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BOOK REVIEWS

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Validity of Rate Regulations. By Robert P. Reeder. Published by T. & J. W. Johnson Co., Philadelphia. 1914. pp. 440.

The author of this book has chosen to treat a subject which is nowadays of vital concern to every citizen, for the reason that the cost of practically every commodity consumed and the price received for every commodity sold is largely dependent upon transportation rates. The subject is difficult because the power to regulate commerce is divided, the general power to regulate interstate commerce being delegated to the federal government while the same power relating to interstate commerce is reserved to the states. This apparently clear and simple division of power has been made unclear and difficult of ascertainment by the construction which has been given to the commerce clause of the federal constitution. For example, in the absence of congressional action, certain regulations affecting interstate commerce may be made by the states because the power to make *such* regulations is not vested "exclusively" in Congress; other regulations, however, may not be made, even in the absence of congressional action, because the power to make *such* regulations is vested "exclusively" in Congress. The industry of the various state legislatures in passing laws regulating commerce within this "construction zone" has kept the courts busy passing upon their validity. It is with this class of constitutional law questions that the book deals. Evidences of thorough understanding and painstaking industry are evident throughout. It must have taken years to gather the immense number of cases cited and the accuracy and pertinency of the citations show an unusually accurate knowledge of their content and bearing. The author has apparently examined all the cases bearing on the problem of rates and has made a keen analysis and estimate of their effect. Where points are not yet settled the problem is put, probable tests suggested, and the extent and effect of the cases already decided noted. In the matter of style the author is to be particularly commended for his lack of verbosity, a defect very common among legal writers to-day, there appearing to be a notion abroad that plurality of volumes is an indicium of merit. Mr. Reeder's book is distinctly worth while and is deserving of commendation.

The Hague Arbitration Cases. By George Grafton Wilson.
Published by Ginn and Company, Boston and London. 1915.
pp. 525.

With the recent appearance of "The Hague Arbitration Cases," coming as it does at a time when the attention of all has been arrested from that which lies in the more common course of the world's action, and directed to the possibility of peacefully settling international disputes, a double interest is aroused. Setting forth the experience of the nations with such a method by an exact and complete statement of the cases so settled must cause a second thought on the part of those who have argued the absolute necessity of war. And by all, as the first case book on a subject much in conversation, yet understood by the comparative few, it is welcomed as a landmark in the advance of quasi legal activity.

The title page shows the book to contain the *compromis* and other essential premises on which the cases have been brought before the Hague, and the decisions and awards made under the provisions of the Conventions of 1899 and 1907. To aid in the understanding of the cases the author has added the text of these conventions together with a detailed index making the work convenient for reference. Maps have also been prepared to make more clear the decisions when they have involved territorial or boundary disputes.

More specifically the book proper contains the reports of the fifteen cases heard by the international tribunal given in as concise a manner as is consistent with a fair statement of the controversies. In doing this the difficulty of a foreign language has been eliminated by the use of parallel versions. Of course this does not apply when the official language of the court has been English. But when another vernacular has been favored, either by agreement or in consequence of the tongue of the nations involved; then a somewhat literal translation, official if one has been made, is inserted together with the original text. This is also true of the appended conventions where the official language was French.

In the author's preface a condensed statement of some of the facts, both in regard to the personnel of the Hague Tribunals and the cases proper, are of considerable interest. First, it appears that the initial case to be decided in this manner was one in which two American nations were parties, the United

States being the plaintiff and therefore the first to submit to the settlement of a grievance by arbitrament. In all seventeen of the powers signatory to Hague Conventions, either from the forty-three under the Conventions of 1899 or the forty-four under those of 1907, have been parties in the cases heard. In these all the continents have been represented. The questions involved have been equally wide in scope and pertain to matters such as allocation of boundaries, territorial inviolability, financial claims and other similar fundamental rights of nations.

It is also interesting to note that those sitting at the court in about one half the cases have not been nationals of the parties involved and that about one half of the cases have been before three judges and all but one of the remaining before five. That precedent and experience have taken root is evident from the fact that in the later cases the arbitrators were almost entirely from those who had previously sat in the court.

While the arguments presented or submitted in accord with the conventions have been generally indicated in the summary made by the court in stating the decision, still it would have been of interest and aid if an epitome of the complaint and defense had been stated directly when possible.

Introductory to the appended conventions is a brief sketch of their history which adds much to the completeness of the book, which must prove of great value.

M. A. W.

American Municipal Progress. By Charles Zueblin. New and Revised Edition. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. 1916. pp. 522.

Now, as perhaps never before, is it the duty of the lawyer to be a leader in his community. To offset the charges of inefficiency and general uselessness to which the profession has been subjected it is necessary that it not only attain a greater knowledge and deeper understanding of the law, but that it take its natural place as the leader in the present-day movement toward municipal reform and progress. To do so requires an intimate knowledge of what has been and is being done throughout the United States toward municipal progress. The book in hand furnishes an admirable starting point for one who is not familiar with the latest developments in this line. It presents in an inter-

esting manner the collective achievements in municipal improvement during this twentieth century. The whole ground of municipal progress is covered, the author discussing among other subjects the transformation of municipal courts into institutions for the prevention of crime, public utilities, the altered idea of the duty of the police and the advent of the policewomen. And of especial value to both the learned and unlearned in this science is the admirable bibliography in the appendix, prepared by Helen Bernice Sweeney.