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## Book Reviews

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## *Book Reviews*

### PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH LAW

By T. F. Chrostwaite, Hanover, Pa. T. F. Chrostwaite, 1929.

The systematic body of statute law pertaining to boroughs, known as The General Borough Act, has brought within a small compass legislative enactments that formerly were contained in many statutes. Such codification is always welcomed by the lawyer as an aid to expedition and an assurance of accuracy. Nevertheless, The General Borough Act, and the amendments of 1929, do not cover the statute laws pertaining to boroughs which are not exclusively borough laws. We note as examples the acts relating to assessment of taxes, municipal claims and increasing indebtedness.

This book accomplishes the purpose of covering the entire field of legislative enactment, together with sufficient mention and citation of decisions which have built up throughout the years a system of procedure at once mandatory and technical. The carrying through to completion of matters such as increasing borough indebtedness, or the filing of municipal liens, involves much research and the inexperienced lawyer approaching them does so with fear and trembling. Every step in the entire procedure in increasing indebtedness is sure to be examined for prospective bond buyers by some lawyer experienced in borough matters. And it is well known that municipal liens are sometimes stricken off. These matters are carefully dealt with in the book.

The book will be wanted by the general practitioner and will be much needed by the borough solicitor. It will be a handbook for use at council meetings, where so many unexpected and unusual problems arise.

The author has included a chapter on parliamentary practice and another on procedure in council meetings. These will be of use to burgesses and councilmen. The book, however, should not be used by such officers as a law book, as it is not intended that it shall be the means of dispensing with the work of the borough solicitor.

The book of 827 pages contains forty-seven chapters including Powers and Duties of Officers, Street Improvement, Zoning and Planning, Change of Borough Limits and Eminent Domain.

The pamphlet laws published by the Commonwealth fail to completely index the important Acts of Assembly such as The General Borough Act, The Motor Vehicle Code and the several Orphans Court Acts of 1917. Any book containing a good index of any of these important acts is of value to the lawyer. The index to the present book has been carefully prepared and is complete.

With this book available, the lawyer, inexperienced in borough matters, can confidently accept the position of borough solicitor.

Addison M. Bowman

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### PENNSYLVANIA LAW AND PROCEDURE IN REPLEVIN

By Graham C. Woodward. Cyrus M. Dixon, 1929

The action of replevin, which originally was intended for the relief of tenants whose effects had been distrained for rent, has never been adequately treated by the writers of texts on Pennsylvania Law. In Pennsylvania the practice in actions of replevin until 1901 was founded upon the Act of January 12th, 1705, 1 Sm. L. 44. Since 1901 the practice in such actions has been under the Act of April 16th, 1901, P. L. 88, and its amendments and supplements. Modern business methods and practices in merchandising personal property and chattels have led to much litigation in replevin. Consequently, a working knowledge of the practice in this form of action is essential.

Pennsylvania Law and Procedure in Replevin—Woodward—1929, supplies this need for an exhaustive though practical and useable treatment of the action of replevin. The treatment of the subject commences with a discussion of the nature and scope of the right of action. Following this in Chapter II we find what property is repleviable. A very interesting and instructive consideration of the Act of April 3rd, 1779, 1 Sm. L. 470, is given in Section 20. Chapter III, dealing with parties to actions of replevin, includes a discussion of the relative rights of vendor and vendee, and bailor and bailee under varying circumstances. The title that will support replevin is the subject of Chapter IV.

Technical questions of procedure commence in Chapter V with the institution of the action and includes questions relating to the filing of the various bonds, the issuing of the writ, service and return, contract bond, impounding, etc.

The pleadings are adequately covered in Chapters VI, VII and VIII. Chapter IX deals with defenses. The trial of the issue, including questions of evidence and damages, is the subject of Chapter X. Chapters XI, XII and XIII deal with the judgment and enforcement thereof, costs and review by new trial, judgments n. o. v. and appeal.

On the whole the book is a thorough, practical and adequate treatment of an important subject and will certainly find a hearty reception by the Bar.

Robert L. Myers, Jr.