

New Court System Goes Into Operation

The Judicial Article of the new Constitution of this State, which was adopted by the people last November, became effective yesterday. Under the provisions of the article the former Court of Errors and Appeals, the former Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Court of Common Pleas, the Court of Oyer and Terminer, the Court of Quarter Sessions, and the Court of Special Sessions are abolished and an entirely new judicial system established consisting of the new Supreme Court, the Superior Court and the County Courts.

The members of the new Supreme Court gathered in their court conference room yesterday to be sworn in. In a simple ceremony the oath was administered to Chief Justice Vanderbilt by Justice Case, the Chief Justice of the former Supreme Court. Chief Justice Vanderbilt thereupon administered the oath to the other members of the new court: Justice Clarence E. Case, Chief Justice of the former Supreme Court; Justice Harry Heher, a justice of the former Supreme Court; Justice A. Dayton Oliphant, the former Chancellor; Justice William A. Wachenfeld and Albert E. Burling, justices of the former Supreme Court; and Henry E. Ackerson, Jr., a judge of the former Circuit Court.

Immediately after this ceremony, the members of the court proceeded into the Courtroom, which was filled with distinguished guests who had been invited to witness the historic moment, and formally convened at 10:00 A. M. Chief Justice Vanderbilt announced that the oaths had been administered to each of the justices. Among the first items of business was the entry of various orders officially promulgating the new Rules, and certifying capital causes directly to the Supreme Court.

A message from Governor Alfred E. Driscoll was presented by his Counsel Russell E. Watson, and addresses were made by Acting Governor John M. Summerill, Jr. and the Hon. Joseph L. Brescher, Speaker of the General Assembly. Chief Justice Vanderbilt replied upon behalf of the Court.

The Court reconvened at 1:30 P. M. and proceeded to hear argument in three cases which had been listed for argument.

Simultaneously with the opening of the Supreme Court in Trenton the various other courts

established under the new order were opening their doors for the first time. The two parts of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court convened in Trenton. The trial courts of the Superior Court, and the County Courts were similarly opening in the various counties. Here the principal item of business was the conducting of pre-trial conferences. The judges of the Superior and County Courts were sworn in at ceremonies held on Monday, at which time the Chief Justice made temporary appointments of several of the Superior Court judges to act as assignment judges in the various counties where terms opened this week.