Le reportage de la jurisprudence des Prairies de l'est a été assuré en grande partie par des éditeurs situés dans les grands centres urbains des autres régions du Canada. Il y a toutefois une quantité importante de jurisprudence provenant des Prairies elles-mêmes qui s'est ajoutée au corpus jurisprudentiel canadien.

Introduction

The most striking feature about any aspect of the legal history of Manitoba and Saskatchewan is its brevity. The use of the term “North-West Territories” first occurs in federal legislation of 1869 which anticipated the incorporation of the sprawling area known as Rupert’s Land and North-Western Territory into the union. In 1869, the Northwest Territories were divided into the provisional districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Athabaska and, on September 1, 1905, Saskatchewan entered Confederation as a province under the terms of the Saskatchewan Act.

Meanwhile, back in London, Stanley Shaw Bond had, by 1908, gained control of the publishing firm founded by Henry Butterworth in 1818. Bond is often credited with delaying the development of distinctive legal systems in the Dominions through his aggressive marketing of works such as The English and Empire Digest and Halsbury’s Laws of England. Ever on the look-out for new opportunities, Bond incorporated his Canadian division, Butterworth & Co. (Canada) Ltd., on November 14, 1912, and had an office set up in Winnipeg under Owen Elliot who managed Butterworths’ Canadian operation from then until 1957.

There are apocryphal stories that Bond chose Winnipeg as the site for his office by sending for a map of Canada and sticking a pin in the middle of it. However, Owen Elliot records that Bond had once stopped in Winnipeg while returning from Australia to London. “He found it to be a flourishing town (the third largest in Canada), and was assured by local businessmen that it was the ideal centre. Bitter experience was to prove that, while Winnipeg was the commercial centre for destinations west, it was a country town to the conservative easterners of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.” Butterworths opened a small office in Toronto in 1923 and, by 1925, had moved its entire operation to that city.

The year of Butterworths’ entry into Canada, 1912, was a banner year in Canadian legal publishing. It also marked the beginning of the Dominion Law Reports by the Canada Law Book Company, and of the Western Weekly Reports by Burroughs & Co. of Calgary. Burroughs had recently broken away from Canada Law Book to set up his own company. In 1919, he started the ambitious publication of the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest (Western); unfortunately for him, its original form was so close to that of Butterworths’ Halsbury’s that he was forced to rewrite the first issue when challenged on copyright infringement. (In passing, and just to account for another Canadian publisher, it should be noted that Richard De Boo joined the Butterworths’ staff in 1921. He worked for them off and on until 1940 when he founded his own publishing house.) Burroughs had managed to side-step litigation with Butterworths, but Canada Law Book was not so fortunate. The latter two companies entered into a long court battle over which of them had the right to market the first edition of Halsbury’s Laws in Canada. The case went all the way to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and Canada Law Book ultimately lost. Ironically, the account of their loss was among the first cases to appear in their own report series, Dominion Law Reports.

This brief period during the infancy of Canadian legal publishing
marked the high point of activity in the eastern prairies. The field soon came to be dominated by publishers located in the larger urban centres to the west and east. However, there are several items of note that have a particular local origin or focus.

Case Reports
A. Manitoba

The full name of this volume is: *Reports of cases argued and determined in the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba both at law and in equity and some cases determined in the County Courts during the time of Chief Justice Wood, from 1875 to 1883; being principally judgments of the Chief Justice*, edited by E. Douglas Armour (Toronto; Edinburgh: Carswell, 1884). While *Manitoba Reports, Temp. Wood* is the citation used in the Boult bibliography and most other standard sources, the item is sometimes, confusingly, cited as simply *Manitoba Law Reports*.10

2. *Carey's Manitoba Reports, 1875*, 1 vol.

