Law Book Publishing

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Until the end of the eighteenth century, law books were mostly publications of statutes by official printers or manuals for laymen (justices of the peace, constables or farmers, merchants) published by private printers. The first reports of court decisions were published in book form at the close of the eighteenth century. Colonial society, organized without professional lawyers, did not need any other kind of legal literature. The first law book of a general nature published in a colony was the American edition of Blackstone, published on a subscription basis by Robert Bell in Philadelphia in 1771-72.¹ Fourteen-hundred sets were subscribed to in advance and 1,100 more sets sold before Independence.² Economically, the output of law books during the colonial period was important in relation to the general publishing business. Almost 20 per cent of all American publications in the period from 1639 to 1763 were legal publications, varying from 17 per cent in New England to 52 per cent in the Southern Colonies.³ In 1820, out of a total production value of $2.5 million, 8 per cent were represented by law books. The law book production increased to three, four, and seven hundred thousand dollars in 1830, 1840, and 1850 respectively, representing a steadily diminishing percentage of the total output.⁴ Today law book publication is in the category of big business, with very large publishing houses specializing in law publishing or even concentrating on more narrowly circumscribed divisions within this general area.

The lawyer distinguishes between books of primary authority and all other legal material. Primary authority is the text of the law, and may be found in only two sources, legislation in the widest sense and judicial decisions. The other materials are vital because they serve as guides to the overwhelming bulk of reports and statutes. For-

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fortunately, the legal literature contains many guides and indices, but even these research tools have become so numerous and involved that their use must be taught in special courses which are part of the regular curriculum of most law schools.

The secondary materials consist of textbooks and treatises; encyclopedias; digests; legal periodicals; tables of cases and statutes; annotations; citators and loose-leaf services. Textbooks, periodicals and encyclopedias are comparable to those publications in other fields while the other classes are unique to the legal field.

Individual statutes published immediately after enactment are referred to as "slip laws." The enormous output is truly disturbing. In 1955, for example, 24,366 federal and state statutes were enacted and in 1957, their number had risen to 29,536. During even years, fewer laws are enacted because not so many state legislatures are in session. At the end of each session of the legislature its enactments are published in chronological order in a volume, usually referred to as "Session Laws." These publications, necessary as they are to establish the authentic text of specific acts, are unsuitable for legal research unless the date, place, or the form of the statutory regulation is previously known. A systematically arranged compilation of the statutes as presently in force is needed. Such compilations are known as Revised, Consolidated, or Compiled Laws or Codes. Repealed and otherwise obsolete statutes are omitted and the statutes which were amended in the course of time are reported in their amended form. Indices must be added to open the contents of the volumes to the user.

In the federal jurisdiction the Revised Statutes of 1873 remained the only official compilation for a long time. But there were unofficial compilations published by private publishers. For more than twenty-five years Congress worked on a new compilation, which was completed in 1925 with the help of the West Publishing Company and Edward Thompson Company, and called United States Code (U.S.C.). Later Congress provided for annual supplements to the U.S.C. and a new edition to be published not more often than once every five years. The present U.S.C. contains "the general and permanent laws of the United States, in force on January 2, 1953." Annual cumulative supplements keep this edition up to date.

Statutes must be interpreted in the light of their construction by the courts. This need is filled by annotated editions of the statutes where short digests of pertinent court decisions follow the text of

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the statutory compilation, section by section. For the federal domain there are two sets now available, the United States Code Annotated (U.S.C.A.) published by West Publishing Company and the Edward Thompson Company and the Federal Code Annotated (F.C.A.) by the Bobbs-Merrill Company. Both publications follow the text and classification of the official U.S.C. but the annotations are the work of the editorial staffs. Given the same material the two editions are duplicating each other almost completely.

Virtually all state governments print their slip laws and session laws or contract with private printers to do it for them. This applies also in many states to statutory compilations; in others, annotations to the statutes are released as state documents. Most annotated and some unannotated editions are published commercially. Often there is a choice between an official edition, with or without annotations, and a private annotated edition; occasionally two commercial publishers compete with each other.

