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## Students' Department

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# Students' Department 

Edited by H. A. Finney

[Note.-The fact that these solutions appear in The Journal of Accountancy should not lead readers to assume that they are the official solutions of the board of examiners. They are merely the expression of the opinion of the editor of the Students' Department.]
Examination on Accounting Theory and Practice-Part II (Concluded) May 15, 1925, 1 P. M. то 6 P. M.
No. 3 (ıo points):
What is meant by "budgetary control" in business? State definitely some of its advantages.

Answer:
The editor takes the liberty of quoting the following from Mr. J. O. McKinsey's excellent book on budgetary control:
"Budgetary control involves the following:
"1. The statement of the plans of all the departments of the business for a certain period of time in the form of estimates.
" 2 . The coördination of these estimates into a well-balanced programme for the business as a whole.
" 3 . The preparation of reports showing a comparison between the actual and the estimated performance, and the revision of the original plans when these reports show that such a revision is necessary.
"Budgetary control is urgently needed in administrative control for two purposes:
"1. As a means of coördinating the activities of the various functional departments.
"2. As a basis for centralized executive control."
No. 4 (1o points):
You are called into consultation by the president and general manager of the Women's Retail Stores Corporation and told that although the company has been "marking up" all its merchandise $66 \frac{3}{3}$ per cent, yet at the close of the year it is surprised to learn of a loss, a substantial profit being expected.

The president lays stress on the point that the "mark up" ( $66 \frac{1}{3} \%$ ) is "enormous" and that the operating expenses are not excessive.

What is your opinion of the president's statement?

## Solution:

While a reasonable and sufficient mark-up is necessary to every successful business, an adequate volume is also vital. It may be that the very "enormousness" of the mark-up has resulted in a small volume of sales in a competitive market, and a consequent insufficiency of gross profit to meet the expenses.

It is also possible that, although the original mark-up has been $66 \frac{2}{3} \%$, there have been subsequent mark-downs which have affected the sales price. The name of the concern suggests that it may have been engaged in selling women's ready-to-wear garments, in which the style element dominates. Because of the rapid and extreme changes in styles, patterns and materials from season to season, stocks must be sold to avoid carrying them over to a succeeding season
when they would be unmerchantable. The clearance sales at the end of each season may have resulted in a margin of gross profit considerably less than the original mark-up.

Discounts on purchases range from $2 \%$ to $10 \%$ in this line, and average about $5 \frac{1}{3} \%$ on the yearly purchases. A business in this line which is not in a position to take these discounts can not expect to succeed in competition with other concerns which can take the discounts.

One of the common ways in which business men deceive themselves as to the profitableness of their businesses is by computing the rate of gross profit on the basis of cost while computing the rate of expenses on the basis of sales. To illustrate, assume the following figures:

| Sales. | \$25,000 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Cost of goods sold | 15,000 |
| Gross profit. | \$10,000 |
| Expenses. | 12,500 |
| Net loss. | \$2,500 |

The merchant who writes up his merchandise from $\$ 15,000$ to $\$ 25,000$ in order to make a gross-profit rate of $66 \frac{3}{3}$ per cent (on cost) and thinks that this will leave a net profit because the expenses are 50 per cent (on sales) is not as exceptional as might be assumed.

## No. 6 ( 14 points):

Brown and Green entered into a joint adventure.
On May I, 1924, they purchased 5,000 tons of coal in Philadelphia at $\$ 4$ per ton, f.o.b., for which they gave notes on May 10th for one-half at 3 months and for the other half at 6 months. The coal was shipped to Mexico City on May 15th, the freight, etc., amounting to $\$ 5,000$.

A joint banking account was opened on May 10th, each party contributing \$6,000.

The freight was paid for by cheque on May 20th and on May 25th a cheque was drawn for $\$ 1,000$ for charges at Mexico City.

The coal was sold at $\$ 7$ per ton and the proceeds used to purchase a cargo of timber, which was shipped to Philadelphia. Freight and other charges therebn, amounting to $\$ 3,750$, were paid by cheque June 30 th.

During July four-fifths of the timber was sold for $\$ 32,000$. This was received and paid into the joint account, August 2nd.

