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## Accounting Instructors meeting [News items]

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of handiness and for this reason alone will not appeal to the farmer.

From an accounting point of view there is no question but that the metric system would be a decided improvement over the present standards of weights and measures. Old customs die hard, and the matter of education to new standards is an extremely difficult task, but we seldom know how good a thing is until we become accustomed to using it.

### Accounting Instructors Meeting

THE eighth annual meeting of the American Association of University Instructors in Accounting held in Columbus, Ohio, December 28 and 29, 1923, was by far the best meeting the association has ever held. The papers submitted covered a wide range of accounting subjects, among which the following may be mentioned as of particular interest:

The Principals of Valuation as Related to the Functions of the Balance Sheet; The Content of the Balance Sheet Audit; Books of Account in Evidence; The Need for Better Accounting Procedure in County Offices; Some Aspects of Reserve Accounting; Valuation for Profits Determination; and, Accounting for No-Par-Value Capital Stock.

The titles of these papers should suggest the possibilities for research work.

The influence and responsibility of this body of men may not be over-estimated. The association was organized at Columbus, Ohio, in December, 1916, with six charter members. The membership now numbers four hundred and twenty-five. Every university in the country is represented. Schools and colleges giving instruction in accounting which do not boast of members are rare. The accounting instruction of the youth of the country is largely in the hands of the members of this association. Here is a medium through which the profession may co-operate in

bringing the practical side to bear on the education of the men who in the future will carry on.

Recalling no doubt the reputation which the organizers of this firm made for themselves in connection with accounting matters of the federal government in Washington several years ago, a recent editorial in E. W. Howe's *Monthly* recommends us for an engagement of rather large proportions.

Here is the plan: "In every community let a committee be appointed to raise a Fund: all are well trained in that. Then let a proper person take the money to New York, call on one of the great promoters, and say to him: 'I have here twenty million dollars (or possibly a greater sum). I wish to employ you to expend it in the interest of the people who gave it: largely taxpayers who have no representation in public affairs. We wish you to employ Elihu Root as attorney, and Haskins & Sells, the public accountants, to check up your expenditures. Make your headquarters in Washington, and employ such assistance as you require, being sure that you employ only capable men. Go fully into governmental affairs, and make no unreasonable demands or charge. *We only ask that unnecessary waste be cut off: we do not object to any proper public expenditure, and realize that under present circumstances, taxation must be heavy. Every week issue a bulletin detailing your activities, with the O. K. of Elihu Root and Haskins & Sells. Buy space in the newspapers, and make no claims or charges not fully warranted: those employing you want nothing that is not fair and reasonable, and honestly coming to them. In short, we employ you to bring about reform, for which the people have been fighting, without success, for many years.'*"

Needless to say we appreciate the high compliment which Mr. Howe has paid us.