

now working on an atlas of the migrations of English-American dialects, words, and idioms. Why should we not have a sort of an atlas of legislative ideas? It would reveal many as yet unwritten chapters of the history of the American settlement. Beyond that, it would greatly facilitate the actual, every-day application of statutory provisions. Such a task, however, desirable though it be, may be far beyond the capacity of any single individual.

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The Law of Banks and Banking, Bills, Notes and Cheques. By John Delatre Falconbridge. Fifth Edition. Toronto: Canada Law Book Company, Ltd., 1935. Pp. lxxv, 1030.

This work, by a well-known Canadian writer, first appeared in 1907, following the enactments of the Bank Act and the Bills of Exchange Act. The second edition, in 1913, appeared soon after the decennial revision of the Bank Act in that year. A third edition followed the decennial revision in 1923. A general revision of the statutes in 1927 led to the publication of the fourth edition. In accordance with the author's policy of decennial revision, consequent upon the decennial revisions of the Bank Act in Canada, the present edition takes account of the revision of the Bank Act in Canada in 1934 and of the changes in the banking structure brought about by the establishment of the Bank of Canada in 1935.

Approximately one-half of the volume is devoted to the law of banks and banking and the remainder to the law of bills and notes as established generally by the Bills of Exchange Act. A short chapter on the history of the law merchant appears, in which the leading articles and treatises on this development are cited. Another introductory chapter deals with the conflict of laws.

That portion of the work which concerns the law of banks and banking is not primarily directed to the subject as a whole, but is devoted to the statutory provisions of the Bank Act. Provisions of the statute are set forth, followed by comments and discussion by the author in much the same manner as has been done in such works as Collier on Bankruptcy. The emphasis is thus thrown on the corporate aspects of the subject rather than upon the contract features of the relations between parties to banking transactions. Amendments to the various sections, as they have been adopted in the decennial revisions, are carefully noted. Decisions of the courts in interpreting and applying the statute are cited and discussed. An American reader will note with envious eye that the author is able to dispose of the subject of bank insolvencies in a single chapter. In view of the closing of approximately 15,000 banks in the United States during the years 1921 to 1933, no American writer would have the temerity even to refer, in a single chapter, to the law that has accumulated in this country around this regrettable phase of our financial and banking history. The text of the Act of 1935, which sets up the Bank of Canada as a central bank, is reprinted. It has not been the author's object to articulate this act or the Bank Act generally with the principles of monetary and banking policy which they are designed to effectuate, hence the background of policy must be sought in official reports and other works on the theory and practice of central and of deposit banking.

The chapters on the law of negotiable instruments develop the subject in the same way as that adopted in the discussion of the Bank Act, *i.e.*, by setting forth the language of the Bills of Exchange Act, arranged in chronological order, followed by brief comments thereon and by the citation of English and Canadian cases. Statements of holdings of cases applying the act are not as full and informative as the corresponding abstracts and comment in Brannan's work, though the textual matter is more extensive. Use has been made of the leading English works, of the notes in Ames' Cases on Bills and Notes, and there are references to some of the articles which have appeared in the law reviews published in the United States. Practically no use is made of decisions by the courts in the United States. The lack of logical arrangement of topics, consequent upon the use of the Bills of Exchange Act in its statutory sequence, and the encyclopedic treatment of the subject make the book one for general reference rather than for the student, or for the lawyer who is in search of careful analyses of the more difficult phases of the topic. While the reports in the United States carry thousands of cases on this branch of commercial law, this book will be found of real value to the American lawyer, sometimes for comparative purposes and sometimes for points which have been decided in Canada but not in the United States.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

- CASES AND MATERIALS ON THE LAW OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. By E. Blythe Stason. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1935. Pp. xxix, 761. Frequent notes supplement the cases. The city is regarded in its dual aspect, as a governmental unit and as a business enterprise.
- CASES ON PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. By Harry Sanger Richards. Third edition by Sveinbjorn Johnson. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1936. Pp. lxiv, 968. A revision and expansion with increased emphasis upon finance and reorganization and decreased emphasis upon the *ultra vires* doctrine and *de facto* corporations.
- CASES ON THE LAW OF TORTS. By Charles M. Hepburn. Second edition by William M. Hepburn. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1935. Pp. xxxi, 1071. The new edition includes an entirely new chapter on "Right of Privacy" and expands the chapters on "Acts at Peril," "Deceit," and "Injuries to Family Rights."
- CONFLICTING TAXATION. By the Research Staff of the Interstate Commission on Conflicting Taxation. Chicago: The American Legislators' Association and The Council of State Governments, 1935. Pp. 202 (paper bound). "Federal and state governments are tapping the same tax base as sources of revenue in more than 800 cases." The problem of conflicting taxation with extensive statistical data and suggestions for short and long term remedies.
- CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE UNITED STATES. By Hugh Evander Willis. Bloomington, Ind.: The Principia Press, 1936. Pp. viii, 1198. A functional approach to the problems in constitutional law, following the outline adopted in the federal Constitution.