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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


These two works could be dismissed without further thought by the use of a single word—propaganda—were it not for the fact that each conveys a message which will, without doubt, be repeated many times in the near future. As the outlines of the present conflict become clearer, as men find time to cogitate upon the future of a world in which fighting shall be at an end, at least temporarily, the urge for a rational peace will grow stronger and stronger. It is then that thinking men will do well to be familiar with such works as these, for here is to be found the shadow of things that might yet be.

The first, an extension of an earlier work by Henri Bonnet, correlates the steps that have been taken to date to formulate the policies of a United Nations group determined to produce a basis for collaboration between peace-loving nations. Here will be found the treaties and agreements, the resolutions, the declarations of responsible leaders, which so far define the general aims of such group. At the same time, though, Mr. Bonnet points out the immense complexity of those problems—political, economic, and social—which must be faced and for which solutions must be provided before aims can be translated into fact. Recognition of what must be done is, at least, a step in the direction toward accomplishment.

The other presents, between two covers, the thoughts expressed by a lawyer, at various times and in sundry places, on the subject of a permanent international organization capable, through adequate powers, to secure the peace and prosperity long desired by ninety-five percent of the world population but subject to be disturbed periodically by the military schemes of a few. Principal among the suggestions is that of an international society operating under a written constitution in which, this time, a strong judicial department with compulsory jurisdiction should replace the "optional" Court of International Justice created by the League of Nations covenant. The author, by comparing the history of the American nation under Articles of Confederation with that of a world trying to operate through a League of Nations, serves to point a lesson which we, in the course of one hundred and fifty years of experience under a constitution, have already learned. Here is no argument for "Union Now" or any similar scheme, but rather the outline of an International Community in which all sovereign nations must join but within which they may retain their separate identities.

Calling such works "propaganda" tends to blacken their character, since such term has developed an insidious meaning in current parlance. That they are definitely propagandistic in the true sense, that is evidenc-
ing a conscious effort to spread particular doctrines or ideas, is not to be doubted. Whether they will be received and acted upon in an atmosphere as individualistic as exists in the United States today remains to be seen. The invisible bonds which bind the American states together are stronger than the mere phraseology of any constitution; that such bonds exist between us and the rest of a war-torn world is open to doubt. The Parliament of Man does not yet appear to be at hand.

W. F. Zacharias


As a handbook for lawyers who are busy in the trial of cases, this book can be highly recommended. The table of contents is well planned and serves as a quick search index leading directly to the subject desired. The chapter headings and the subdivisions of each chapter reveal the "common sense" break down of those subjects properly classified as "opinion" evidence. It is quite apparent, though, from the first two chapters that the authors desired to do more than classify case material and Illinois decisions so that they could be readily found by a hurried and harried lawyer. The authors state that opinion evidence does not receive sufficient attention in the law schools or by writers in the field of evidence. The first chapter, therefore, endeavors to explain the difference between "fact" and "opinion" by precept and example. No new light is thrown upon the field examined. The difficulties do not dissolve. Yet the authors will not subscribe to the "substantial repeal of the opinion evidence rule" as proposed by the American Law Institute, for they think the proposal to be ill-advised and too drastic to be likely of adoption in any state. Ergo, the state of the law of opinion evidence in Illinois must, then, still be sought for by resort to adjudicated cases and to the language of the judges.

Since this really constitutes an abandonment of the intent to examine and analyze the cases from a logical, rational, or philosophical viewpoint, the material is, therefore, handled in true case-book fashion with voluminous reference to the cases. As lawyers engaged in actual trial practice are usually empiricists, perhaps the pragmatic approach will secure more readers and provide greater service to the practitioner. It will be readily admitted that, as a search book for Illinois law on opinion evidence, the arrangement of material, the common sense indexing, and the scope and wealth of reference should commend it to the profession.

D. C. Campbell