Reminiscing of his service as County Judge, Judge Gary said:

I accepted the Judgeship for two reasons. One was that the then Judge was a rich man, whom the lawyers did not like, and had already served two terms,(four years each) and they thought I was about the only one who might be able to win the election from him. In the next place, it was not a court of continuous session. I would only have to be in court occasionally - once or twice a month, and I could fix those times if I wanted to, of course, arbitrarily, and I had the right to continue my law practice. At one time, I was employed by the Board of Commissioners in Chicago to hold court in Chicago when I could, for the reason that one of the two Chicago Judges had died during his term and they needed help badly. It was a good think for them and the lawyers liked it, and of course they tried to get me as much as they could. But I did not let it interfere with my law practice.

I was then in the thirties. Business was not so pressing then as afterwards. It was a good experience. I went to different parts of the State to hold Court in a number of very important cases where the lawyers agreed upon me because they could not get along with the Judges they had. Some of them were not considered competent. It was a good experience and I got considerable compensation.

by Melville W. Fuller

The last jury case ~~I~~ tried in Chicago, was a case brought by the Cambria Steel Company, ~~and Justice Fuller was one of the lawyers.~~ He had been appointed Judge but had not yet gone to Washington ~~yet~~. Justice Harlan ~~Holdom~~ was then a lawyer. Two of his sons became lawyers and they were on one side and Chief Justice Fuller and one other lawyer. Opposed to them were two or three different firms. It was a bitterly contested case. The suit was brought by the Cambria Steel Co. to recover the possession of a large quantity of iron that had been sold to a failing concern and they claimed fraud and therefore the right to recover the total amount in preference to all other creditors. It was very involved and a lot of figures were presented. Justice Fuller had the very last speech in the case and this is the way he started off: "Gentlemen of the jury, I don't claim to know much about bookkeeping, but I do know beans when the bag's untied." Then he proceeded to show that the bag was untied.

A.W.P.- 1-7-25 Show to Miss Tarbell

December 19th, 1924.

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.