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Book Review. Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs Vol. II

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The judge, the prosecuting attorney, the probation officer, and all others who take an active part in the group effort to handle the difficulties arising out of anti-social conduct and tendencies, should take advantage of this useful guide to the literature on the subject. The volume belongs not only in every general library and in every law library, but also in specialized collections of books of many other types.

ROLLIN M. PERKINS

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PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS LAW. By Essel R. Dillavou and Charles G. Howard. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1928. pp. xxviii, 781.

Apparently, this book is written for schools of commerce giving courses in commercial law approximating three hours per week for two semesters. It represents the efforts of two experienced law instructors who realize that the case method, though advantageous in many aspects, requires too much time if used exclusively; that the text or descriptive method is impractical in that it too often results in memorized statements of the legal principles without development of ability to make applications; and that the solution is a combination of these two methods.

The first half of the book contains a running explanation of principles with a small amount of illustrative material. Drill questions and problems follow each chapter. There has been no attempt to make any significant change in the scope of content or the division and treatment of topics. The diction is excellent and the style admirable. Some improvement in citations might be made without increasing the size of the volume.

The chief feature of the book is the close correlation of some 360 cases (the second half of the volume) with the preceding text discussion. These cases, averaging about one page in length, are restatements of actual cases, with facts, issues and conclusions fairly evident. Special effort has been made to include a brief statement of the reasoning involved in reaching the decisions. On the whole, the cases are well chosen and should materially increase the value of the text proper, from the standpoint of interest, clarity and permanent retention.

ELMER W. HILLS

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REGIONAL PLAN OF NEW YORK AND ITS ENVIRONS. Volume II, Population, Land Values and Government, Part III, Government. By the Staff. New York: Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs, 1929. pp. 192-296.

The series of publications planned and issued by the Regional Plan Committee of New York is probably one of the most comprehensive studies ever undertaken in its field. The survey upon which the ten volumes of reports have been based has taken a num-

ber of years of fact finding study. Volume II on Population, Land Values and Government has just recently been made available. This volume is divided into the three parts suggested by the title. The purpose of the volume is to assist in the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the future development of the great metropolitan area of which New York City is the center. Inasmuch as the territory embraced in the Regional Plan includes hundreds of political jurisdictions in three states and nineteen counties, the adoption of its proposals will depend to a large extent on coöperative action by their several governing bodies.

The report on Government which is Part III of Volume II consists of the following eight chapters:

Introduction

- I. What is the metropolis and what the "Region"?
- II. Political subdivisions in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- III. Planning legislation and its application to the establishment of Planning and Zoning Commissions or Boards.
- IV. Certain important problems of government in relation to planning.
- V. Interstate and intermunicipal commissions and corporate authorities.
- VI. The consolidation of New York City and subsequent reorganization of the city government.
- VII. Some aspects of the relation of government to public utilities.
- VIII. Some phases of public finance.

Part III outlines the legal and administrative structure of the region in its relation to the planning of public improvements and control over the future growth of the numerous communities and of the region as a whole.

New York City is the center of a great urban area, a large part of which is outside of the state of New York. This is the region for which it is hoped that some systematic and scientific planning can be adopted by the joint and coöperative efforts of the states concerned. In order to do so it will probably be necessary to resort to state treaties. A beginning in interstate coöperation in relation to some important functions has already been made, but the larger governmental problems of the regional plan involve many difficulties. Consolidation into one government unit would greatly simplify the problem, but it involves much greater obstacles than those encountered in the creation of greater New York City.

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PRENTICE-HALL TAX DIARY AND MANUAL FOR 1928. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1927. pp. 1, 212.

The federal government, the District of Columbia, and the 48