This slim volume has the full title of *Judgments in the Queen's Bench, Manitoba, Wood, C.J.*, reported by Daniel Carey, and it appeared under two imprints. The first, which was published in Winnipeg by the Office of the Nor'-Wester in 1875, is very rare. A reprint appeared in 1918 published by Burroughs in Calgary. According to the Preface of the reprint, only three copies of the original volume of *Carey’s Manitoba Reports* were known to exist. Two of these were said to be in the hands of the Provincial Librarian in Winnipeg. Another copy is currently in the Shortt Collection of Canadiana at the University of Saskatchewan. Even the reprint is not a particularly common item. It was limited to a run of two hundred copies of which one hundred were made available to U.S. and foreign law libraries.

*Carey* can (and, in fact, does) lay claim to being the first volume of published Manitoba reports. However, the rarity of the original edition, and the fact that the volume contains only two cases11 make it more of a bibliographic curiosity than a useful research source. Its most interesting aspect is the Introduction in which Carey gives practice guides to justices of the peace.


For a long time this was the major Manitoba report series; however, there has always been uncertainty about how to cite it. Volumes 1-6 were published under the title: “*Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Court of Queen’s Bench, Manitoba, with Table of Cases and Principal Matters*”. The running title was “Manitoba Law Reports”. Beginning with volume 7, the title and the running title became “The Manitoba Reports”, but the title at the beginning of the table of cases (p. [iv]) was “Manitoba Law Reports”. The spine title for the entire run of the 67 volumes is “Manitoba Law Reports” and this is the name by which it is generally best known, although both forms commonly appear in bibliographies.

The imprint also varies. Volumes 1-4 and 6-8 were published in Winnipeg by R.D. Richardson; volume 5 in Toronto by Carswell; volumes 9-25 in Winnipeg by the Stovel Company; and 26-67 by the Law Society of Manitoba. Volumes 1-25 were published under the authority of the Law Society, so the entire set should be considered semi-official.

4. *Manitoba Reports (2d)*, 1979-

This report series is one of the many produced by Maritime Law Book Ltd. of Fredericton. It includes cases from the Manitoba Court of Appeal, selected decisions from other provincial courts, and selected cases appealed to the federal courts. Like the rest of Maritime Law Book’s publications, it utilizes a topical index system. It appears in loose parts which cumulate into bound volumes, and cumulative digests and indexes are issued after every ten volumes of the reports.

B. Saskatchewan

The first volume of this set was published in Toronto in 1909 by Canada Law Book. Beginning with volume 10, it was published by Burroughs & Co. in Calgary. All decisions were reported under the authority of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. Only the decisions of the superior courts are included, i.e. (depending upon the year in question) the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan, the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan, or the Court of Appeal (created in 1918).

The series contains some of the best early judgments of John Henderson Lamont who, in 1927, became the second prairie incumbent on the Supreme Court of Canada. (Chief Justice Albert C. Killam of Manitoba served on the SCC from 1903 to 1905).13 Also represented is some of the best work of William Ferdinand Alphonse Turgeon who was noted for the clarity and conciseness of his judgments. He has been called “the finest writer of judgments on any Saskatchewan Bench”.14

2. *Saskatchewan Reports*, 1979-

For nearly half a century Saskatchewan did not have a report series devoted exclusively to the decisions of its provincial courts. This was remedied in 1980 with the publication of *Saskatchewan Reports*, again by the ubiquitous Maritime Law Book Ltd. The series contains all of the judgments of the Court of Appeal plus selected judgments from other Saskatchewan courts. In addition, judgments of the Supreme Court of Canada for cases originating in Saskatchewan are included. Like the *Manitoba Reports (2d)* and most other Maritime Law Book publications, it appears in loose parts which cumulate into bound volumes, and cumulative digests and indexes are issued after every ten volumes. Within the province, it is probably the most frequently cited report series.

C. Combined reports
1. *Reports of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories*, 1887-1898, 2 vols.

This set consists of a four-part vol. 1, and a two-part vol. 2. Each of the six parts has separate pagination.
The cases were reported by W.C. Hamilton and published between 1889 and 1900 in Regina. All the parts except the last were printed by The Leader Co. Vol. 2, pt. 2 was printed by Standard Print. No cumulative case tables or indexes were issued. The set was reprinted as part of the Territories Law Reports.

