

Louis Voumard, Q.C.

On 1st June 1971 Louis Voumard, Q.C. celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his admission to practice. He signed the Bar Roll of Counsel on 30th November 1925. This occasion was marked by a dinner in his honour held on 4th June 1971. At its meeting on 20th May 1971 the Bar Council appointed Voumard Q.C. an Honorary Life Member of the Victorian Bar. By a happy coincidence Voumard Q.C. delivered the first of the series of Bar lectures for 1971 on the subject Pleadings. An appreciative audience of 95 counsel attended and it is hoped that notes of the lecture will become available in duplicated form.

A member of the Bar has kindly contributed the following pen picture:-

The early years of Voumard's life were spent at Shepparton after which he attended Melbourne High School and Melbourne University. He was admitted to practice on the 1st June 1921 and was called to the Bar in November 1921. He signed the Bar Roll on the 30th November 1921. From that time until 11th July 1950 Voumard enjoyed a career as junior counsel distinguished in particular by his expertise in pleading and the monumental work "The Sale of Land" published in its first edition in November 1939. Voumard became one of Her Majesty's Counsel on the 11th July 1950 and, in addition to the conduct of his practice as Senior Counsel, he wrote the second edition of "The Sale of Land" which was published in January 1965. During this period he served the Victorian Bar for several years as a member of its Council as well as carrying out other activities of a judicial and quasi judicial nature.

In the forward to the second edition of his book, which is regarded as having no superior in its subject, Voumard extended his thanks for the generous assistance from several of his friends of the Victorian Bar. Those friends and the members of the Bar generally rejoice with Voumard at his 50th anniversary and trust that the profession will continue to be graced with his active participation in the future.

Reform of Supreme Court Procedure

A report of a committee appointed to consider proposals for expediting the trial of personal injury claims has been approved by the Bar Council and forwarded to the Attorney-General.

In substance this report recommends a compulsory Summons for Directions to be held by a Judge at the expiration of six months after issue of writ. The idea behind this proposal is that the parties will be obliged to look realistically at the case at that stage which in turn should lead to earlier settlements and less congestion in the lists.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman called on the Attorney-General on 3rd May 1971 when they delivered the report to him. A copy of the report has also been forwarded to the Chief Justice.

The Law Institute has also reported on this problem. Their proposal involves a radical change in the system of pleadings in personal injuries claims. Pleadings would be replaced by statements by both the parties in prescribed form which would cover most of the matters which are now the subject of interminable interrogatories.

The Bar Committee did not favour this approach on the ground that it deprived litigants of existing rights.

It is also understood that consideration is being given in Government circles to "No Fault" liability and the provision of special tribunals for personal injuries claims. Thus it seems that we are likely to see at least some basic changes in the present practice in personal injuries claims in the near future. However it is worth noting that a special tribunal system has not been successful in W.A. and that this field of litigation is being returned to the courts.

Legal Aid Committee

Brooking, Q.C. and Murdoch will replace Hulme, Q.C. and Nixon as Bar representatives on the Legal Aid Committee.

Melbourne University LL.B. Course

The Law Faculty of Melbourne has approved a proposal for the LL.B. course to be a post-graduate degree to be commenced after the completion of a three year undergraduate degree (B.A., B.Ec., etc.) or diploma from a college of advanced education. Part of the LL.B. course would then be conducted in the summer vacation and the full course could be completed in the March of the 6th year after the completion of secondary schooling. The scheme would involve the law school adopting a semester system which would result in its facilities being utilized for the entire year.

Members of the Bar Council had differing views on the proposal and the Council resolved not to express any view either for or against this proposal.

Taxation

The Bar Council has appointed a committee to consider taxation matters as they affect members of the Bar. This committee consists of Webb, Q.C., Brusey, Q.C., Davies, Dawson and Castan.

Wine

Arrangements have been made for the bulk purchase of a stock of wine from W.J. Seabrook Pty. Ltd. for Bar functions.

Dining In Night

The Dining In Night held on 25th June 1971 was most successful, there being an attendance of some 120.

A highlight was the Revue produced and directed by David Ross and featuring, among other attractions, the famous case of Cyril Bodkin v. Simon Villeneuve de Quincy. It is hoped that this important decision will be reported as it establishes, inter alia, that a member of the Victorian Police Corroboration Squad may give evidence before the witness he is corroborating - provided, of course, he qualifies himself as an expert corroborator.

Alteration to Thirteenth Floor

Consideration has been given by the Bar Council to structural alterations to the 13th floor of Owen Dixon Chambers including the enclosure of the terrace. A decision has been postponed pending further consideration of the report by the Ad Hoc Committee on the proposal to obtain a club licence.

Incorporation of Legal Practitioners

The Law Institute has recently approved proposals to amend the Legal Profession Practice Act to enable solicitors to carry on practice in incorporated form. As a result of an interesting memorandum by Spry pointing out some of the tax advantages of incorporation, the Bar Council appointed a committee consisting of Young, Q.C., Webb, Q.C., Tadgell and Spry to consider the implications of this proposal from the point of view of the Bar. (We hasten to add that no suggestion has been made of incorporation on a "No Liability" basis - nor do we envisage a situation where Mr. X of Counsel "goes public" with a float at a heavy premium after a particularly lucrative circuit).

New Members of the Bar

	<u>Master</u>	<u>Clerk</u>
P.F. McPhee	K. Smith	Spurr
G.A. Lewis	Treyvaud	Hyland
R.W. Davis	Fricke	Hyland
M. Fagenblat	Goldberg	Dever
R. Merkel	Forsyth	Dever

"Down the Seine with Me"

Gobbo, Hampel, Stanley, Segal, Hase and Ken Marks, Q.C. are among some members of the Bar at the Paris Legal Convention.
