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Southern California Law Review

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This is a new law review published by the students and faculty of a law school member of the Association of American Law Schools. While we would not be so rude as to venture a direct opinion about the financial status of our new brother, we suspect that it has some endowment since it is published by the law school of a privately endowed university and since it is not the foster child of the state bar association. (*Gratia . . .*) Rich or poor, however, the new journal has secured a large number of advertisements and is published in an admirable manner. It contains over a hundred pages of reading matter and both the cover and the general arrangement of the content is typographically pleasing and in excellent taste.

The leading articles deal with "The Compromise of Criminal Cases," "Deeds Delivered on Condition," "Stare Decisis and Law Reform," and they are written respectively by Justin Miller, William E. Burby, and Charles E. Carpenter. The first article seems to be a most timely contribution which is handled in a scholarly and effective manner. The author points out that under present conditions it is fantastic to decide that there should be no compromise of criminal cases under new circumstances. He calls to our attention that much of our reformed court procedure and court organization in the criminal law presupposes something less than strict punishment according to the statute for each crime committed. He concludes that this field of compromise of criminal law cases gives an extraordinary amount of unregulated control into the hands of the prosecutor's office in each county and state. He suggests that future progress must consider means of subjecting this power to wise regulation without curtailing its effectiveness. The article on "Deeds Conditioned on Delivery" is a clear and helpful analysis of much of the law on this subject as found in the cases and expounded in legal writings elsewhere. It is perhaps especially significant in its discussion of rules of evidence that are applicable to proving whether a deed was delivered on condition or not and to considering the effect of the statute of frauds in its requirement that the transfer of an interest in land must be in writing in those cases where there is an actual conditional delivery of a deed but the contract respecting the payment was oral.

Other law journals in estimating the significance of this new publication will perhaps be most impressed by the comments and case notes. The comments are all written by students in the law school and there are four comments together with seven case notes printed in this first issue. It seems to the reviewer that all of this material contributed by the students is of excellent quality. It shows a character of honest work done that does honor to the law school.

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