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Correspondence: Compensation of Junior Accountants

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Correspondence

Compensation of Junior Accountants.

Editor, The Journal of Accountancy:

SIR: In your July issue I read an article written by G. L. White of Braddock, Pa., which interested me very much.

It occurs to me that Mr. White's points are (1) the young man expects too much in the way of compensation; (2) comparison of the sacrifices made by the young accountant and the young lawyer; (3) value of the young accountant to the firm with whom he has been employed, compared to his value to the firm of accountants with whom he accepts his first position as a junior.

In discussing the first point Mr. White says that the young man expects altogether too much in the way of compensation. I think that Mr. White has not taken a second thought on this subject, as anyone knows that the young man who has graduated from a law school goes into a lawyer's office and is only fit to do such work as can be done by any young girl drawing a salary of from eight to twelve dollars a week. Neither is the young man earning a handsome income for his employer by the efforts given to the client. On the other hand, the young man who applies to the accountant for a position as a junior has in nine cases out of ten had four or more years' experience as a bookkeeper, possibly as an assistant or at the head of some office or department of a large corporation. In case he secures a position as junior he earns fifteen dollars a day for his employer compared to about \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day earned by the young lawyer.

Secondly, the young lawyer with only a text-book education sacrifices only his time to secure training in a law office in order to start one of his own. The young accountant with his text-book education and actual experience as a bookkeeper for a few years, which has made him valuable, must make a material sacrifice in the form of compensation from the well paid bookkeeper to the poorly paid accountant. He must also sacrifice fully as long a period of time with an accounting firm as the young lawyer in the law office before becoming a practitioner, for no substantial corporation would think of employing him as accountant without this experience.

Third and last, there is no doubt that we as students of accountancy are dismayed when we listen to the proposition that an accountant offers or has offered us. Any student of accountancy with common sense knows that he is not worth to an accountant what he was to the firm with whom he has been employed, and he is willing to make a reasonable sacrifice; but when an accountant says, "I will give you eighteen or twenty dollars

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a week while working," which is about six or seven months at the most for the junior, what would be your attitude toward the profession? Is it a monopoly?

Yours truly,

H. M. HURLBURT.

363 Park St., Fulton, New York.

Benjamin F. Pabodie

We announce with deep regret the death of Benjamin F. Pabodie, C.P.A., which occurred on July 26, 1916. Mr. Pabodie had been for many years a fellow of the American Association of Public Accountants through the Society of Certified Public Accountants of New Jersey. He held office in the state society and was frequently a delegate to the meetings of the American Association. Mr. Pabodie was struck and instantly killed by a street car in Montclair, New Jersey.

Florida State Board of Accountancy

At the examinations held in July by the Florida state board of accountancy four applicants sat and one passed. The successful candidate was Jesse A. Greenfield, of Jacksonville.

The Walton School of Commerce announces the opening of an evening school of commerce in New York. The resident manager will be Harold Dudley Greeley, C.P.A., 149 Broadway, New York.

Elmer O. Stevens, C.P.A., has accepted the directorship of the extension division of the Pace Institute, 30 Church street, New York.

W. C. Graves announces the removal of his office to suite 620, Brockman building, Los Angeles, California.