

INTRODUCTION TO COMPANY LAW

By J. F. Northey, L. H. Leigh and D. Goldberg; (Butterworths), 1971; 331 pp., index 13 pp.

Although this book is not company law in a nutshell, cases and materials on company law nor a major treatise on the subject, it nevertheless possesses some of the characteristics of each. The publication does not pretend to be a practitioner's text nor, is it equal to the scholarly *Gower*. The title itself indicates that this is merely an *introduction* to company law. Perhaps a more descriptive title would have been "A Comprehensive Overview of English Company Law". All major areas of company law are covered with an economy of language that is quite remarkable and interspersed throughout one finds conveniently capsulized, most of the leading cases in the various areas.

The preface states that the book "gives a reasoned discussion of the basic principles underlying company law in sufficient detail to be useful to the student." Indeed, the book is useful to a student who is concerned with passing law exams because it gives to him in a clear, straight forward, concise manner, with the appropriate intermingling of digested cases, enough knowledge to enable him to pass his examination. He will, in the process also acquire a good working knowledge of English Company Law. The book, of course, is not and is not intended to be an enriching, in depth, scholarly work.

Being an English text, (although one of the authors is a Canadian), the book will have little appeal to Canadian law students. Some areas, however, such as duties and liabilities of directors, capital, dividends and the history and nature of the corporation will be useful, but these subject matters take up only a small part of the book.

In sum, I would recommend the purchase of this book by students studying English Company Law but would not recommend its purchase by English or Canadian practitioners or Canadian law students although reference to it for an overview of selected areas could indeed be useful.

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