Statutes in the wider sense also include city ordinances and rules and regulations issued by various administrative agencies. Most of the city ordinances are only available, if at all, from the city clerk, sometimes only in mimeographed or typed form. Even in the federal domain before 1935 it was frequently impossible to find the pertinent administrative regulations. In the Federal Register, created by the Act of 1935, the rules of the various agencies are published five times weekly in large pamphlets which accumulated in 1957 to 11,156 triple-columned pages. The rules in force were compiled into the Code of Federal Regulations and a second edition was published in 1949. Cumulative pocket supplements are published annually. The current Federal Register serves as daily supplement. No commercial enterprise would undertake to publish the whole bulk of administrative law. For many special fields, particularly significant to business, like taxation, unemployment insurance, etc., the loose-leaf services provide complete coverage.

The daily life of everyone is even more influenced by the administrative law on the state level. Many states have no organized way of publication, some states started publication but abandoned it because of the heavy cost. In some states (California and New York are leading) a system similar to the federal publications has been developed. The Monthly Checklist of State Publications of the Library of Congress serves as bibliography for this material.

The decisions of all state courts of appeals are published in eight
regional units of the National Reporter System, a West publication. Four more units report all decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and the circuit courts of appeals and selected decisions by the federal district courts. The cases are reported in a chronological arrangement, not in systematical order. The most valuable feature of these reports is the key number system. The report of each case is preceded by one or several "headnotes" or "syllabi" stating the rule or rules of law announced by the decision. Each syllabus consists of one short sentence. In addition, it refers to a section in a digest where more related cases may be found. In publications of the West Publishing Company, this section number is called "key number" to indicate that the same key number applies to the same topics in law throughout all the West Reporter digests. As of March 1957, 4,149 volumes of the National Reporter System have been published.

The other large set of reports, American Law Reports Annotated (A.L.R.), selects only significant cases already reported elsewhere. Each case is followed by an annotation which surveys all other cases concerned with the same legal problem. This reporter is published by Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company and Bancroft-Whitney.

Most states publish the decisions of their supreme courts in an official edition. The official reports are often published late and are inefficient unless they are published for the government by one of the large law publishers (Lawyers, Co-op, West, Callaghan, etc.).

It is obvious that the lack of systematic arrangement and the large number of cases make the material inaccessible without some special tools. One of these tools is the digest. The outstanding publication in this area is the American Digest System, published by West Publishing Company. The first unit, the Century Edition, digests all cases reported in all standard reports, covering the period from 1658 (the oldest reported case) to 1896. The cases from 1897 to 1956 are digested in six units called Decennials. The contents are classified under some four hundred standardized topics alphabetically arranged within each unit. Each topic in turn is divided into several hundred or thousand sections according to a plan, basically maintained, though constantly augmented through the years. There is one paragraph to each case without connecting text, comment, or other editorial work. Cases decided after the close of the latest Decennial are digested in the General Digest, now in its third series, which will be replaced by the Seventh Decennial in 1967. The General Digest is published in monthly paperbound volumes which are cumulated into three
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bound volumes per year. In addition to this comprehensive digest there are special digests covering individual jurisdictions or several states (paralleling, e.g., a unit of the National Reporter System) or decisions of one court or all decisions in a certain field, for example, insurance law.

General legal encyclopedias are related to legal digests. They present a multi-volume survey of the body of American law as contained in court decisions. The material is arranged under some four hundred main and a varying number of auxiliary topics familiar to us from the discussion of the digests. Each topic is subdivided into many sections. The difference is that the encyclopedia contains a text, written by the editors and stating the law in sentences culled from leading decisions with the cases listed only in footnotes. At present there are two encyclopedias which share the market about equally. One is Corpus Juris (C.J.) and the still unfinished Corpus Juris Secundum (C.J.S.), published by the American Law Book Company. They aim in about 170 large volumes to cite every case reported in a standard reporter. The other set is American Jurisprudence (Am. Jur.) published by Bancroft-Whitney and Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company which consists of only fifty-nine volumes of text and several auxiliary volumes, but cites only significant cases. Inclusive coverage and lucid explanation of the material presented by specially trained editors make encyclopedias, and particularly American Jurisprudence, the best reference tool in law for the layman. Even lawyers often start their research with this work. There are also, similar to digests, legal encyclopedias with limited scope like an encyclopedia of pleading and practice, and encyclopedias of the law of single states.