In order to close the transaction, Brown agreed to take over the remaining one-fifth at cost price including freight and charges and he paid a cheque for this into the joint account, August 10th.

The first note fell due and was paid August 13th and on the same day the other note was paid under discount at the rate of four per cent per annum.

Prepare accounts showing the result of the foregoing transactions, disre$g$ arding interest on capital contributions.

## Solution:

The problem requires accounts showing the results of the venture transactions, but does not specifically call for joint venture accounts in the technical form so called. The entries in the following accounts record transactions which can be traced by numbers to the following explanatory list:

1. Coal purchase on account, 5,000 tons © $\$ 4.00$ per ton.
2. Notes given in payment of above open account.

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3. Liability for freight on coal shipment to Mexico City.
4. Bank account opened and charged with investments of $\$ 6,000$ by each of the participants in the venture.
5. Freight bill paid.
6. Additional charges at Mexico City paid.
7. Coal sold for $\$ 35,000$ in cash.
8. Timber purchased with proceeds of coal sold.
9. Freight on timber paid.
10. Sale of four-fifths of timber for $\$ 32,000$.
11. Receipt of cash for above sale.
12. Sale of remaining timber at cost plus charges.
13. Payment of note of $\$ 10,000$ due August 10 th.
14. Payment of note due November 10 th at discount of $\$ 100$.
15. Transfer of costs, revenue and expenses to coal venture profit and loss account.
16. Distribution of profit arising from coal venture.
17. Transfer of costs, revenue and expenses of timber venture to timber venture profit and loss account.
18. Distribution of profit arising from timber venture.
19. Cash disbursed to participants.

## Coal Purchases

1924
May 1

1924
May 10 Notes payable
20 Cash.

1924
Aug. 13 Cash.
13 Cash and discount

1924
(1) $\$ 20,000$ Aug. - P. \& L
(15) $\$ 20,000$

Accounts Payable

- 1924
(2) $\$ 20,000$ May 1 Coal. . . . . . . . (1) $\$ 20,000$
(5) $5,000 \quad 15$ Freight ${ }^{\text {d }}$ etc... . (3)
(3) 5,000.
$\$ 25,000$
$\$ 25,000$
Notes Payable
(13) $\$ 10,000$ May 10 Due Aug. 10.. (2) $\$ 10,000$
(14) 10,000
$\$ 20,000 \quad \overline{\overline{\$ 20,000}}$
Freight and Miscellaneous Charges

1924
May 15 Coal to Mexico
City. . . . . .
20 Charges at Mexico City
(6) 1,000

June 30 Timber.
(9)

3,750

1924
Aug. 10 Sale to Brown (12) $\$ 750$
10 Coal P. \& L. . . (15) 6,000

- Timber P. \& L. (17) 3,0003,000
$\qquad$
$\$ 9,750$
$\$ 9,750$



Readers of this department may recall that some space has been devoted in recent issues to the question of the statement of application of funds. Some differences of opinion were expressed, but on one point at least there was complete accord; namely, the hope that suggested forms might be suggested by readers of The Journal of Accountancy which would be an improvement upon the traditional form of the statement.

The editor is glad to be able to print in this issue two letters dealing with this subject, and regrets that their publication has necessarily been delayed for several months while the space in this department was devoted to solutions to the Institute examination questions. As it is desired that any further discussion of this subject shall not be in any sense controversial, it has seemed to the editor advisable to omit any editorial comments on the suggested forms. Further communications on the subject will be welcomed.

The first of the following letters was addressed to the editor of The Journal of Accountancy and was submitted before the appearance in the Students' Department of the invitation for communications on the subject.

## Editor, The Journal of Accountancy:

Through an article in the May 1925 issue of The Journal of Accountancy, commencing on page 424, by Paul-Joseph Esquerré, attention is directed to a problem which was submitted at the C. P. A. examination on May 18, 1921 and for which a solution by H. A. Finney (editor of your Students' Department) appeared on page 64 (et seq.) of the Journal for July 1921.

The requirements of the problem were, "Prepare a statement of resources and their application for the twelve months ended December 31, 1920, using the following data."