2. Territories Law Reports, 1885-1907, 7 vols.

These reports, published under the authority of the Law Society of the North-West Territories, include, in revised form, all the cases reported in Reports of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories, as well as other decisions of the Court. Although case coverage begins with 1885, the first volume of the set was published in 1900 by Carswell.

Volume 1 includes a "Memorandum of statutes, ordinances, and orders-in-council bearing upon the legislative powers of the North-West Territories and the administration of justice up to the constitution and organization of the Supreme Court of the North-West Territories" and the consolidated rules of the Court. These were "compiled in the belief that they [would] be found of value, not merely to the student of history, but also to the advocate in his practice". Because of the period of coverage, the set includes cases from present-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

3. Western Law Times, 1889-1895, 6 vols.

This publication began in April 1890 partly to fill the gap left by the demise of the short-lived Manitoba Law Journal in 1885. It started out as a legal periodical with notes to the profession, book reviews, and articles dealing with topics such as recent Manitoba legislation, the rise of law in Rupert's Land, and the sheriffs of Assiniboia. Summaries of court decisions from Manitoba and the North-West Territories were included and this section quickly expanded to become "The Western Law Times Reports". By the time volume 4 was published, the editors felt that their coverage of legal developments in the West and in the Supreme Court warranted a change of title to The Western Law Times of Canada. The set was published in Winnipeg and edited by Archer Martin and J.T. Huggard. Despite their "hope to crown [their] endeavors with success by the generous support and hearty cooperation of the profession" the venture ceased publication in 1896.


At the beginning of 1905, Carswell began publishing the Western Law Reporter which contained reports of cases from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon Territory. It also included cases from the West heard on appeal in the Supreme Court of Canada. This series continued until the middle of World War I when it ceased publication because of duplication with Western Weekly Reports and competition from the individual provincial reporters.

5. Western Weekly Reports, 1911-1936

Burroughs began publication of W.W.R. in November 1911 in Calgary. The series contained judgments delivered by and originating in the courts of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, including appeals to the Supreme Court of Canada and the Privy Council. Now in its eighty-second year of publication, it continues to be the most commonly cited reporter in the West.

6. Dominion Law Reports, 1912-1935

This set with its various series and styles of citation is familiar to anyone practising law or legal librarianship in Canada. Detailed descriptions of this Canada Law Book publication can be found in any book dealing with Canadian legal research. It is included here simply for the sake of completeness and because, in the early part of this century, it was largely responsible for bringing the decisions of the courts of western Canada to the attention of lawyers, judges, and academics in the rest of the country.

Western practitioners were not always happy with the speed in which cases from their jurisdictions appeared in the national or regional report series. During the 1920s and early 1930s, for example, John Diefenbaker (then a young lawyer practising in Wakaw and Prince Albert) frequently used to cite the old Saskatchewan Law Reports. With their demise in 1932, he was forced to rely on W.W.R. and D.L.R. He, like many lawyers during the dirty thirties, often represented clients of rather limited resources. On one occasion in 1936, he bemoaned the fact that his client was unable to afford a transcription of a decision of the Court of Appeal and he would have to wait until the case was eventually published.17

Manitoba had no cause to be dissatisfied with the coverage received from the national report series. For example, of the 483 cases reported in the 1935 volumes of D.L.R., 60 (12.42%) were from Manitoba. On the other hand, during the same period, only 11 cases (2.28%) originated in Saskatchewan.

D. National reports

1. Canadian Human Rights Reporter, 1980-

C.H.R.R. publishes the full text of human rights decisions from all jurisdictions in Canada. The Prairie connection exists in the fact that vols. 1-6 (1980-85) were published in Saskatoon because C.H.R.R. had its origin in the decisions of cases published by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. Beginning with vol. 7, the series has been published in Vancouver.

