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Introduction to Section II: Early (and Ongoing) Efforts to Help Shape the Law

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Introduction to Section II: Early (and Ongoing) Efforts to Help Shape the Law

By 1915, Pennsylvania and several other states, enacted various Uniform State Laws, including: (1) the Negotiable Instruments Act, (2) the Warehouse Receipts Act, (3) the Sales Act, (4) the Bills of Lading Act, and (5) the Stock Transfer Act. J.P. McKeehan and Samuel Williston provide an in-depth discussion on the implementation of uniform commercial laws and whether the above-mentioned laws should be consolidated.

McKeehan initiates the discussion by identifying differences between the acts and highlighting potential risks faced by individuals attempting to purchase documents of title. In response, Williston argues that the inconsistencies among the laws were intentional and that creating uniform provisions would be undesirable or even impossible because of the differences in business customs and differences in needs across the jurisdictions in question.

Lastly, this section includes an article by Michael Joachim Bonell, providing a more modern perspective on the need for a global commercial code.

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