

## **CASES ON THE CANADIAN LAW OF INSURANCE**

**Crawford, Baer, Donald, and Rendall, Carswell, Toronto, 1976,  
524 pp., A Carswell Student Edition, \$19.50**

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This is the second of the Carswell paperback student editions to be reviewed in this Journal.<sup>1</sup> As pointed out in the book's preface, it is the first commercially published casebook on the law of insurance in Canada since 1950.

The binding is good, the printing clear and the savings on hardcover prices appreciated. The organization of the material is logical and well presented. The cases chosen, if perhaps somewhat lacking in recent vintage, are generally illustrative of the judicial clarity or confusion of whatever issue is in question. It has the potential of being a valuable teaching aid.

It is not, however, a text. There are editorial notes after most of the cases, occasionally giving brief comments upon the judgments; more often giving references to other cases arriving at seemingly incompatible results. For the most part, there is not enough overview or commentary. It is undeniable that source material is invaluable but at least for us relatively unsophisticated students, insight into the sources is much appreciated. Perhaps the editors considered it to be the function of the professors to furnish such insight.

It may seem unfair to criticize this casebook on the grounds that it is precisely what it purports to be — a book full of cases. Balanced against the beneficial results of reading the contained material is the factor of value received for money paid. My own personal prejudice is that I generally would not consider spending a good deal of money on a book which offers me nothing more than I can get from a decent syllabus and access to a legal library. To refer back to the preface, perhaps this is precisely why such a casebook has not been commercially published in the last twenty-six years.

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1 See B.G. Browning, *Macrae on Evidence*, 7 Man. Law J. 351