution the judge of that tribunal is familiar with is that of the Red Men or the Woodmen of the World. The way they make these negro vagrants and crapshooters testify against themselves reminds one of an army court-martial. Yesterday a country boy was fined \$10 for disorderly conduct because he would not permit the police to enter his room unless they could produce a warrant. When I protested with the judge after court about the decision, he said, "Ah, hell, you're one of these hair-splitting technical-minded lawyers!"

I expect to start the practice of law within a couple of months. Capt. J. M. Canada, a corporation

lawyer, has offered to take me into his office. Here I shall have an excellent opportunity to get away from the post, inasmuch as Mr. Canada has no relatives in his office whom he must take care of.

Please give my regards and thanks for what they have taught me to Profs. Tiernan, Farabaugh, Costello and Frederickson. I am here to state that the methods used by the faculty of N. D. are head and shoulders above those resorted to by other institutions. The old case and textbook system enabled me to knock the examination for a row of saloons. Any fellow who has made an attempt, however feeble, to apply himself to the course need fear no difficulty in obtaining admission to the bar. This practice of taking a quiz course after graduation is unnecessary; the student is sufficiently equipped at Notre Dame.

Things are in a fine state in Shelby county. On account of recent murders and assaults, the local chamber of commerce has organized a committee of 200 vigilantes to assist the state authorities in enforcing the law. On their first raid last night, they arrested seven negroes shooting dice in an empty boiler. The prisoners were taken before Squire Maher this morning and were fined \$5 for gaming and \$4.15 for costs. There is no getting away from it; the law in Shelby county has vindicated itself.

The reason for the prevailing lawlessness here is the fact that our juries will not convict. The defendant surrounds himself with his women folks and employs some unreconstructed lawyer who prates about the chivalry of the South and the glory of its womanhood. The result

is an acquittal. Well, what can one expect in a country where the farmers make the laws.

Well I guess this is enough of this balderdash. Before closing, I might add that one subject, which, by the way, is not listed in the catalogue, but is taught at Notre Dame, played an important part in my passing the exam. It was the old heifer dust. I used about 200 words of it on each question.

Let me hear from you soon. I intend to keep in touch with the school to the end of my days. If there is ever any chance for me to be of any assistance to the law college, be sure to let me know. Thanking you and the others for what you have done for me, I am

Your sincere friend,

Charles P. J. Mooney, Jr.

Care Commercial Appeal,
Memphis, Tenn.

Minneapolis, May 16, '21
Hon. F. J. Vurpillatt,

Dean, Notre Dame Law School,
Notre Dame, Indiana.

My dear Judge:

I have forwarded to you the bare examination questions of the State of Minnesota for the past year. It gives me great pleasure to say that I have successfully passed the examination and am now admitted to the bar of this State. I forward these questions in order that the Minnesota boys who intend to return here may have an opportunity to know the kind of questions which are asked on the examination.

A great many questions are asked on the Code and are very important, I think, and those who intend to practice here should study the Code, either by way of class room or in a pri-

vate way. I merely suggest this, so that they won't have it quite as hard as I did cramming for this examination.

I am also forwarding you a copy of the Rules for Admission to the Bar. There may be some changes in them in the coming year. I would advise that those boys who wish to take the bar examination should obtain a new copy from the Secretary. You will note that it is required that a student be a resident here for six months before he is admitted to apply for examination. This is rather a hardship on the boys, of course, and the only way this is waived is if a student has served in the forces, either of the army or navy, for a period of six months during the late war.

I extend my heartiest good wishes to yourself and faculty and to all the

members of the school, and wish you all success.

Very respectfully,
J. P. O'Hra, '20.

NOTES

William S. Allen, Edmund J. Meagher, Henry W. Fritz, George Wittereid and Clyde A. Walsh will take the Bar examination in Illinois on October 5th.

A letter from Alden J. Cusick informs us that he has entered the field of life insurance, having taken up the work as special agent in Chicago for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., with offices in the Rookery Bldg. Mr. Cusick, however, has applied for his certificate in preparation for taking the Illinois Bar examination on October 5th.