

be its own arbiter. To pronounce on matters of privilege one needs to know Parliament: it is not something which can be taught or learned from books and statutes. One needs to live amongst it, to breathe the atmosphere of Parliament, to be steeped in its history, traditions and meaning. Let the courts look after their contempts and Parliament after theirs. When dignity is assailed—and that is what privilege is all about—it is best resolved by the parties to the indignity.

Support is found for this view in Lord Champion's *An Introduction to the Procedure of the House of Commons*:

Breach of privilege is contempt of the High Court of Parliament, and the power to punish the commission of it rests, as in the case of the courts, upon the inherent power of an authority to do all that is necessary to maintain its own dignity and efficiency. The courts do not check each other in committing for contempt, and on the whole the accepted doctrine is that they do not interfere with the action of either House in this matter.¹

For her scholarly work we are much indebted to Professor Campbell, not only for her factual account of the law of privilege, but also for her criticisms, which whether one agrees with them or not represent a valuable contribution to thought on a complex subject of public importance.

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Moss: Sale of Land and Conveyancing Costs in New South Wales, by E. A. Francis, Sydney, Butterworth & Co. (Aust.) Ltd., (4 ed.) 1967. 663 pp. (\$12.75 in Australia).

Some 104 years after the introduction of the Torrens System of title in New South Wales, conveyancing is still becoming an increasingly complex art. The current legislation to bring old system titles under the Real Property Act automatically, highly desirable as it is, will only slightly simplify the practice of the conveyancer.

In recent years legislation has introduced a new form of title (Conveyancing (Strata Titles) Act 1961) and has regulated certain sales of land on terms (Land Vendors Act 1964). In addition, legal restriction on the use of land and statutory charges on land for rates and taxes have become more complex thus multiplying the number of enquiries and searches which the conveyancer must make before a completion of a purchase.

As well as being familiar with all these matters, the competent conveyancer must appreciate the detail of the rules of contract law particularly applicable to contracts for the sale of land.

As a result of all these factors, the conveyancer has become concerned with much more than the procedure for vesting the vendor's title in the purchaser. This tendency is reflected in the latest edition of *Moss on Sale of Land* which lives up to the reputation acquired by the previous editions as a valuable manual of conveyancing practice.

The Fourth Edition of *Moss* takes account of the revised form of contract of sale prepared for the Law Society of New South Wales and the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales and contains detailed notes on the provisions of that form. It also includes a discussion of the Land Vendors Act, an

¹ 2 ed. (1947) at 70-71.

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improved outline of the practice of home unit conveyancing and the amended scale of conveyancing costs adopted on the introduction of decimal currency. The text has generally been revised and references to recent case law inserted.

The main criticism which can be made of the work is perhaps unfair. The treatment of the purely contractual aspects of the relations between vendor and purchaser and particularly the discussion, in Chapter 10, of the rights of the parties on default, seem to be inadequate. Perhaps this is to say that *Moss* is a practice book, not a legal treatise, but it should be noted that the volume does not give the practitioner great assistance when he is faced with a difficult and contentious question of law.

This aside, however, Mr. Francis has produced a book which brings the conveyancer up to date in the fields of law affecting his practice and which will no doubt continue to be a standard work of reference in the subject.

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