

Bar Council Notes

Acting Chief Justice

The Bar welcomes the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Herron as Acting Chief Justice. The Council is grateful for His Honour's keen interest in Bar problems, his desire to advance the status of the Bar Association and to co-operate in achieving this end.

Law Reform

There has been recently much discussion within both branches of the profession, at judicial level, and by the Press, concerning the necessity for procedural reforms designed to ensure speedier justice and the elimination of what is commonly known as "trial by ambush". A sub-committee of the Bar Council has spent a great deal of time in examining these questions and during their deliberations have given close consideration to the system of pre-trial procedure and practice which is in force in the majority of the Courts in the U.S.A. and to the recommendations of the Committee presided over by Lord Evershed, which, after sitting for many years, published its final report some few years ago. In turn the Government Law Reform Committee, as appears from a report in this issue as to that Committee's activities, has appointed a sub-committee to consider the question. On this sub-committee the Bar is represented by the President and Vice-President of the Council and by Bowen Q.C. The Bar Council is of the opinion that since the questions are of such vital importance, both to litigants and to the Bar, it should take an active part in a consideration of the questions involved. It is opposed, however, to the adoption of any far-reaching changes until the Bar as a whole has had the opportunity fully of considering and discussing any proposals.

An Australian Bar Association

Some of us can recall the occasion on which a Bill was introduced in the Upper House to amalgamate the two branches of the profession. The N.S.W. Bar Council has for over a year taken an active part in endeavouring to form an Australian Bar Association with the objects, inter alia, of protecting and advancing the status of the Bar. The Queensland Bar Association unanimously decided to support the proposal. It is hoped that members of the Victorian Bar Association, who are shortly to vote on the proposal, will support it and that the Association can then be formed.

Barristers' Superannuation Pty. Ltd.

It is felt that a reason why many members of the Bar do not avail themselves of the substantial benefits from supporting this scheme is that they do not fully understand it. The Directors of the Company will shortly send around to the Bar another circular designed to set out the scheme's advantages as clearly as possible and it is hoped that this year there will be a substantial number of new members.

Accommodation for the Bar

The activities of those members of the Bar connected with this problem, either as members of the Board of Counsel's Chambers Limited, or of the Bar Council, are insignificant in comparison with the overall planning and daily consideration of problems that the Honourable Mr. Justice Manning undertook in regard to Wentworth Chambers and that he now undertakes in regard to extensions to the Common Room, the building of Selborne Chambers and the provision of still further accommodation for the Bar.

Furnishing of the New Common Room

Some few weeks ago representatives from the Bar Council and from Counsel's Chambers Ltd., paid a visit to the old A.M.P. Building to inspect a table and 18 chairs which had been purchased from the A.M.P. for resale and which had been in the A.M.P. Boardroom. The table was of mahogany, as were the chairs, and was some 18 feet long and 7 feet wide. The chairs were upholstered in red leather and were in excellent condition, and enquiries revealed that the present day cost of reproducing one would be £70. Discussions were had with the owner Mr. H. G. Daley, as to selling the suite for use in the proposed conference room which is included in the plans for the new Common Room. Recently Mr. Daley called on the Registrar and indicated that he wished to present the suite to the Bar anonymously. His generous gift has been gratefully accepted. Mr. Daley was entertained at afternoon tea in the Common Room by members of the Bar Council and of Counsel's Chambers Ltd., and was eventually reluctantly persuaded to permit his name to be disclosed. He wishes it to be made known that he made the gift as a citizen of this State in memory of his late sister, Mrs. A. C. Godhard who was a well known charity worker and philanthropist. The President's Chair and the long table in the Common Room are two of numerous gifts to the Bar by Barwick Q.C., the former being a substantial replica of a Warden's Chair of one of the Livery Companies of London. Mr. Daley's generous gift is unique in that it is made by one possessing no allegiance to or connection with the profession.

13th Law Convention — Hobart 1963

Anyone intending to visit Hobart for the 13th Law Convention of the Law Council of Australia, in January 1963, should adhere strictly to the times laid down in the various circulars which will be sent out by the Law Council from time to time. It is understood from Toose Q.C., who is the Honorary Secretary of the Law Council that, because of the limited accommodation available in Hobart in January, which is the height of the tourist season, firm bookings (with deposits in some cases) will have to be made by the Law Council by specified dates. In these circumstances, late replies to circulars will result in loss of bookings already tentatively made.