Review of “Handbook of American Constitutional Law. Ed. 4,” By Henry Campbell Black
ticular, has been enlarged and clarified, by the use of new and popular headings for the aid of both lawyers and laymen. For example, whereas in the 1919 volumes, our most common means of transportation is listed under the title of "Motor Vehicles," in the 1927 supplement, the more generally used term "Automobile" is used. Other groups have been equally simplified.

Annotations are given for every law enacted since 1919 where the courts have construed them. Not only is the reader referred, by a reference at the end of each section, to the proper volume and page of the Session Laws where the bill as enacted into law by the General Assembly will be found, but there is also a description of the relation which the section bears to the existing law.

The compilers have omitted from the text all appropriation and maintenance acts, except those which contain general legislation, and all repealed laws and parts of laws, so that this supplement contains only the live statutes and amendments to statutes which have been enacted into law by the General Assembly since the 1919 revision.


The occasion as well as the necessity for a fourth edition of this work has been the great expansion of the subject of constitutional law since the last revision. The effect of the World War, the passage of four amendments to the Constitution, and the accumulation of a great mass of decisions on novel conditions have made it necessary to completely revise the former edition, but nevertheless the same general scheme has been employed. The purpose of the work is to give to the student, teacher, and practitioner a bird's-eye view of the subject of constitutional law, so that at a glance an understanding of the fundamentals of the subject may be acquired. These general principles are annotated copiously, so that a deeper knowledge of the field might be readily gained.

The author states in his Preface that while it would be impossible to refer to all decisions handed down since the last revision, and at the same time defeat the purpose of the volume, ample consideration has been given to all cases of paramount importance. "Preference has been given to (a) rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States, as the final authority on the Federal Constitution, (b) opinions which have included an extensive or instructive review of previous lines of cases, and (c) those which were considered remarkable for the vigor or lucidity of their reasoning."


This is a companion book to the HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, Hornbook Series, Fourth Edition, by Henry Campbell Black. The purpose of this book is to supply an illustrative casebook to accompany the use of the Hornbook text in the classroom, to illustrate the principles of law there set down.

It should be remembered that this book was not prepared for the "Case Method" of instruction, but merely as a supplement to the work in the text, which is the basis of instruction. Therefore a comprehensive knowledge of the subject cannot be gained from a study of the cases alone. The book is devoted entirely to extracts from leading cases on constitutional law, which show a practical application of the abstract principles of law laid down in the text. No annotations or supplementary authority to the cases are given.

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