2. Canadian Native Law Reporter, 1979-

Published by the Native Law Centre of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, C.N.L.R. superseded the Centre's Canadian Native Law Bulletin (1 vol., 1977-78). The Native Law Centre was established in 1975 with funds provided to the University by the Donner Canadian Foundation and the Law Foundation of Saskatchewan. "The fundamental objective of the Centre is to assist in the development of law and the legal system in Canada in ways which will better accommodate the advancement of native communities in Canadian society."18

The Bulletin was designed to pro-
vide basic information on current developments in the native law field and was aimed at as broad a constituency as possible. Its policy statement was set out in the first issue:

It is hoped that it will be of help to the lawyer working in the area as a means of keeping up to date on developments and as a research aid when dealing with a specific problem. The editors believe that it is valuable for both native and governmental organizations to be familiar with the legal basis of the special position of native people in this country. Finally, those with a non-legal academic or practical interest in the problems of native people should find in this Bulletin a means of broadening the perspective of their own work.

The task of attempting to function as a case reporter, an academic journal, and a newsletter proved to be somewhat unwieldy so, in 1979, the title was changed to the Canadian Native Law Reporter. Since then, C.N.L.R. has published cases (some of which are also reported elsewhere) dealing with Native legal issues. From time to time, it includes noteworthy articles and case comments.

Case Digests

A. Manitoba
1. Manitoba Digest, 1875-1899, 1 vol.
This work has the full title The Manitoba Digest, 1875-1899, of the cases reported in the volumes Temp. Wood and 1-XII of the Manitoba Law Reports with tables of cases contained in digest; those affirmed or reversed on appeal to the Supreme Court of the Province of Manitoba by a Judge of the Provincial Court of Queen's Bench. It was compiled by order of the Law Society of Manitoba by Alan C. Ewart and published in Winnipeg by Stovel in 1900.

2. Manitoba Digest, 1875-1911, 1 vol.
Thirteen years later what, in effect, was a second edition of Digest was published under the title Manitoba Digest, 1875-1911, of cases reported in volumes Temp. Wood and 1-XXI

Manitoba Reports together with a selection of Manitoba cases from the reports of the Supreme and Exchequer Courts of Canada and other Canadian legal publications; also table of cases affirmed, reversed, followed, overruled or specially considered. It, too, was compiled by order of the Law Society by George Patterson and William A. Taylor and published by Stovel in Winnipeg in 1913.

3. Manitoba Decisions, 1975-
This is part of the Decisions series published by Western Legal Publications. It includes summaries of the reasons for judgment in civil and criminal cases from the Manitoba Court of Appeal, and Court of Queen's Bench. Digests are published monthly for every decision of the courts where written or transcribed oral reasons are available, and where the reasons contain sufficient information to warrant a digest. Civil and criminal cases are filed in separate subject arrangements and each has a cumulative monthly table of cases.

B. Saskatchewan
1. Saskatchewan Decisions, 1975-
Like Manitoba Decisions, this looseleaf service cumulates annually into volumes of civil and criminal cases. It digests, by subject, all available decisions of the Provincial Court, the Saskatoon Unified Family Court, the Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Appeal. Again, separate cumulative tables of cases are produced monthly.

2. This Week's Law, 1982-
This is a home-grown Saskatchewan product that should be the envy of many other jurisdictions. The service, produced by the Law Society of Saskatchewan Libraries, is updated approximately twice a month and cumulates into annual volumes that contain just about everything a researcher might want to know about the current state of the law in the province.
Among its many features are:
• Digests of cases from the Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench, and Court of Appeal
• Table of Cases
• Subject Index

There is also a table that indicates where cases digested in T.W.L. have been reported.

This is an invaluable source which is often overlooked because, being purely local in nature, it is seldom mentioned in the national legal writing and research manuals. There are plans to make T.W.L. available online through the Law Society's Legal Information Network.