There was appended at this point a comparative balance-sheet together with other information quoted below.
"Following is an abstract of the surplus account:
"Balance January 1, 1920............................................ . $\$ 23,600$
"Add net profit for 1920 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 8,950

"Total...................................................... . $\$ 62,500$

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Comparative Balance-sheet

|  | Dec. 31, 1919 | Dec. 31, 1920 | Decrease | Increase |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assets |  |  |  |  |
| Cash | \$5,000 | \$1,800 | \$3,200 |  |
| Accounts receivable | 30,000 | 32,000 |  | \$2,000 |
| Raw material. | 12,000 | 14,500 |  | 2,500 |
| Goods in process | 16,000 | 17,500 |  | 1,500 |
| Finished goods. | 21,000 | 19,000 | 2,000 |  |
| Land. . . . . | 70,000 | 100,000 |  | 30,000 |
| Buildings. | 115,000 | 170,000 |  | 55,000 |
| Machinery | 90,000 | 100,000 |  | 10,000 |
| Tools. . | 26,000 | 23,000 | 3,000 |  |
| Patents. | 30,000 | 28,000 | 2,000 |  |
| Discount on bonds |  | 2,000 |  | 2,000 |
| Investment in stocks. | 25,000 |  | 25,000 |  |
| Advances to salesmen | 500 | 1,000 |  | 500 |
| Unexpired insurance. | 300 | 250 | 50 |  |
| Total assets (f) | \$440,800 | \$509,050 | \$35,250 | \$103,500 |

## Valuation Reserves

| Reserve for depreciation $\ldots \ldots$. <br> Reserve for bad debts $\ldots \ldots$ | 20,000 <br> 1,200 | 29,000 <br> 1,500 | 9,000 <br> 300 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | $\$ 21,200$ | $\$ 30,500$ | $\$ 9,300$ |


| Liabilities |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Accounts payable. | \$35,000 | \$10,000 | \$25,000 |  |
| Notes payable. | 25,000 | 5,000 | 20,000 |  |
| Bank loans | 20,000 |  | 20,000 |  |
| Bonds payable | 200,000 | 300,000 |  | 100,000 |
| Total liabilities (h) | \$280,000 | \$315,000 | \$65,000 | \$100,000 |
| Proprietary Interests |  |  |  |  |
| Capital stock. | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |  |  |
| Surplus. | 23,600 | 13,550 | \$10,050 |  |
| Surplus from appreciation |  | 30,000 |  | 30,000 |
| Reserve for construction. | 16,000 | 20,000 |  | 4,000 |
| Total (i). | \$139,600 | \$163,550 | \$10,050 | \$34,000 |


| Recapitulation |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Dec. 31, } \\ 1919 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Dec. 31, } \\ 1920 \end{array}$ |  |
| Total assets (f) above | \$440,800 | \$509,050 |  |
| Less valuation reserves |  |  |  |
| above. | 21,200 | 30,500 |  |
| Depreciated assets. | \$419,600 | \$478,550 |  |
| Total liabilities ( h ) above. | 280,000 | 315,000 |  |
| Net assets (i) above. | \$139,600 | \$163,550 | \$23,950 Net increase |

Note.-The proprietary interests shown at (i) above correspond in amount with the net assets shown under "recapitulation."

Let me here interpolate that it is not the purpose of this article to hold strictly to the requirements of the problem; but rather, by using all of the information contained therein, to bring out some of the possibilities of similar conditions, and refer to ideas which the matter so far published regarding it, have suggested.

The problem calls for "a statement of resources and their application," which is not an unusual way of handling such matters, but would not the form in which the question is worded indicate-literally-that the application of all resources was asked for? Have either of the solutions given, met these requirements? It is herein submitted that they have not.

As one example of failure to show how some of the resources have been applied, let us consider the item of cash. Cash is not only a resource but one of the most important, and yet the application of the total that was available throughout the year has received no consideration whatever except in the amount of $\$ 3,200$, which represents the variation between the opening and the closing balance of this account. It is however, a reasonable conclusion that cash was applied in large amounts to the reduction of liabilities as well as to the increase of certain assets, and while cash may be considered as only a medium of exchange, it was in fact a resource applied in various important ways. Other cases wherein the book values may have possibly been changed during the year are those through entries which may have affected assets or liabilities, or assets and liabilities, and which may also have been of considerable importance. Such matters as the foregoing have not been explained through the statements which indicate through their titles that they show the application of all resources.

