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Death of Professor George H. Boke

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. BOKE, who died at Carmel, California, on January 5, 1929, after many years of illness, will be remembered with respect and affection by his former students in the Department and School of Jurisprudence of the University of California. He was one of the ablest and most inspiring law teachers in the profession. This superiority was the result of his peculiar gift for clearness of idea and expression, his enthusiasm, and his forceful personality. Gifted as he was, his position as a teacher of law in the Department and School during the formative years of the School from 1900 to 1917, enabled him to exert a deep influence on members of the bench and bar in their professional careers. In a field so instinct with human interest as the law, the extent of the contribution of a teacher like Professor Boke

to the culture of the community is incalculable. The whole tone of thought, the attitude towards life, under modern conditions, is often insensibly established by contact with personalities charged with affirmative qualities. Many will recognize Professor Boke's contribution to their daily living and thinking.

Any notice of Professor Boke's services would be lacking which omitted reference to his work in securing the completion of Boalt Hall, and at the same time enlisting the interest of leaders of the bar of California in the School of Jurisprudence. It was characteristic of the man's devotion and energy that he undertook the task of obtaining subscriptions from the lawyers of California, supplemental to Mrs. Boalt's generous gift, to enable Boalt Hall of Law to be built. He carried out the work with complete success.

Professor Boke's vision saw far ahead. He early became conscious of the necessity of a more scientific approach to the problems of law than existed even in the best law schools of this country. He recognized the need of the restatement of existing law, and of the close relations that the study of the law should have to other branches of human culture. In a very direct way, his ideas came to fruition in the creation of the American Law Institute. So early as 1914, Professor Boke had become actively interested in a plan for what he called a juristic center, where law might be studied, restated and readapted, by experts independent of connection with teaching or practice. In 1915, he secured the appointment by the Association of American Law Schools of a Committee on the Feasibility of Establishing a Center for the Study of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence (Proceedings, Association of American Law Schools (1915) Vol. 15, pp. 27-33, 59). At this time, he had already presented his plans to many of the leading lawyers of the United States and had enlisted their interest. The seed thus planted grew, until finally in 1923, the establishment of the American Law Institute was its fruit (Proceedings, American Law Institute (1923) Vol. 1, pp. 2-3).

In this number of the REVIEW is reprinted an address by Professor Boke delivered before the New York State Bar Association in January, 1917, presenting his views concerning the future progress of the law and the agencies for its development. It is prophetic of many things that have already come to pass, and indicates the quality of his thinking on the law and its problems.

Professor Boke's long removal from active life had not lessened the friendship and respect in which his former associates held him. His was a full and active career, and his life useful beyond the fortune of most men.

Orrin K. McMurray.