

very valuable one for reference as well as for its critical attempt to evaluate the technique of the courts in handling modern business problems.

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LAW FOR ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, by *Laurence P. Simpson* and *Essel R. Dillavou*. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1929. Pp. xvii, 633.

This volume is described by one of the authors as intended to satisfy the need for a book which will furnish the information that will assist the professional Engineer and Architect "in avoiding unpleasant and expensive pitfalls, and to aid him in protecting his employer's and his own rights and interests." If this is true and if "engineers and architects have become counselors and advisers in the investigation and promotion of enterprises, and the main reliance of the building owner for the knowledge he must have as to the requirements demanded by law relating to his project," the book devised for the purpose will be sadly inadequate.

It is not believed that the above quotations, taken from the preface, rightly state the objective in the preparation of the book, or else the contents of the volume are not in accord with its purpose. What has been done, and within the scope of a small book very well done, is a presentation of the general principles of business and property law in convenient form for a course in that subject, such as is usually given in engineering and architectural schools. The book offers no threat that the engineer or architect will become the counselor or main reliance of the builder from the legal standpoint on matters other than those relations of everyday life, with which every person concerned with such matters should be familiar. It furnishes a concise treatment of the general principles of contract law and the law of agency, sufficient to take care of the daily conduct in such matters and to warn of the need of a lawyer's advice when matters become at all complicated or pathological. In the treatment of the subjects of Workmen's Compensation in 60 pages and Regulation of Public Utilities in 40 pages, it is obvious that only enough of the subject matter can be given to indicate that there are pitfalls for which a lawyer's advice is the only aid possible. That an engineer or architect should know the general principles involved in the attachment of and release from mechanic's liens, or the steps necessary in securing an easement before erecting a telephone line on another's property, is very proper. An outline treatment in a few pages, with some illustrative cases will teach him and remind him that here are possible pitfalls to guard against and regarding which it is wise to get expert advice.

It were well for everyone, as well as engineers and architects, to know as much or more of the law of negotiable instruments and of sales than is given here, very concisely and well edited, but in such brief form as to arouse the curiosity rather than to offer possibility of mastery.

And so, as a law book, it is a well edited hand book of information on those rules of conduct in some of the common relations that arise between engineers and architects and their clients, illumined and made interesting with well chosen cases from which the technical and procedural portions

have been almost eliminated. It will be of interest to and usable by the engineers and architects in a limited field, and will not mislead them into the belief that they can become self-sufficient in any great degree in the law as it applies to their activities.

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MARKETING: A FARMER'S PROBLEM, by *Benjamin F. Goldstein*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1928. Pp. 317.

"Here's a pretty mess"—a good book with a curiously poor title. Why the author should have put this label on his work none but he could possibly understand. It gives no key to the contents of the book. Is the reader's interest intrigued? No, dear reader, it is not a sex novel or a collection of fairy tales. It is a serious and scholarly work which develops the history of the conditions under which grain has been marketed in Chicago and, almost incidentally, it indulges in some general discussion of grain marketing and a little philosophical speculation upon this part of the farmer's problems.

The key to an understanding of the book is found in Part I (there are no chapters). In this brief introductory part the author devotes one page and four footnotes to a discussion of the "Importance of Marketing Problem" and the remaining four pages and twenty-six footnotes to a discussion of the "Importance of the Chicago Market." There are eight footnotes to one of the most pregnant sentences of this section—a sentence which reads very much like those on the first page of a guide-book to Chicago which is headed by "Chicago is the greatest live-stock market in the world" and which for a whole page fails to find any greater importance for the city.

However, the first part of the book is merely a poor introduction to some excellent material. A carefully documented Part II discovers the genesis of present laws controlling the grain trade of Chicago in conditions existing prior to 1869. The third part discusses the Illinois constitutional convention of 1869-70 and some of the cases before the courts as a result of that convention. Liberal space is devoted to *Munn v. Illinois*, to which the author ascribes an importance which is well deserved. When he is searching back for legal precedent our author, who is a lawyer, seems to be very much at his ease.

The impression of ease is lost in the next part. This section is entitled "Railroad Development, 1870-1890" but it is largely devoted to a development of the growth of future trading and the relation of this type of marketing to public warehousing of grain. The material is all carefully documented. One has the impression of painstaking care in the sifting of fact. Yet there is a seeming disorganization in the paragraphs which prevents the reader's obtaining a clear picture of a changing scene.

Chicago was of growing importance as a grain market in the thirty years from 1870-1900. Since 1900 her importance has been declining. This reversion of trend provides the burden of discussion for Part V. The trends in warehouse control and the growth of marketing evils are very ably presented with this story of declining importance.