

different and new types of material have been introduced . . .". It is therefore not a new edition but is indeed an entirely new book. Suffice it to say, I find this effort superior.

E. ARTHUR BRAID*

DUTT ON THE INDIAN CONTRACT ACT, 4th Edition

By B. C. Mitra; (Eastern Law House: Calcutta). 1969, 1156 pp.

The legal classic written by Sir Dinshaw Mulla P.C., that doyen of the Bombay solicitors, on the Indian Contract Act remains the leading textbook and commentary on this topic after half a century. However, the fourth edition of A. C. Dutt's work on this subject will prove a useful volume in view of the large number of cases decided every year by the High Courts of the various states in India and the variations between the decisions in different states since 1951.

This book was originally written to provide a comparative commentary on the development of contract law in the light of Indian decisions as contrasted to cases decided by the Courts in England according to the concepts of common law in the nineteenth century. The author's original aim has been preserved by the editor of the current edition. In view of the rapidly changing circumstances in post-Independence India, and in view of twentieth century developments in the common law in England, the provisions of the Indian Contract Act would have become fossilized law were it not for the flexible interpretation given by the High Courts of different states to suit the more 'Indian' conditions prevailing in commerce today.

The editor of this edition of the book is to be complimented on his thorough research, sound study and clear presentation of all the major decisions in all the state High Courts and the Supreme Court in the past eighteen years. This book is valuable not only for its scholarly depth but also for its practical presentation of the material. The book contains ten chapters which divide the 266 sections of the Indian Contract Act into suitable topics. Each section is discussed lucidly in the light of recent judicial developments and differences in interpretation between the High Courts of various states and Supreme Court decisions. The presentation of material is particularly helpful for practicing lawyers, with the commentary in large clear type and easy to read footnotes on every page listing

* Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba.

all the cases and citations relevant to the section of the Act which is discussed on that page.

The book also contains an accurate and comprehensively complete index of cases decided by the courts in England, the Privy Council and the courts in India, both before and after independence, as well as a very helpful and clearly tabulated index cross-referencing cases and topics to the correct pages on which the matter is discussed.

This is a solid and substantial work on the law of contract in India which can be recommended not only to practicing lawyers in India but also to those lawyers who are interested in comparative law and seek material on the comparative development of the law of contract in the United Kingdom and India during the twentieth century.

MEHER K. MASTER*

THE LAW OF ELECTIONS IN INDIA

By K. C. Ray; (Eastern Law House: Calcutta); 189 pp.

Both lawyers and statesmen interested in the current political developments of Parliamentary democracy on the Westminster model will find "The Law of Elections in India" by K. C. Ray a useful little book which collects in a short space the law governing political elections in India as well as an analysis of the current malaise of "floor-crossing" by M.P.'s both in the Central Parliament and in State Legislatures together with some thoughtful suggestions for a solution to the problem. The inclusion of a speech by that most eminent and able lawyer, Mr. C. K. Dafthary, former Attorney General of India enhances the value of the book.

The political experiment in democracy in India is one which is of great significance among the "developing" countries of Asia. Those observers in the U.S.A., Canada and Western Europe who are committed to democracy as their political credo must surely regard the success of this experiment as crucial to the survival of British parliamentarianism and the firm establishment of democracy as more than merely a political philosophy in Asia. The success of this experiment in a large, unwieldy and difficult to administer sub-continent as vast as India, with its many different races, religions, castes, communities, cultural and linguistic and ethnic groups attempting to weld together a non-Federal United Republic, a single nation state from tremendous diversity has been jeopardised

* Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba.