

sion of character which, it may be added, takes years to develop properly. In the College of Law the study of Legal and Judicial Ethics is required but it can be truthfully said that whatever the student learns in the course will not make much difference how he behaves during his law school residence or thereafter.

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CASES ON THE LAW ON BILLS AND NOTES, by William Everett Britton, Callaghan and Company, Chicago, 1951. \$7.50.

The perennial quest for good teaching material and a standard textbook for the course in the Negotiable Instruments Law virtually finds an adequate answer in this casebook by Prof. Britton. This book combines the good features of a standard text both for statute law and case study all in one single volume and contains, by way of introduction to the unoriented, facsimiles of the typical forms of negotiable paper currently in use in today's business world. The author treats the whole field of Negotiable Instruments in his own unique way by dividing the subject into six main headings, namely:

- I. Operative Facts of Negotiability
- II. Transfer
- III. Holder in Due Course
- IV. Equities and Defenses
- V. Liabilities of Parties
- VI. Discharge

These headings are further subdivided into sub-headings in order to attain a maximum detail in the analysis of the law and the cases cited thereunder. This approach to the Negotiable Instruments Law makes possible a comparative study of the different sections of the statute in a manner that is simple but effective. All this is achieved without sacrificing clarity, comprehensiveness and authoritativeness to form.

The cases are cited under proper headings together with the sections of the NIL of which they are illustrative or interpretative. The facts are carefully digested so as to allow a clear perusal of the court's decisions. The decisions are, however, quoted verbatim, italics being used indispensably in those cases where one or several significant points are emphasized. This method of presentation makes possible a quick grasp of the principles therein enunciated. The author cites well-known writers in the field of commercial paper, from Lord Coke down to modern commentators on the subject like, Brannan, Ogden, Beutel and many others—refuting their views when he disagrees, reconciling their differences in those matters where they disagree and expressing his own views on those points which are very much-controverted.

Much of the construction and interpretation given to the provisions of the NIL have been evolved by the courts in the course of evolutionary process. In his work the author lays stress on the historical background of the more

important provisions of the NIL, either touching on the origin of the provision as springing out of custom or tradition or tracing the cases which gave rise to the principle as codified in the NIL. He agrees with the learned commentators on the subject, that when the NIL was framed as one codified body of laws, the provisions in it had settled meanings designed to meet the problems and exigencies of the commercial world of that time. In fact, the author points out, in discussing certain provisions, the codification of the NIL was intended purposely to settle conflicting decisions arising under the law merchant. The author, however, digresses from blind adherence to these orthodox views when he explains that the rigidity of the codified law should not hamper commercial transactions. He believes that, inasmuch as the bulk of business activity of today is handled through the medium of commercial paper, the NIL should lend itself to such interpretation and construction that would promote rather than impede commercial transaction in this modern world.

To add more authenticity to his work, the author makes use of articles written by numerous authorities on the subjects and published in legal periodicals. Besides being up to date with the recent views on the subject of negotiable instruments, the author has gathered all the latest cases on the subject under American jurisdiction and arranged them under proper headings. The author makes a play, but with plenty of significance attached to it, of discussing the majority and minority views on certain controversial matters and explains why a particular view should prevail.

This casebook itself is more than adequate for classroom discussion and student's use, and would be a very handy book for a practitioner. The writer recommends it to students, professors and practitioners of law—for a fuller and better grasp of the Negotiable Instruments Law.

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