

Cases on the Law of Carriers (Book Review)

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CASES ON THE LAW OF CARRIERS. By Ralph Stanley Bauer and Edgar Watkins. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1928, pp. 1140.

This book deals exclusively with the subject of common carriers of goods and passengers. The emphasis is decidedly upon the law of interstate carriers, and the authority with which the volume speaks is not lessened by the fact that one of its compilers and authors, Mr. Watkins, was formerly an examiner for the Interstate Commerce Commission, and is the author of "Watkins on Shippers and Carriers," while its other compiler and co-author, Professor Bauer, is professor of law in DePaul University.

There are approximately 45 reported cases of the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts; 12 English cases, approximately 25 from Massachusetts, 15 from New York, 14 from Illinois, 12 from Iowa, besides 3 or 4 decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The compilers have drawn their material from the courts of about 35 states of the Union, besides England and our own federal courts, including the federal statutes embracing the subject of interstate carriers. There are numerous citations of other cases contained in the footnotes, and in the cases reported. The footnotes are voluminous and valuable.

Your reviewer is in hearty accord with the statement in the preface that the editors "have endeavored to present such cases as give the student an accurate idea of the original common law, the common law as modified by statutes, and the effect of the most important statutes governing the subject." The authors have admirably succeeded in this respect.

Your reviewer also believes that "the student can more readily do efficient work" in such a subject "by having statutory matter at hand on the pages being studied from day to day," and favors the arrangement which places portions of the federal statutes "in the midst of the matter for regular class study." The convenience of the student has been served by printing, in the appendix, the Federal Bills of Lading Act, the Uniform Bills of Lading Act, and a large portion of the Interstate Commerce Act.

The arrangement of the cases topically throughout the book adds to its value. A short headnote to each case would have given a key to the heart of the decision—a real aid to the student.

The volume serves its purpose best as a lawyer's book. The time allotted to the subject of carriers in most, if not in all, law schools, would not permit a study of the entire contents of this volume by the law student, although the assignment by the instructor of selected parts of the book would enable the student to share the broad vision of its authors. Your reviewer made like comment a short time ago on another work of a somewhat similar character as the book now under review.

Your reviewer, although realizing that it perhaps would have been outside of the scheme of the authors, cannot but regret that the subject of intrastate commerce within the state of New York was not more fully treated and other New York cases added.

This excellent work is welcomed to the literature of the important and ever-expanding subject of common carriers.

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