The great complexity of mining claims in the West has given rise to a branch of law which is in itself almost a distinct profession, and offers a wide field of usefulness for clear-headed young lawyers. It is scarcely necessary to say how important it is that every mining engineer should be informed at least on the general forms to be gone through, in order to secure his claim and perfect his right to mineral lands, and the laws governing the following up of veins which encroach upon another claim. In the various States the existing laws are in some respects conspicuously different, and one may postpone the study of particular cases until the permanent seat of his labors has been found after graduation. But on the decisions and regulations of the Land Office every student of mining and surveying should not fail to post himself, on account of their very general application.

It is interesting, in this connection, to give a statement concerning the Land Office, which is: The General Land Office will neither supervise nor disregard the decisions of the courts in cases of conflicting claims to the possession of mining property which may have been submitted to them. That is to say, the courts are the expounders of the Land Office regulations.

An interesting decision came up in connection with the Mt. Diablo Mining and Milling Company (of which Mr. Shockley of '75 is superintendent) vs. Callison, in Nevada, which is worth citing: "Work done outside of any claim, for the purpose of prospecting or developing said claim, as in the case of tunnels, drifts, etc., is as available for holding the claim as if done within the boundaries of the claim itself. One general system may be found well adapted and intended to work several contiguous claims or lodes, and when such is the case, work in furtherance of the system is work on the claim.