

occasionally noted, but it is indeed rare. It is the height of the ambition of every aspiring young lawyer to become an advocate, or what is known in common parlance as a trial lawyer. By working up through a clerkship it will take years of patient toil and the demonstration of ability in many lines before the clerk will have an opportunity to try a case, and thereby have the prospect of membership in the firm held open to him. Many young men who are called to the bar have far more fitness for the trial of cases than for following with scrupulous accuracy the details of a large office. It has been shown time and again that such men frequently develop fair ability on the trial of their first case and in a short while become able to try a case with much more skill than many lawyers of established standing at the bar. It is usually the case, too, that not only are these born advocates more or less unqualified for the routine work of an office, but such duties are positively offensive to them.

Such are the facts that cause the best recruits to the bar to hesitate before they will accept a clerkship in a large office, however alluring the prospect may seem when the offer is made.

The same considerations are driving many young men into the small towns up the state and in the far west. The records of the alumni of the law schools will prove that they do have this tendency. The fact is also depriving New York city and Brooklyn of legal timber of which they are in great need.

Elihu Root is quoted as having said recently that never before in the history of this city has the bar been in such dire need of young lawyers of good promise. The judges who preside at the trials in our Supreme Court or in our criminal courts say that in all the host of lawyers in this city there are not a score who can try a case well. They will say that not one lawyer in a hundred who endeavors to try a case understands the most necessary principles underlying the cross-examination of a witness or the summing up to a jury. One of the best-known judges in this State stated not long ago that it was a rare thing in his experience to find one of these so-called trial lawyers who knew how to put in an objection in a strictly legal form or impeach a witness on his cross-examination.—*Law Student's Helper*.