The Law of Intestacy, by A. W. Peake

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diate social phenomena that involved current passions and prejudices. Professor Miller's impartiality, furthermore, is not the current, detached kind; he seems to be impartial from a familiar knowledge of all the elements involved and a real sympathy with each of the opposing factions within a single nation or among different nations. His outlook seems to be singularly admirable when he is dealing with religion and social factors that are highly delicate and that some have felt could not be presented impartially.

The book contains chapters on the different groups within the several nations considered from religious, political, social and psychological points of view. In general, however, the author discussed the difficult situation that obtains in Central Europe and the problems of the Irish, the Negro, and the Jew as they appear in several countries and under different situations. He also deals with immigration and Americanization in this country in a manner that is altogether refreshing for its sanity and its broad understanding.

The book is impressive to the reviewer, who is peculiarly ignorant of the many factors that it contains, especially because it analyzes many of the political groups that he has hitherto been inclined to think of as unitites. For instance, Professor Miller sets forth the different social and economic groups in Poland from which he finds an explanation for their tendency to democracy on the one hand and the tendency to imperialistic conquest on the other. It is submitted that only when general, popular ignorance on broad political questions has been alleviated, so that we can entertain opinions with regard to the different elements in a country rather than indiscriminately for the whole country, can we expect an intelligent basis for avoiding needless conflicts, whether between economic and social classes or between religious, economic and nationalistic groups.


This little book should be invaluable for lawyers in England since it comments upon the extraordinary changes that have come about through the English land law legislation that culminated with the real property act of 1925. It may be said that the book deals mainly with the functions of administration although it has some exposition of the settled land doctrines and the new rules governing heirs and next of kin. The book does not contain the Eng'ish statutes themselves which involve the changes that it discusses. Perhaps these acts are too long for inclusion in such a small book although it seems that direct reference to them in an appendix would have been helpful.

The book is of especial indirect interest to American lawyers since it causes us to consider how long it will be before the law of intestacy in our several states will be subjected to a general overhauling and what provisions we should wish to enact into statute when that time comes.

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