Objections are therefore offered to the usual form of putting such questions, which call for information that is practically impossible to completely explain, in addition to the lack of value that such information would have even if it were given complete.

Viewing such cases from the standpoint of the client, it is herein contended that it would be of more interest to him to know through a statement of facts, the manner in which his profits have been applied, and in what amount his various assets and liabilities have increased or decreased in their closing balances; all of which it is possible to determine.

In a continuous experience of twenty-four years in public accounting the writer has never made use of such a form of statement as the question at issue calls for, and has so avoided it for the reason that he would not expect the average client to understand it, and also because he believed that so many variations were possible in its making that it was of somewhat doubtful requirements. The variation shown in the two solutions so far given by prominent accountants would seem to verify the above conclusion.

Another objection here offered relates to the classification of items and the use of certain terms.

In the original question and the solution by Mr. Finney there is included under the caption of "liabilities", accounts representing reserves, capital stock and surplus. Why introduce the feature of perversion in the use of words which have such a definite meaning? Neither reserves, capital stock, nor surplus represent liabilities. They do not call for payment, nor are they
subject to collection; while even the particular reserves so included as liabilities are not of the same nature. The ones who so use them will doubtless agree with me that they are not liabilities simply because they are credit balances.

Referring now to your editor's solution in the July 1921 issue of the JourNAL and his "schedule of working capital". He has overlooked the fact that while the listed assets and liabilities have increased and decreased as therein stated, there was also introduced an item of $\$ 300$ during the period to provide for bad accounts, as a credit to reserve for bad debts. When this is considered as a valuation reserve, which it is, the working capital would show an increase of $\$ 65,500$ instead of $\$ 65,800$ as there stated.

Under "funds provided" in his statement of application of funds, would it not be reasonable to enquire how depreciation and provision for bad debts of $\$ 17,300$ had resulted in the creation of any funds which could be applied to purchases as there shown below? And in the same section there is shown funds provided from the issue of bonds of $\$ 98,000$ when inasmuch as the $\$ 2,000$ discount has been capitalized, they produced, theoretically, $\$ 100,000$.
To both solutions referred to there seems to be one general objection, and that is that neither of them demonstrate a consecutive line of reasoning from start to finish, calculated to connect one statement with the one that follows, and thus prove all conclusions.

Both solutions, under "application of funds" include $\$ 8,950$ as "net profits before providing for depreciation and bad debts". My opinion is that this net profit was arrived at after the named provisions had been made.

If such statements were submitted to the average client it is doubtful whether they would understand, appreciate or derive any information from them of practical value.

The principles which the writer herein recommends for presenting statements to cover the possibilities of such problems are applied in a way to answer the following questions:

1st. How have the net profits been applied? and
2nd. How have the net assets been affected?
This, I believe, is a more reasonable question and one which can be strictly complied with and also furnish more interesting information of value.

The preceding statement A is so made as to show first-the assets; second, the valuation reserves; third, the liabilities; and fourth, the proprietary interests. Following these sections a "recapitulation" shows total assets, depreciated assets, liabilities, and net assets.

Such a statement is submitted as being more intelligible to the average client by showing in one item the amount of his net capital, instead of confusing with such a statement the proprietary account balances, which in themselves furnish the same information in net capital. Being here presented in comparative form, the differences between the opening and closing balances are made use of in statement B, which here follows:

Statement B
To determine the final net increase of net assets
Deferred charges Net increase Section 1
Assets increased
Advances to salesmen........................ $\$ 500$
Assets decreased
Unexpired insurance. ........................ 50
Net increase (a)............... $\quad$. $\$ 450$
Fixed assets Net increase Section 2


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|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |

The preceding statement B handles the balance-sheet items in group accounts on the principle of assets being increased and decreased in themselves, and as being increased by the decrease in liabilities, and decreased by the increase in liabilities. The net increase shown under "recapitulation," by corresponding in amount with item (i) in statement A illustrates the balancing feature of these two statements.

