

Comparisons are odious and, more often than not, unenlightening. Is Lord Denning the greatest judge of the day, as Lord Justice Scarman seems to think? Or does this honour belong to Lord Reid? Do his judgments display the breadth of vision and legal acumen of an Atkin? Will his influence be lasting; or will it be ephemeral? "Questions such as these are overly simplistic; if asked at all they are better left to a time when the obfuscating clouds of controversy that have surrounded the man have lifted. What one can confidently say about Lord Denning is that he has been actuated throughout his judicial career by a desire to see that the law is brought into conformity with the demands of contemporary conditions. This goal, no matter how strongly one may disagree with his perception of the time and of the dictates of justice, deserves our commendation.

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Environmental Law Commentary and Case Digests,
Robert T. Franson and Alastair R. Lucas, Toronto: Butterworths, 1978.
Pp. 400. \$15.50 (paperback).

This book is a bound edition of Volume I of the authors' 6-volume looseleaf service "Canadian Environmental Law".

The scheme of the 6-volume service is such that Volume I provides a written text describing and analyzing the subject matter of environmental law. The second part of Volume I contains digests of environmental law cases.

Volumes II to VI of the service contain the text of various statutes and regulations dealing with environmental matters. These matters are sub-divided by jurisdiction.

The 6-volume service has been well received which is not surprising given the eminence of its authors and the utility of a service which is updated four times each year. Since its publication, eleven updates have been issued.

However, the task of this reviewer is not to praise the 6-volume service but to assess the merits of the one volume bound edition issued by the publishers.

The bound environmental law commentary provides an overview of the subject matter of environmental law. After introducing the reader to the nature of the environment and to the various definitions of environmental law, the volume goes on to describe Constitutional Constraints (Chapter 2), Civil Liability for Environmental Damage (Chapter 3), Air and Water Pollution Control (Chapter 4), Litter and Solid Waste Disposal (Chapter 5), Noise Control (Chapter 6), Controllars Pesticides and Contaminants (Chapter 7), Enforcement of Specific Offences Provisions (Chapter 8), and Environmental Impact Assessment, Resource Allocation and Citing Controls (Chapter 9). The second part of the volume contains digests of cases related to the above subject matters and these are current to July 1978.

As there is a dearth of Canadian material in this subject area, the publishers initiative in bringing out Volume I as a separate entity is commendable.

The commentary provides the reader with a useful overview of the subject matter in readable form. The book pretends to be no more than a commentary; indeed it is a useful one. Perhaps less useful is the second part of the book which comprises a digest of cases. It is less useful because the cases have been updated only until July 1978. The digest part of the volume seems inextricably interwoven with the nature of a service which will be updated. Because there is no possibility of updating this one volume, the utility of the digest is diminished. Perhaps a more useful addition to Volume I would have been the index which is comprised in the second part of Volume VI of the service.

If the publishers produced this volume as an enticement to subscribe to the service it is a reasonably priced enticement. One suspects that, in addition, the publishers perceived that Volume I would be well received in its own right. They will not be disappointed.

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