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tories]. . . . If they had not spoken they would have been attacked as delinquent. If there had been no decision, men would probably ask, in the years to come, why the last peaceful means of settling the issue that precipitated the Civil War had not been tried." (P. vi.) He would also have gone a long way to dissolve the otherwise vexing paradox that the great Chief Justice Taney should suddenly in 1857 seem to abandon that Jacksonian respect for the processes of democracy which for twenty years had been the hallmark of his judicial career.

WALLACE MENDELSON*

BOOK NOTES

CONSERVATION OF OIL AND GAS, A LEGAL HISTORY, 1948. Edited by Blakely M. Murphy. Chicago: American Bar Association, 1949. Pp. xvii, 754. \$3.00.

The Section of Mineral Law of the American Bar Association in its sponsorship of this volume has presented a more comprehensive survey of oil and gas conservation in the United States than was attempted in earlier *Legal History of Conservation of Oil and Gas—A Symposium* (1938). Commencing with a section on the physical facts of petroleum reservoir behavior, this book proceeds to cover all the major aspects of the conservation problem. Perhaps the most valuable section of the work is a collection of monographs describing in detail the legislative, administrative and judicial machinery for conserving oil and gas within each of 36 producing states. These were prepared largely by local oil and gas specialists, among whom are such eminent petroleum law scholars as Summers and Harwicke. The origin and function of the Interstate Oil Compact are treated in series of chapters prepared by the Editor. Northcutt Ely's 117-page tract on the role of the Federal Government in oil and gas conservation concludes the book.

Although frank about the many shortcomings, past and present, of state supervised conservation, the contributors to this book do not conceal their preference for the present system over one of central federal regulation. Their views were rejected once in the days of the NIRA; today proposals for drastically more federal control over conservation are again appearing. Those who would intelligently judge this critical conflict of economic philosophies will profit from this volume.

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