

RAILWAY NEGLIGENCE.—The use of salt on railroad switches to keep them free from ice, whereby cattle are attracted to the switch and killed by trains, is held, in *Kirk v. Norfolk & W. R. Co.* (W. Va.), 32 L.R.A. 416, to be lawful, and not to constitute negligence, when such use of salt is shown to be necessary to protect the lives of passengers and others on trains.

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## Book Reviews.

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*Confederation Law of Canada*, by GERALD JOHN WHEELER, M.A., LL.B., of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-law. Canada Law Journal Company, Toronto, agents for Canada.

This new work is most complete in its arrangement, and covers all Imperial legislation affecting Canada. The British North America Act of course claims the most attention, and it and the decisions under it have been fully annotated, and the more important judgments quoted in full. The volume, which covers 1,200 pages, will be found a necessity by all interested in Canadian constitutional questions.

*The Law of Electricity*, by SIMON GREENLEAF CROSSWELL, late of the law department of the Thomson-Houston and General Electric Companies. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: Canada Law Journal Co.

This valuable work of 800 pages supplies the want of a text book on telegraph, telephone, electric railway and electric lighting cases, which are continually increasing. Canadian and English cases are included, and the work is confidently recommended to the profession.

*Manual of Evidence in Civil Cases*, by R. E. KINGSFORD, M.A., LL.B., of Toronto, Barrister, second edition, Toronto: the Goodwin Law Book & Publishing Co. Ltd., 1897.

As claimed by the author, the best evidence of the utility of this book is, as the author remarks, the fact that a second edition is called for. In a small work such as this, there is, of course, no possibility of going into the subject at all exhaustively. The intention has been simply to provide a compact statement of the proof required in each action, and to cite the essential cases which are apposite. An appendix contains the Evidence Act and its amendments, and a collection of some more recent cases. Whatever Mr. Kingsford does is done with accuracy and research and in a scholarly style.

*Elements of the Law of Contracts*, by E. A. HARRIMAN, Professor of Law in the North-western University Law School Boston, 1896: Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: Canada Law Journal Co.

This concise work of 300 pages is planned somewhat on the style of "Anson," and is essentially a student's text book. The sub-division of the subject is made easier by treating voidable contracts under the head of Rescission, and by classifying together impossibility of performance and construction of contracts. The effect is good and the whole work bears evidence of careful and scholarly composition.