

edge. He is certain that the state convention formulates and promulgates the platform in Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, and Mississippi. The convention's authority to do this in the first four states is based on practice; in the case of Mississippi it is based on law.

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Modern Constitutions. A Collection of the Fundamental Laws of Twenty-two of the Most Important Countries of the World, with Historical and Bibliographical Notes. By WALTER FAIRLEIGH DODD. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press; London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1909. Two vols. Pp. xxiii+351; xiv+334. Price \$5.42 postpaid.

The twenty-two countries whose fundamental laws are included in these volumes are the Argentine Nation, Australia, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. When Professor Wilson published his book on *The State* Norway was joined to Sweden in personal union, Russia was still an autocracy, Japan was just taking on western ways, while the commonwealth of Australia was non-existent, and Canada, well, nobody thought of including her in the family of countries whose constitutions were worth studying.

In preparing for the publication of a work of this kind the editor was confronted by two important questions, the documents to be included and the amount of historical and explanatory notes to be given. Considered as a collection of national constitutions there is little to be said in criticism upon Mr. Dodd's selections. Certainly no really important country with an established constitution has been omitted, unless England be considered as such. The reason given by the editor for excluding this country—that her "national are only to a small extent embodied in constitutional documents," which are readily accessible to American readers—must be accepted as sufficient. Portugal and Denmark seem to be rated as insignificant countries, but the editor has seen fit to include their constitutions. One may be pardoned for asking whether the space occupied by these, and perhaps a little in addition, might not more profitably

have been taken up with a few typical constitutions in commonwealths in those states having the dual system of government. In such countries the commonwealth constitutions are a part of the fundamental law of the land. A citizen of one of these states may have a fair conception of the place of the commonwealth in other states similarly organized, but the student in England or France will get very little light on the subject by studying the national constitutions. For example, how is the European ever to learn the law of suffrage in the United States? from the Federal Constitution? Some other countries also lack uniformity in suffrage requirements.

The Gordian knot of explanatory notes was cut by making them very brief. In this most scholars will agree that the editor has chosen the wiser course. However, in some instances just a few words more would have been very helpful. In several cases the reader is told when the constitution was adopted, but is not told how it was drawn up or how it was adopted.

These criticisms, or rather suggestions, are not meant in any way to disparage the work of Mr. Dodd. The collection will prove of inestimable benefit to teachers and students of constitutional law and they owe the editor a debt of gratitude for making it. Especially is he to be commended for giving the documents in translations. Not one scholar in a hundred is acquainted with half the languages represented.

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