

Cases and Materials on the Law of Credit Transactions (Book Review)

Frederick A. Whitney

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HOW TO FIND THE LAW. By Fred A. Eldean. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1931, pp. 782.

This work is patently the result of much painstaking labor. The research in which Mr. Eldean must have engaged could not even have been undertaken except by one already close to mastery of his field. The chapters devoted to the trial brief and the brief on appeal will be helpful to the practitioner and chapters 12 to 17 covering case analysis and statutory construction will repay the close study of anyone interested in the law whether practically or theoretically.

The chapters dealing with materials, or bibliography in the concrete, are full and complete. The four introductory chapters are invaluable to the beginner.

Your reviewer has examined this work with a great deal of interest and there are many parts of it which he expects to use not only in teaching research and brief-making, but in practice.

This volume might better have been named, "How to Find *and Use* the Law," for its best feature is that it is a fine text on the analysis and classification of law and the sources of law and on the fundamentals of brief making.

DAVID S. EDGAR, JR.

St. John's College School of Law.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY ARBITRATION. By Alexander P. Blanck. New York, 1930, pp. 38.

This is avowedly a book designed to acquaint the business man with the fundamentals of arbitration. It sets forth lucidly the conduct of a controversy from the agreement to arbitrate to the final award. The advantages of the arbitral method are explained and the pitfalls which may make the short cut to settlement more circuitous are pointed out.

The business man should profit by reading this book for it ably presents the case for arbitration and in addition states enough principles to give a working knowledge of the method without making of every reader a *soi-disant* expert.

D. J. R.

St. John's College School of Law.

CASES AND MATERIALS ON THE LAW OF CREDIT TRANSACTIONS. By Wesley A. Sturges. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1930, pp. 1228.

The cases and materials in this book are the result of the course which the author has given for the past five years at the Yale Law School. The former courses of Bankruptcy, Mortgages and Suretyship have been con-

solidated. This is a courageous innovation in treatment since the student is given the opportunity to view related subjects broadly and to get a perspective upon legal development which should lend zest to the tedious study of rules and principles.

The book includes, beside 329 cases and about 25 extracts from opinions, comments on recent cases made either by the author or by leading law reviews along the quotations from such standard treatises as Brannon's *Negotiable Instruments Law*; Williston on Contracts and Jones on Chattel Mortgages. The cases are well chosen and from many jurisdictions. It is interesting to note that there are about three times as many New York cases as from any other state.

The idea of merging allied courses appears feasible and if this book is adopted as the basis for a similar course in other law schools it should demonstrate whether further expansion of this plan would be beneficial.

FREDERICK A. WHITNEY.

St. John's College School of Law.

THE PUBLIC AND ITS GOVERNMENT. By Felix Frankfurter. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1930, pp. 170.

Delayed though it was, the acknowledgment on the part of our nation's leaders that all is not just as it might be amongst us seems to have given the official impetus to widespread speculation on what is going to happen and what should be done to put our house in order. And thus the thinkers have been at work overtime. Panaceas for curing our national ills are plentiful. Their effectiveness is yet to be proved. Perhaps a few days hence the troubled waters will be a bit more placid, for a newspaper advertisement lying near us discloses that in one of the morrow's papers the good Dr. Fess will tell us whether our nation is bankrupt and about to crumble. Without awaiting his written word, I am content to believe that his answer will be "no."

How much this all reminds us of that troubled period not so many years back when the air was filled with war-time sensationalism and some of us were busy dismissing certain instructors in foreign language from our schools, lest contact with them might adulterate the Americanism of the younger folks. From the sputtering lips and the hasty pens of men who should have been rational came suggestions for action—and some of them were put into effect—which, when considered a decade later, seem quite incomprehensible. Expression of opinion on government and politics that may be termed the products of sane reason are so few in these times that it is impossible to exaggerate the pleasure which is ours when we do locate them. To him who seeks such expression Mr. Frankfurter's most recent book is recommended. Reading it will be an invigorating experience.