

Where there is so much that is excellent it may appear ungracious to call attention to a palpable error. On page 252 Professor McBain indicates that the United States Supreme Court defeated the Oregon minimum wage law by an even vote, four to four, since "the judgment of the lower court had been against its validity." As a matter of fact the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the statute (*Stettler v. O'Hara*, 69 Ore. 519, 1914) and the effect of the even division in the United States Supreme Court was to uphold this judgment.

ISIDOR LOEB.

Washington University School of Law.

**THE LAW OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN MINNESOTA.** By *Harold F. Kumm*, LL.B., S.J.D. pp. 187. Minneapolis: League of Minnesota Municipalities, 1927.

"The object of the League shall be to perpetuate and develop an agency for the co-operation of Minnesota cities and villages in the practical study of village and city affairs."—Constitution, Art. I.

**THE LAW OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN MINNESOTA** is offered as one of the products of the study made by the League of Minnesota Municipalities in furthering the purpose of that organization as expressed by the above section of its constitution. It is a book of one hundred and sixty pages containing a comprehensive analysis of the law of special assessments applying to third and fourth class cities and all villages in Minnesota.

The survey is divided into sections, the first devoted almost entirely to the constitutional questions which are presented in the making of local improvements, with a review of the judicial decisions on the subject. The second part deals with the statutes on special assessments with a summary of each act authorizing the exaction of special assessments or special taxes by cities of the third and fourth classes, villages and boroughs.

While this work has been designed primarily for use by attorneys and public officials in the State of Minnesota, it is of interest to city attorneys, municipal administrators and financial officers in every state, inasmuch as the principles underlying the determination of benefits and the requirements of due process are similar in all jurisdictions.

C. H. W.

**1927 SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVISED STATUTES, 1919, OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.** By *Allen M. Minturn* and *Charles Perry Schafer*, of the Saint Louis Bar. St. Louis: Thomas Law Book Company. 1927. Price \$10.00.

Since the publication of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, there have been four regular sessions and two extra sessions of the General Assembly. Hence to determine what is Missouri statute law on a given subject, it was necessary to examine not only the three volumes of the 1919 Revised Statutes but also the five volumes in which the Session Laws have been published.

With this fact in mind, the compilers of this 1927 SUPPLEMENT TO THE REVISED STATUTES have endeavored to simplify the task of searching for statute law, with the result that all of the Session Laws have been brought up to date in one volume.

The value of such a work may be comprehended more fully when one considers that, since 1919, 497 parts of laws or sections have been repealed, 25 laws have been upheld in their entirety, 393 parts of laws or sections have been amended and 248 laws on subjects not heretofore covered have been enacted.

The material contained in the supplement has been arranged as closely as possible in accordance with the plan used in the 1919 Revised Statutes, but is somewhat broader in scope and includes many cross-references. The index, in par-

ticular, has been enlarged and clarified, by the use of new and popular headings for the aid of both lawyers and laymen. For example, whereas in the 1919 volumes, our most common means of transportation is listed under the title of "Motor Vehicles," in the 1927 supplement, the more generally used term "Automobile" is used. Other groups have been equally simplified.

Annotations are given for every law enacted since 1919 where the courts have construed them. Not only is the reader referred, by a reference at the end of each section, to the proper volume and page of the Session Laws where the bill as enacted into law by the General Assembly will be found, but there is also a description of the relation which the section bears to the existing law.

The compilers have omitted from the text all appropriation and maintenance acts, except those which contain general legislation, and all repealed laws and parts of laws, so that this supplement contains only the live statutes and amendments to statutes which have been enacted into law by the General Assembly since the 1919 revision.

C. H. W.

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**HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.** Hornbook Series. Fourth Edition. By *Henry Campbell Black*, LL.D. pp. xxxi and 815. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1927.

The occasion as well as the necessity for a fourth edition of this work has been the great expansion of the subject of constitutional law since the last revision. The effect of the World War, the passage of four amendments to the Constitution, and the accumulation of a great mass of decisions on novel conditions have made it necessary to completely revise the former edition, but nevertheless the same general scheme has been employed. The purpose of the work is to give to the student, teacher, and practitioner a bird's-eye view of the subject of constitutional law, so that at a glance an understanding of the fundamentals of the subject may be acquired. These general principles are annotated copiously, so that a deeper knowledge of the field might be readily gained.

The author states in his Preface that while it would be impossible to refer to all decisions handed down since the last revision, and at the same time defeat the purpose of the volume, ample consideration has been given to all cases of paramount importance. "Preference has been given to (a) rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States, as the final authority on the Federal Constitution, (b) opinions which have included an extensive or instructive review of previous lines of cases, and (c) those which were considered remarkable for the vigor or lucidity of their reasoning."

C. H. L.

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**ILLUSTRATIVE CASES ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.** Hornbook Case Series. By *James Parker Hall*, A.B., LL.B. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. By *Henry Campbell Black*, LL.D. pp. x and 586. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1927.

This is a companion book to the **HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**, Hornbook Series, Fourth Edition, by Henry Campbell Black. The purpose of this book is to supply an illustrative casebook to accompany the use of the Hornbook text in the classroom, to illustrate the principles of law there set down.

It should be remembered that this book was not prepared for the "Case Method" of instruction, but merely as a supplement to the work in the text, which is the basis of instruction. Therefore a comprehensive knowledge of the subject cannot be gained from a study of the cases alone. The book is devoted entirely to extracts from leading cases on constitutional law, which show a practical application of the abstract principles of law laid down in the text. No annotations or supplementary authority to the cases are given.

C. H. L.