Regarding Mr. Esquerre's solution, I cannot understand how a net increase of corporate wealth is shown as $\$ 18,250$, when as herein shown in statement $A$, the net assets

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { at Dec. 31, 1920, were . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . \$163,550 } \\
& \text { and at Dec. 31, 1919, they were. .................. } 139,600 \\
& \text { or a net increase of. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . } \$ 23,950
\end{aligned}
$$

In conclusion, statement $C$ which here follows, combines items from preceding statements in a way that shows how the net profits were applied to the increases of net assets as well as the true reserves. In statements made for analysis of such conditions as the problem offers, it is submitted that more information subject to proof may be obtained from such forms as are herein offered.

It is shown below that the $\$ 4,000$ item transferred from surplus must have increased a prior reserve as an appropriation of surplus, and that the $\$ 30,000$ for appreciation of land is shown as a special account as items of this kind should not be carried among items available for dividend.

Statement C
Analysis of surplus made to show disposition of net profit


## Memo:

The items which resulted in increasing surplus as above, and also in a corresponding net increase in net assets, by their retention in the business, were the following:
Deferred charges increased (Item (a)


Working capital increased (Item (c) statement B)
statement B)........................

| Miscellaneous accounts decreased (Item (d) statement B) . . . . . . . . . . . 125,000 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net increase of net assets through profits retained in business. . . . . . . . . $\$ 23,950$ | 23,950 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (Item (i) st. A) } \\ & \text { (Item (e) st. B) } \end{aligned}$ |
| To be further accounted for |  | \$47,550 |
| Transferred to a "reserve for construction" account. | \$4,000 |  |
| Transferred to a "surplus from appraisal" account | 30,000 | \$34,000 |
| Balance of surplus available for dividends. . . . (It is not here intended to mean that items under |  | \$13.550 |
| "memo" would be shown in surplus account in the books.) |  |  |
| Proof in explanation of final balances of proprietary | accounts |  |
| Balance "reserve for construction" before making above transfer to this account.. . | \$16,000 |  |
| Add amount transferred from surplus as above. | 16,00 4,000 |  |
| Closing balance of this account. | \$20,000 |  |
| New account for "surplus from appraisal.".. | 30,000 |  |
| Balance of surplus available for dividendsabove. | 13,550 |  |
| Total surplus and true reserves | \$63,550 |  |
| Add capital stock account. . . . | 100,000 |  |
| Invested capital 12/31/20 or net assets per statement A. | \$163,550 |  |

It is not intended to be hypercritical in the foregoing; but simply to accept the invitation offered in the very interesting article by Mr. Esquerre, to discuss the question in the interest of the "truth and sacredness" of "our beloved theory of accounting." I trust that all criticisms herein contained may be accepted in the same kindly spirit with which they are written.

Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Editor, Students' Department:

The enclosed form of "statement of resources and their application" [see page 313] is submitted in accordance with the invitation included in your article appearing in the June, 1925, Journal.

I have used the problem which has been the subject under discussion in your section of recent issues of the Journal.

The reserve for bad debts I have deducted from accounts receivable, on the assumption that it was provided to meet anticipated losses.

The charge to reserve for depreciation for the difference between cost of and amount realized for machinery sold, I have assumed represents the amount of accruals on the particular machinery disposed of.

I do not know what the examiners had in mind when submitting this and similar problems. But it seems reasonable to assume that more was expected than a statement of funds obtained during a stated period, the sources from which derived, and their application.
The annexed statement has been prepared on the theory that "resources" and "funds" are not synonymous terms. I believe "resources" may be said to include investments in physical assets and other long term investments as well as working capital. If this is a sound theory then the shareholders' equity would neem to be the net resources of the business.

The resources then would not only be affected by new funds coming into the business, and their application, but by the so-called book transactions recorded during the period to reflect the increases and decreases in the investments due to depreciation, appreciation and other accruals not involving funds of the period.

I make no claim that the statement herewith submitted is complete without being supplemented with a schedule of working capital. With the facts given by the examiners in connection with the problem and a schedule of working capital, I believe the average business executive could readily comprehend a statement prepared in form something like the attached.

Owing to lack of uniformity in accounting terminology, it will, in my opinion, require considerable effort before a standard form of a "statement of resources and their application" is generally adopted.

Yours very truly,
Guy Bartley.
Washington, D. C.

Students' Department
The Hall Manufacturing Company

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