

November 1919

## Barnes' Federal Code

T. P. H.

*West Virginia University College of Law*

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### Recommended Citation

T. P. H., *Barnes' Federal Code*, 26 W. Va. L. Rev. (1919).

Available at: <https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/wvlr/vol26/iss1/12>

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In the principal case the chief ground of decision is that the lessor by his acts estopped himself from treating the lessee's rights under the lease as at an end and, under the circumstances, the decision of the court is undoubtedly sound on that point.

—J. W. S.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

BARNES' FEDERAL CODE containing all federal statutes of a general and public nature now in force. Edited by Uriah Barnes. Charleston, West Virginia. Virginian Law Book Co. 1919. pp. civ, 2831.

Barnes' Federal Code, the latest one-volume edition of the federal statutes, seems to be the most successful effort as yet made either by Congress or by private enterprise to bring within moderate compass the enormous amount of federal legislation of a public nature in force at the time of publication. Congressional legislation has always been so prolific that as early as 1874 Congress sought to remedy the difficulty encountered in the use of the seventeen bulky volumes of Statutes at Large which had been issued to that date by providing for a thorough revision of the federal laws. Pursuant to this Act the first edition of the Revised Statutes was published in 1875 in one volume, embracing all the laws in force to December 1, 1873, as contained in the Statutes at Large to and including volume 17. In 1878, a second edition of the Revised Statutes appeared, containing acts passed by Congress subsequent to December 1, 1873. In 1891, a Supplement to the Revised Statutes was published, covering the period from 1874 to 1891 and embracing the laws then in force contained in volumes 18-26 of the Statutes at Large. In 1901, a second volume of the Supplement was published, covering the period down to 1901 and embracing the laws contained in volumes 27-31 of the Statutes at Large. Since 1901 the federal government has published no further Revisions or Supplements. Therefore, the official public statutes of the United States are now contained in the Revised Statutes, one volume, the Supplements to the Revised Statutes, two volumes, and some ten extremely large volumes of the Statutes at Large.

Efforts by private enterprise to remedy this situation have been made from time to time through the publication of the Compiled Statutes in five-volume and twelve-volume annotated editions and a recent somewhat large and bulky one-volume edition, and through the publication of the first and second editions of the Federal Statutes Annotated, twelve volumes. Barnes' Federal Code brings all the laws contained in the larger several-volume editions within the compass of one comparatively small volume, and in this way fills a much felt want of those who have occasion frequently to make use of the federal statutes and who are troubled by the cumbersomeness of the other editions or their large cost. Other features of Barnes' Federal Code which are particularly worthy of mention are as follows:

1. The parallel reference table by which one can readily find the corresponding sections in either the Federal Statutes Annotated (2 ed., 1916) or in the twelve-volume annotated edition of the Compiled Statutes, 1916, in which there are copious annotations. This makes it possible to find the annotations in the larger, several-volume editions without a search in their indices.

2. The tables of statutes enable one who has a reference either to the Revised Statutes or to the Statutes at Large to find without difficulty the statute sought in Barnes' Federal Code. This is also true of references given to either the Judicial Code or the Criminal Code.

3. A list of "Important Acts by Popular Name" is of great assistance in view of the fact that acts such as the Reed Amendment or the Hepburn Act are very often referred to by name without citation.

4. The typography is very clear and the use of thin paper and Morocco binding has made it possible to bring all of the federal statutes within the compass of one moderate-sized volume which is easy to handle and use.

5. The decision of the editors to base their classification upon the Revised Statutes seems wise because of the superiority and convenience of this arrangement, the long period during which it has been in general use, and the great familiarity with it on the part of all persons heretofore using or consulting the federal statutes. It would also appear to be the better arrangement in view of the fact that very much of the current legislation of Congress is enacted with specific reference to the Revised Statutes by way

of amendment, re-enactment or repeal of particular sections therein. An examination of Barnes' Federal Code with reference to the placing of the material which has accumulated since 1878 would seem to indicate that this vast body of statutory law has been logically distributed under the various Titles according to subject-matter and relationship to the old official compilation. The result is that the laws found in the Revised Statutes are found under the Titles under which they were placed originally and the new material since that time is classified on the same basis when it bears any logical relation to the old Titles. In those instances in which the editors have been compelled to adopt new classifications or Titles for covering new material, it would seem that their arrangement is both logical and convenient.

6. The headlines indicate accurately and adequately the contents of each section, enabling one to catch its subject at a glance. Citations at the end of each section give in chronological order the chain of prior legislation, enabling a user of the book to make an historical study of any particular statute by tracing its changes and modifications through previous amendments and enactments.

Barnes' Federal Code should be a very convenient and useful book not only for practitioners but also for all who ever have occasion to know the federal law.

—T. P. H.