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Progress of the Law in the United States Supreme Court, 1929-30, by Gregory Hankin and Charlotte A. Hankin

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BOOK REVIEWS

PROGRESS OF THE LAW IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, 1929-30, by Gregory Hankin and Charlotte A. Hankin. Legal Research Service, Washington, D. C. 1930. 483 pp.

This book is the second volume of a series of annual reviews of the work of the United States Supreme Court. These reviews are significant in that they give a view of the federal constitution in action. The present volume continues the classification of the cases of the United States Supreme Court according to the economic, political, and social problems involved, and this classification calls attention to the fact that the United States Supreme Court in its decisions settles not only legal disputes, but many of the great social, political, and economic problems of the day.

This volume is an improvement upon the first volume. The title of the volume has been expanded so as to include the words "progress of the law." The volume is about 150 pages larger than the first volume. The arrangement has been slightly changed, and perhaps made more scientific, by enlarging the treatment of the labor cases, and adding new material upon the subject of prohibition, and in place of the introduction a chapter on "Recent Changes in the Supreme Court" and a chapter on "Problems of Administration." This volume is more critical than the first volume, but even this volume is probably not critical enough. It does not evaluate all of the decisions discussed.

The present volume, valuable as it is, would not rank with the comments on the Supreme Court cases found in the law periodicals, if such comments were selected, brought together, and published in one volume. The reviewer also feels that the index is too much an enlarged table of contents, and he questions the wisdom of discussing to the extent it has been done cases not yet decided by the United States Supreme Court but merely set for argument or re-argument before it, and cases in which certiorari has been denied or an appeal dismissed. As succeeding volumes continue to appear, if the quality of the work in them continues to improve until the work will rank with that of the comments in the law periodicals, these volumes will become of incalculable help to the legal profession.

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