

### LAWYERS IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

In several recent instances the lay press has shown satisfaction over an alleged modern tendency to prefer business men to lawyers for elective and appointive office, and predicted that more efficient administration of public affairs will result. The sponsors of this view apparently picture the typical lawyer as wholly engrossed in browbeating witnesses and drawing up documents full of involved verbiage. As a matter of fact the lawyer is the highest type of business expert. His most lucrative practice is found in solving by the aid of his broader viewpoint and better trained mind the problems which threaten his clients. The amount of business acumen necessary to advise the parties to a single corporate reorganization would suffice to run a grocery store for a year. Another element also is often lost sight of. A man engaged in commercial business is trained to the single idea of personal profit—a perfectly honourable and legitimate idea but none the less quite foreign to the highest ideals of public service. The lawyer, on the other hand, is trained to service; his most strenuous endeavours are habitually directed to maintain the rights and interests of another. A code of ethics rigidly enforced by the Courts teaches him that when his personal interest opposes that of his client he must act with an eye single to the benefit of the latter. Coming into public office it is a natural and easy transition of thought to regard the public as his client, and an application to the relation of officer and public of the fidelity and zeal which is habitual between the attorney and client would produce a public service well nigh ideal. It would be a public misfortune if the services of men trained in the legal profession were not utilized to the fullest possible extent by the public, but it is a misfortune which the discriminating electors of the country will assuredly avert notwithstanding the occasional descendants of Jack Cade who now edit newspapers.—*Law Notes.*