Journal of Accountancy

Volume 40 | Issue 1 Article 7

7-1925

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Colley, F. G. (1925) "Book Reviews," Journal of Accountancy: Vol. 40: Iss. 1, Article 7. Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jofa/vol40/iss1/7

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Book Reviews

ACCOUNTING FOR THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, by DAVID F. Mor-LAND and RAYMOND W. McKee. *McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc.*, New York. Cloth, 304 pp.

This volume is timely and will no doubt be of interest to the American Petroleum Institute's special committee on uniform methods of oil accounting, which has been at work for the past six months and is expected to deliver an interesting report in November next. The book is written apparently from the point of view of the public accountant, and its value to the comptroller or executive accountant of any considerable oil company is limited, except as a reiteration of sound accounting principles applicable to the main elements of the business. The chapter devoted to depletion and its detailed application in accounting records will no doubt provoke discussion among experienced accountants and executives in the industry. Opinions generally on this subject, however, vary to an extent which makes present criticism out of place, as a number of widely different views on the subject can be supported by arguments apparently equally strong.

Many of the practical difficulties faced in the active major oil companies of today are not discussed, particularly such difficulties as involve the determination of where to draw the line in accounting and auditing detail so that the accuracy and value of the results obtained shall be commensurate with the accounting cost of obtaining such results. The authors in their endeavor to cover a wide subject have of necessity condensed their discussions and explanations and have avoided wearisome detail. The work is readable and interesting, and, while not qualifying as a complete book of reference in its particular sphere, may well be taken as a basis on which to build.

F. G. COLLEY.

STUDENT'S GUIDE TO EXECUTORSHIP ACCOUNTS, by Roger N. Carter, Gee & Co., London.

A handy pocket manual giving the principal points of English executorship laws with accompanying illustrations of the proper accounts to be used. It is practical as a guide in that it is a digest of leading English cases covering executorships, thus giving the student an up-to-date (1924) interpretation of the laws.

HOW TO READ THE BALANCE-SHEET OF A COMMERCIAL CONCERN, by Francis W. Pixley, Gee & Co., London.

This, the sixth edition of a brochure already well-known to accountants, is written to instruct the layman untrained in accounting how to analyze and understand balance-sheets presented to him by the directors of companies in which he may be a shareholder.

Book Reviews

DOMINION INCOME-TAX RELIEF, by Ronald Staples, Gee & Co., London.

A handy book of some 130 pages containing the laws and practice governing the relief granted from double-taxation of English incomes derived from dominion sources. Written by an officer of the inland-revenue department it may be taken as authoritative although it is expressly stated that it is not "official." Principles are clearly explained and practice illustrated by over seventy examples of income, individual and corporate.