Legal treatises resemble, in their general make-up, treatises in other fields; however, treatises are of much less importance to the lawyer than to other learned professions. All legal literature is overshadowed by authoritative enactments and decisions. James Kent, the first great American legal scholar, taught in 1826: “The reports . . . contain the . . . most authentic evidence of the . . . rules of the common law; but there are numerous other works of sages in the profession. . . . These works acquire by time . . . the weight of authority . . .” 14 And Kent measured “time” by centuries. Today the older literature is not often referred to. Law changes and develops too quickly.

To say that most modern legal treatises intended for the use of
practicing attorneys are not scholarly studies, but merely compilations of rules announced by the courts, is only to look at the same situation from a different angle. Chafee once compared the typical textbook to a sermon composed of little bits out of the Bible. "Headnotes arranged vertically make a digest. Headnotes arranged horizontally make a textbook. Textbooks arranged alphabetically make an encyclopedia." ¹⁵

Law books are written almost exclusively for lawyers. Only those schooled in the technique of common law can understand it adequately. There still are a few books by legal scholars for general readers, like the Legal Almanac Series "How to do . . ." by the Oceana Publications, but even fewer reach some measure of success.¹⁶

A court decision remains an authority until it is completely or partially overruled by the same or a higher court. A systematical collection of references to all later cases bearing upon earlier decisions is called a citator. Early citators (best known: Rose's Notes) gave the references in complete sentences, but for the past eighty-five years a specialized publisher, Shepard's Citations, developed to technical perfection its system of using symbols, numerals, and letters to convey this information. They also list for the statutes, section by section, amendments, repeals, etc., and references to the statutes in reported decisions. Shepard's has sixty-three separate units.

Currently, 194 American legal periodicals are covered in the Index to Legal Periodicals, of which 103 are issued by the various law schools in behalf of and for the education of their students. In addition to leading articles and book reviews by learned authors, these periodicals contain mostly comments on court decisions written by students. A good many of these publications are more significant to the professional advancement of the student than for the furtherance of legal research.

It is the lawyer's main concern to have the latest information readily available. Law publishers, aware of this problem, tried to keep their sets up to date by means of annual supplementary volumes and by frequently issuing new editions. McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York which appeared in 1917 made a significant innovation by providing a pocket in each volume to store a supplement which was to be replaced annually by a cumulative issue.¹⁷ Today, few large treatises, encyclopedias or annotated editions of statutes are published without provision for pocket parts unless they appear in loose-leaf binders.
With the advent of the federal income tax (16th Amendment) in 1913, it became obvious that a new method had to be found to coordinate the avalanche of statutes, rules, court, and administrative decisions which were to appear. In this year two services were started, one for reporting all authoritative material on the topic of income taxation and the other on corporation finance. Today Commerce Clearing House publishes more than one hundred loose-leaf reporters and Prentice-Hall almost as many. The Bureau of National Affairs, a comparative latecomer, now publishes twenty-four services. Only a few services are published by firms not specializing in this field, notably Administrative Law by M. Bender & Company in cooperation with Pike & Fischer. The history and detailed description of these services is given in booklets distributed by the publishers. Commerce Clearing House, e.g., has a 207-page booklet Tax and Business Law Parade and the smaller Today's Law for Today's Problems, both 1956. Also The Christian Science Monitor carried a series of articles about C.C.H. and B.N.A. by the presidents of the firms on December 11, 12 and 13, 1956, and March 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1957, respectively.

This type of publishing requires an enormous reporting staff, establishment of close cooperation with the government, large printing facilities which are available at a moment's notice to do unexpected amounts of work, and a whole organization geared to incredible speed. The reporting includes statutes, administrative rules and regulations, opinions of courts and administrative agencies, and references to other material. These publications are issued in loose-leaf form and are filed by the subscriber in a number of binders and replaced by later issues, appearing in most instances weekly, a few even daily, while several are issued less frequently. Most of the volumes are permanent with only parts replaced when required, but several services (e.g., the reports on federal taxation) are issued annually in new editions, each leaf still subject to re-issue during the year when necessary. Indices, cross-references, and instructions on how to use the service assist in the location of the material needed.

The technique of loose-leaf reporting later spread to other types of law publications. Some treatises and statutory collections have been published completely or partially in this form. The constant filing and replacing of leaves which requires considerable clerical help raised objections from subscribers. Lawyers Co-op compromised by issuing its New York Consolidated Laws Service in twelve file covers for a series of pamphlets which are distinct and removable
units. When legislative changes require a new edition of a title, only this pamphlet is replaced. Callaghan, following a recent request of the Michigan Bar Association, began publishing the current supplement to the *Michigan Statutes Annotated* in pamphlet form rather than the previous loose-leaf form.

