

*Statute Law-Making in Iowa.* Edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh. Applied History, volume III. (Iowa City, Iowa. 1916. The State Historical Society of Iowa. Pp. xviii, 718.)

Despite the rather dubious title of the series in which this volume is published, students in political science cannot fail to recognize the value of such a work as *Statute Law-Making in Iowa*. It is the most extensive and in many respects the most satisfactory study in the field that has yet appeared in this country. Its timeliness is beyond question. There are nine monographs in the volume, seven authors coöperating in the work. The following list of monograph titles will indicate the contents of the volume: History and Organization of the Legislature in Iowa, by John E. Briggs; Law-making Powers of the Legislature in Iowa, by Benj. F. Shambaugh; Methods of Statute Law-making in Iowa, by O. K. Patton; Form and Language of Statutes in Iowa, by Jacob Van der Zee; Codification of Statute Law in Iowa, by Dan E. Clark; Interpretation and Construction of Statutes in Iowa, by O. K. Patton; The Drafting of Statutes, by Jacob Van der Zee; The Committee System, by Frank E. Horack; Some Abuses Connected with Statute Law-making, by Ivan L. Pollock.

In addition to the above there is an introduction by the editor and a thorough index of 27 pages. Copious notes and references appear at the end of each monograph, and evident care has been taken in the citations. The editorial supervision has been commendable and effective. There is practically no duplication of material, and cross references are supplied where necessary. In spite of the number of coöperators the volume is singularly successful in conveying its evident unity of purpose and plan.

Strictly speaking these monographs are not a part of the "literature of reform," a distinction which is evident from the elevation and tone of the entire volume. Not that ugly facts and details are overlooked or suppressed, but there is a balancing of the workings of the legislative machinery which seeks to avoid the over emphasis of the evil results at the expense of the good or satisfactory ones. Notwithstanding the care and restraint which are thus apparent in the productions one cannot escape the impression that the authors have had in mind something more than a critical analysis of the agencies and processes which function in law-making. The work as a whole and in its several parts definitely seeks to point the way toward certain reforms in the adoption of which Iowa has lagged somewhat behind many states of the Union. For example, in the monograph on the

drafting of statutes there is at the close a strong plea that provision be made for expert draftmanship in law-making, a step which the Iowa assembly has thus far refused to take.

To the credit of the authors it should be said that the volume as a whole should make attractive and interesting reading for a large constituency in the state which fostered its production. Technical terms are carefully and clearly explained, and there is nothing in the book that any citizen with a reasonable degree of intelligence and industry could not comprehend. The volume should prove exceptionally useful to inexperienced members of future legislatures, and merits a wide distribution among such individuals in other states than Iowa.

In general the conclusions which are reached are sound. They represent the accumulated wisdom and experience of those who have been concerned with the constitutional, technical, and procedural aspects of legislation; though it can hardly be said that profundity and originality are features of the work. In a day when the functions and principles of sound legislation are so widely abused or ignored, it is disappointing that a work of this magnitude should have omitted their consideration, and a study of the extent to which they have been recognized or perverted in Iowa. A sorry awakening will some day be due the commonwealth which perfects the technical and procedural phases incidental to statute law-making unless there is at the same time a vigorous effort to search out and establish in statute law-making those principles which will enable legislation to function properly when in force. Far too large a proportion of our law-makers and of our citizens are as ignorant, if not more so, in respect to these matters as they are of the mechanics of statute law-making.

It is to be hoped, however, that the achievement of the Iowa investigators will stimulate studies of similar character and dignity in other states. *Statute Law-Making in Iowa* has set a high standard and will be an invaluable aid in the prosecution of like enterprises.

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*The Mississippi Valley in British Politics. A Study of the Trade, Land Speculation, and Experiments in Imperialism Culminating in the American Revolution.* By CLARENCE W. ALVORD. Two volumes. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1917. Pp. 358, 396.)

In 1908 the Justin Winsor prize of the American Historical Association was awarded to Mr. Clarence E. Carter for a monograph entitled