C. Combined
1. Power's Digests
Again, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, of necessity, often had to rely on material produced in other centres. One of the most commonly used sources throughout this century was the series of digests produced by W. Kent Power. The first of these was An Index-Digest of Western Practice Cases in Civil Actions to the End of 1920, published in Calgary by Burroughs in 1921. Power himself saw the difficulty in trying to cover all of western Canada in one volume, but pleaded the economics of the situation in which the publishers found themselves:

Were all the lawyers in the Western provinces practising under the one set of rules it would be commercially feasible to publish the rules and annotations thereon in one volume in the form of similar English works, or were such provinces much more populous than they are at present it would be feasible to provide such a work for each of them, despite the diversity in the rules. Under present conditions, however, a legal work designed especially for the Western lawyer cannot pay its way unless it finds the maximum possible sale in each of the four provinces.

(This is a tune that even present-day legal publishers are likely to hum).
second edition appeared in 1953\textsuperscript{23} with three times as much material as the first. The current third edition is kept up-to-date with permanent supplements.\textsuperscript{24}

2. Western Weekly Digests, 1975-1976

Begun in 1975, this was intended to be an annual publication which provided a succinct statement of the facts and principles of law applied in cases handed down by the courts of western Canada. Unfortunately, it lasted only two years. At about the same time, Carswell also began publishing Alberta Law Reports (2d) and British Columbia Law Reports, and Maritime Law Book introduced Alberta Reports. The goal of W.W.D. had been to keep the profession abreast of important decisions and, "[a]s it was felt that his had been largely realized by the introduction of the ... new provincial series, the digest service was discontinued".\textsuperscript{25} The loss of W.W.D. was also offset by the appearance of Manitoba Reports (2d) and Saskatchewan Reports in 1979 and 1980.

3. Western Charter Digest, 1983-84

The large number of cases arising under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms after its promulgation on April 17, 1982, led Carswell to include western Charter decisions as part of the weekly issues of Western Weekly Reports. These were not included in the bound volumes of W.W.R. but were published as two separate volumes entitled Western Charter Digest in 1983 and 1984. By that time a fair number of Charter decisions had been reported and were also appearing in specialized services such as Charter of Rights Decisions (Western Legal Publications) and Canadian Charter of Rights Annotated (Canada Law Book). Carswell, therefore, discontinued W.C.D.

Online Sources

Some of the more current report series are also marketed as databases. QL Systems provides access to W.W.R. (headnotes since 1968), Man. R. (headnotes since 1979), and Sask. R. (headnotes since 1979). Starting in July 1992, the Can/Law databases created by Canada Law Book are available on Quicklaw as well as through Infomart Law Online: D.L.R. (headnotes from 1955; headnotes and full text from (1987), 32 D.L.R. (4th)); C.C.C. (headnotes from 1971; headnotes and full text from (1987), 30 C.C.C. (3d)). Other Canada Law Book series are also available: A.C.W.S., W.C.B., L.A.C., C.L.A.S., and C.P.R. Eight series of reports from Western Legal Publications (including Sask. D. and Man. D.) are available through Infomart and also appear as Quicklaw databases. In addition, Canadian Law Online, produced by Thomson, contains summaries of many cases from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. And finally, reported and unreported cases can be retrieved from the MJ and SJ components of QL’s Canadian judgments database.

Conclusion

Little attempt has been made here to discuss most of the national reporters and digests. (D.L.R. was mentioned because it, along with W.W.R., filled the lacuna created by the temporary absence of individual reporters for Manitoba and Saskatchewan). But, of course, cases from the eastern Prairies appear in all of the national sources such as, for example, the Abridgment. The object has been to examine material with a particular Prairie provenance — material that has added to the broad fabric of Canadian legal publishing.

ENDNOTES

1. Temporary Government of Rupert's Land Act, 1869, 32-33 Vict., c. 3 (Can.).
2. Much of the historical data used in this section is drawn from the first chapter of W.H. McConnell, Prairie Justice (Calgary: Burroughs, 1980).
3. 33 Vict., c. 3 (Can.).
4. The boundaries of the province were extended in 1881 by 44 Vict., c. 14 (Can.).
5. 4-5 Edw. VII, c. 42 (Can.).
7. Ibid., 66.
9. R. Boulit, A Bibliography of Canadian Law/