In early times, law books were published for local use and did not require unusually large financial investments. Publishers were satisfied to print, bind, and distribute the works written by learned lawyers and did not attempt to author the books. In the second half of the nineteenth century, a significant change occurred when treatises and local publications of reports and statutes were replaced by the large sets now found in the law libraries. The first digest of American law by Nathan Dane still represents the life work of a legal scholar, but the first encyclopedias, conceived by James Cockroft, were written completely by the editorial staff of the publisher.

Today's leading law book publisher is the West Publishing Company and its main publications are the work of its editorial staff. After a few publications of little importance the firm hit on the idea of publishing reports on a national scale. From the beginning (1876) the *National Reporter* paid particular attention to expressing the rules laid down by the reported decision in well formulated headnotes (syllabi). The next step then was to gather these syllabi in a systematic order and to publish them annually as a digest. Finally, the *American Digest* was developed into a system covering all reported cases from the earliest to the current decisions. By collecting only the headnotes of the decisions of the federal courts or the courts of a given state or several states, West is in the position to publish other digests without additional editorial expenses. The key number system used in all digests of the firm enables the researcher to switch from one to the other with great speed. Wherever decisions are concerned with the application of statutes, the appropriate syllabi in a different arrangement serve also as annotations to the statutory collections. To a degree unknown before in publishing history this publisher is in the enviable situation of having the editorial work do service over and over again without impairing the usefulness of the publications to the reader.

To cement its dominant position West Publishing Company acquired the controlling interests in a number of firms of established local importance. Vernon Law Book Company in Kansas City was added in 1911, Burdette Smith Company in Chicago in 1935, Wash-
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Washington Law Book Company was incorporated as a subsidiary in the same year. Since then Boston Law Book Company, Metropolitan Law Book Company in Brooklyn and Soney and Sage in Newark have been added. Other firms were added because of their importance in a special field of law publishing, American Law Book Company, (encyclopédias) in 1930, Edward Thompson Company (federal statutes) in 1935 and finally the Foundation Press in Brooklyn (publications for the law schools).

The other giant in general law book publishing is Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company which has owned the majority stock interest in Bancroft-Whitney since 1919, Bender-Moss Company, and the Baker, Voorhis and Company since 1940. While the rapid growth of West Publishing Company is explained by its central position in reporting decisions on a nation-wide basis, the equally startling success of Bancroft and Lawyers Co-op is largely founded on the idea of making leading cases more easily available to the legal profession. Both firms have been connected with the Annotated Case Series from their early beginning. These series led in direct sequence to the current main publication of both publishers, American Law Reports. The other main publication of these two publishers, American Jurisprudence, is an enlargement of their previous encyclopedia, Ruling Case Law, which was chiefly an encyclopedic treatment of the vast material in the Annotated Case Series published up to that time.

The law library consists chiefly of large sets of books, most of them bought on a subscription basis with one or more volumes added each year. Expensive pocket supplements are issued annually to many of them. This implies for the publisher the necessity of planning his program many years ahead and investing enormous amounts of editorial work and capital in a single publication; on the other hand, it assures unusual stability to a successfully established undertaking.\textsuperscript{24}

Thus, the law librarian and the lawyer have very little freedom left to select material since large amounts of their funds are already committed before the fiscal year begins. The Harvard Law Library spent, in the academic year 1956–57, $55,900 for Anglo-American publications of which $41,700 went exclusively for continuations.\textsuperscript{25}

The Library of the Detroit Bar Association had during the fiscal year of 1956 a book fund of $20,000. Of this $2,100 were spent for treatises, but 85 per cent of this sum was taken up by supplementing existing treatises, leaving only $300 for new acquisitions.\textsuperscript{26}

While the national field of the large sets, digests, encyclopédias,
annotated cases, etc., is dominated by the two leading publishers with only local competition from one of the other large law publishing firms (Bobbs-Merrill Company, Callaghan & Company, Harrison Company, Mason Publishing Company, Michie Company, and others) a number of small and middle-sized firms participate in the publication of treatises. A number of firms have firmly established special lines; Shepard's Citations and the publishers of loose-leaf services were mentioned before.

