

THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER

FOUNDED 1852.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

Editors:

FRANCIS H. SHIELDS, Editor-in-Chief.

J. AUBREY ANDERSON, Business Manager.

PAXSON DEETER,

ROBERT EBY,

ALBERT SMITH FAUGHT,

WM. HORACE HEPBURN, JR.

JOSEPH KNOX FORNANCE.

WALTER C. MONTGOMERY,

GARFIELD SCOTT,

E. PHILIP STAIR,

FRANK BOYCE TUPPER,

CHARLES W. WEBB.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$3.00 PER ANNUM. SINGLE COPIES, 35 CENTS.

Edited by members of the Department of Law of the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of the Faculty, and published monthly for the Department by J. AUBREY ANDERSON, Business Manager, at S. W. Cor. Thirty-fourth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. Address all literary communications to the EDITOR-IN-CHIEF; all business communications to the BUSINESS MANAGER.

CURRENT LEGAL PERIODICALS AND BOOK REVIEWS.

A DIGEST OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES CONCERNING PHILADELPHIA, WITH NOTES OF DECISIONS AND CITY SOLICITORS' OPINIONS RELATING THERETO, 1701-1904. Compiled by WILLIAM FINDLAY BROWN, assisted by IRA JEWELL WILLIAMS, of the Philadelphia Bar. One volume, pp. 908+. Philadelphia: J. L. H. Bayne, Law Publisher. 1905.

In this volume we have the long-promised and long-expected "Philadelphia Digest." Nothing need be added to the title to explain the scope and contents of the work. It is, as the title indicates, a collection of the laws of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania and ordinances of the city of Philadelphia which have particular application to the city itself, supplemented by references to the judicial decisions and opinions of the City Solicitor in which these laws and ordinances have been construed and explained.

The book is divided into seventy chapters, dealing with "Corporate Government," "The Mayor," "Executive De-

partments," the various city bureaus and departments, as "Department of Public Safety," "Bureau of Fire," etc., "Board of City Trusts," "Coroner," "Juvenile Court," "Councils," "Elections," "Liquor Licenses," "Mercantile Licenses," "Municipal Claims," "Municipal Contracts," "Road Laws," and so on through all the subjects connected with the city of Philadelphia and with the municipal government.

The appendix contains a "Table of Acts," "Table of Ordinances and Resolutions of Councils," "Table of Cases," "List of Abbreviations," and "Index," which are of great assistance in looking up any particular subject.

The need of a book of this character has been apparent for a long time, and the present volume seems admirable to supply a long-felt want. The division and subdivision of topics are clear and precise and there is no difficulty in finding any subject in which one is interested. To have a volume which contains all the laws and ordinances of Philadelphia must greatly lessen the labor of the lawyer practising in this city, and tend to give a clearer view of the government, functions, and commercial customs of the city itself. It may be said without hesitation that the book will make an extremely valuable addition to the library of every lawyer practising at the Philadelphia Bar.

F. H. S.

PINGREY'S EXTRAORDINARY INDUSTRIAL AND INTER-STATE CONTRACTS. Trade Unions, Restraint of Trade, Arbitration, Corporation Merger, Stock Dealings, Wager and Gambling, Limited Liability of Railways, Truck-Store, Scrip-Tickets, Capacity, Statute of Frauds. . By DARIUS H. PINGREY, LL.D., Professor in Illinois Wesleyan University College of Law. Albany, N. Y.: Mathieu Bender & Company.

Professor Pingrey in his latest work has treated the law of contracts from an economic and industrial standpoint. The book owes its origin, in the main, to the new conditions brought about by the growth of the trade union and the trust. The treatise contains all the extraordinary industrial contracts not only known to the common law, but also under the Constitution and various statutes. Besides this, the author has treated of the interference with contractual relations by outside parties. In a word, the author has taken up every known peculiarity known in the law of contracts, both between the parties and the outside world.

The author has treated this immense field not in the ordinary manner of text-book writers. That is to say, he has not taken up the broad principles or generalizations and reduced them by example to the particulars, but has first taken up the

proposition and then worked it back to the source where it was derived from the common law. Where it was purely statutory in its origin he has stated the proposition and the reasoning and then the cases supporting the conclusion. The subjects are considered in a manner similar to other works on contracts and are discussed in logical order, namely, "Freedom of Contract," "Contracts in Violation of Law," "Contracts Against Public Policy," "Operation of Contracts," "Termination of Contracts."

The principal feature of the work is the completeness and brevity with which the author has treated the field before him. The work is a concise statement of the law and a handy reference-book for the student and practitioner. It represents an immense amount of time and labor, both in the matter of a digest of cases and the treatment of the subject. The author is indeed to be congratulated on the accomplishment of the almost herculean task, and we heartily recommend the work to the practitioner and the more advanced student.

W. H. H., Jr.

THE COMMERCIAL POWER OF CONGRESS. By PAUL JONES, LL.B., of the New York Bar. New York: Privately printed. 1904.

Mr. Jones has given to the profession a most excellent work on this subject, based on the clause in the Constitution: "The Congress shall have power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes." In fact, it was this very need, so great was the uncertainty and confusion under the Articles of Confederation, which gave rise to the Constitution itself. After more than a century of legislation and adjudication in accordance with this provision, the authority of Congress thereunder is still rather vague. So closely allied with the daily life of our people and the development of the country, in view of our high state of commercial development and the great combinations of capital engaged therein, no question that confronts the American people is of more vital importance, and the words of Webster, "Nothing is more complex than commerce, and in an age like this, no words embrace a wider field than commercial regulation," are increasingly true.

The author has treated this difficult subject in a most satisfactory manner, and so as to be readily understood. One commendable feature of the work is the complete line of references to the decisions of the court. The book is also valuable from an historical standpoint, tracing, as it does, the development of the question from earliest colonial days. The powers to be