The part of governments in legal publications, which was small during the nineteenth and beginning twentieth centuries, has been growing due to the increase in statutory and administrative material. It would be revealing to compare the actual cost of government publications with comparable figures of the commercial publications if these data were available, but publishers will go far to keep such information secret. Weekly newspapers are required by postal law to publish (in one issue in early October of each year) the number of copies distributed to paid subscribers. But subscribers never receive such statements from weekly loose-leaf services. Apparently the original edition is printed in only a few copies and immediately replaced by a new edition (omitting this statement) which is sent to the subscribers. A medium-sized state like Wisconsin spent more than $1,800,000 for the biennium 1955-56 for printing, of which $263,000 was allotted to legislative printing (bills, journals, etc.). In addition, Wisconsin Statutes, Session Laws, Attorney General Reports, Public Service Commission Reports, and an Administrative Code were published. The legislative printing bill of New York for 1958 (based on estimated amounts) is $733,000 and the budget for the annual reports of state agencies is over $213,000. States must also maintain editorial staffs for their publications. The editorial costs of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 with Index and Annotations was $110,000.

Prices of law books like those of other technical publications with limited sales are by necessity high. However, comparison of the prices of commercial publishers with those charged by the governments show that in general prices are reasonable. The Michigan Reports, published by Lawyers Co-op under contract with the state are sold at $3.50 per volume. This price compares with the cost of $7 for a

* The assistance of E. C. Jensen, Wisconsin State Librarian, who unearthed this and other material which, for lack of space, had to be omitted, is gratefully acknowledged.
volume of a regional Reporter of the *National Reporter System* which contains almost twice the number of words as a volume of the *Michigan Reports*. The advance sheets are delivered to the subscriber without added charge, but the comparable material to the *Michigan Reports* cost $10 annually. Moreover, to make the price of $3.50 possible, the state pays about $6,000 per volume "for services rendered" to the publisher, buys a large number of copies for its own use and relieves the publisher, within limits, of the unsold over-run at half price. The situation in Michigan is significant. A few years ago the state of New York made a study of the law book publishing and determined that it would model the contract with its printer closely after Michigan's contract with Lawyers Co-op.\(^3^0\)

Occasionally a law publication may be bought at a bargain price. The recently issued West Publishing Company edition of the California Codes in seventy-seven volumes, notwithstanding its lavish appearance, was sold at the pre-publication price of $6 per volume, which was meant to compete with the old established Deering Codes published by Bancroft-Whitney Company. An example in the other direction may be found in Wisconsin. There attorneys were accustomed to the official biennial edition of their statutes. The arrangement was so satisfactory and the price so low that in 1937 the American Bar Association recommended it as a model, expressing the belief that no private publisher could successfully compete.\(^3^1\) In 1955, 8,400 copies of the two volume edition were printed at a little over $83,000. Because 75 per cent of the expenses of the state revisor's office were charged to it the set sold for $15 per copy. Annotations were published in 1950 at the price of $12.50. These annotations are brought up to date in the edition of the statutes. Surprisingly, West Publishing Company recently started publication of *Wisconsin Statutes Annotated* in a much more elaborate edition of about forty-five volumes at a price of $540, with an annual up-keep of about $40.

Treatises are most often sold at $12 to $20 per large volume. A compilation of the copyright laws and treaties of the various countries, translated into English, in one volume of about 2,000 pages was recently published at $97.50. At a lower price it would probably be found in the smallest public library. Examples of overpricing, perhaps not quite as astonishing, could be continued. Exceptions such as this, rather than the general level of law book prices, may be responsible for the general impression that law book prices are unjustifiably high. Practically no law book is sold through the general book trade. Pub-
lishers and dealers mail book announcements to libraries and attorneys and advertise in legal periodicals and their own publications. This is done, however, without much conviction because experience has shown that most attorneys do not go out to order law books, but wait for the visit of a sales representative. Shepard's covers the whole territory of the United States with just nine representatives. No firm employs a large sales force.

The importance of the comprehensive law publications of state or national scope and particularly their contribution towards unification of the law of the several states cannot be overestimated. Law publishing generally has become a highly remunerative business, which is advantageous since only strong organizations can render the service demanded of legal publishers.

Irritations between the publishers and their customers, however, are not absent. Criticism can be classified under the headings of high prices, low quality, lack of discount, for libraries and, chiefly, unnecessary duplication of publications. Libraries are accustomed to getting considerable discounts from publishers, but not for legal publications. In order to stamp out discounts most of the law publishers combined in the American Association of Law Book Publishers in 1923, which stipulated, among other things, that no buyer should get more than a 6 per cent discount for cash payment. In 1944, the Federal Trade Commission prohibited the fixing of discounts or other conditions concerning the sale of law books. Paradoxically, due to a change in economic conditions, more discounts were granted before 1944 than since.

Complaints concerning the quality often single out the work done by editorial staffs. In order to save money the publishers of the earliest encyclopedia employed law school students to write and edit the text. No publisher today could expect to make such savings pay. Editors employed today are competent professionals who, through long experience and special training, have learned to do a proficient job. For example, during a visit on December 10 and 11, 1957, with the sixty lawyers employed in the editorial department of Lawyers Co-op in Rochester, New York, the writer was truly impressed with their professional competence and legal scholarship. Nevertheless, editorial departments have their limitations. Speed, accuracy, competent, reliable research are important, however, original, creative work is not required, indeed it is frowned upon. This is
generally accepted. Unfortunately, also works written by individual authors are too often only “practitioners’ books,” thinly disguised digests of cases written in the form of treatises.

The chief complaint constantly raised against law publishers is that competition results in unnecessary duplication. As soon as it leaks out that a publisher is preparing a new large publication, another publisher will hurry to announce that he, too, is going to publish that type of work. The rush to be the first usually does not contribute to quality. In any literary work one would expect to find citations to all significant opinions expressed elsewhere but it is the practice of most legal editorial staffs to give reference only to sources published by the same publisher.

The situation could be remedied by concerted action of the consumers who are closely organized in three distinctive groups. Excluding libraries with less than 5,000 volumes, there are 780 law libraries in this country with accumulative holdings of over 25 million volumes,\textsuperscript{37} organized in the American Association of Law Libraries. In addition, many more general libraries are occasional buyers of law books. The only buyers of the textbooks, a small, but separate department of most large law publishers, are the 38,833 students in 136 approved and 3,438 students in thirty unapproved law schools.\textsuperscript{38} The policy of these law schools is strongly influenced by the Association of American Law Schools. But the really important group of buyers of law books, the practicing attorneys, are organized in local and state bar associations which are aided and guided by the American Bar Association, a national organization. More than a third of the quarter of a million lawyers in America\textsuperscript{39} may be counted to be regular subscribers to one or more of the large legal publications. Some state bar associations have done valuable service to improve the quality and lower the costs of law publications. The outstanding example is the work of the Illinois State Bar Association. In this state two annotated editions of the statutes and two editions without annotations published by competing publishers followed different classification systems. This situation caused confusion and wide dissatisfaction. In 1937, after prolonged negotiations the Bar Association induced one publisher to withdraw and the other publisher (Burdette Smith Company) to publish an unannotated edition of the Illinois Revised Statutes, a well bound volume of nearly 4,000 large pages for the truly amazing price of $4. This publication, while maintaining the
publisher's classification system cites the other system, section by section, thus establishing one medium of statutory citation. The 1955 edition, in two large volumes, still sells for only $15.

Another example of cooperation is the achievement of J. C. Hill who conceived an idea which deserves wide imitation. A committee of the Oregon State Bar Association, under the chairmanship of Hill, goes through all Oregon cases published in the current issues of the regional unit of the National Reporter and offers suggestions for improving the syllabi which then form the contents of the Oregon Digest. Notwithstanding some original hesitancy on the part of the publisher, West Publishing Company in cooperation with Bancroft-Whitney Company, Hill was able to report that the publisher accepted all suggested corrections and offered to extend the agreement.

Innumerable committees of various bar associations, law school and law library associations created to study problems of legal publications and particularly the vexing duplication of law books, have done valuable spade work and reached agreement concerning the needs of the legal profession. Unfortunately, the latest sampling of the attorneys in sixteen states indicated a lack of consensus as to which of the two or more parallel publications should be discontinued. Therefore, no practical results were achieved. Perhaps the bar which, for another reason, has been called a sleeping giant is to blame for its lack of action. There is no doubt that improvements could be achieved if the giant would only put his mighty back to the wheel. Apparently, the hesitancy to take real action can be explained by the fact that minor irritations and complaints notwithstanding, the feeling prevails in the profession that generally the law publishers have been doing highly creditable work in their field.

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