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BOOK REVIEWS

INSTITUTE ON MINERAL LAW, Fifth Annual. HARRIET S. DAGGETT, ED. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana State University Press, 1957. Pp. ix, 182. \$7.50.

The Fifth Annual Institute on Mineral Law, held under the auspices of the law school of Louisiana State University, was designed, as were its predecessor institutes, to meet the needs of members of the legal profession active in Louisiana oil and gas work. Despite the fact that it deals primarily with various phases of Louisiana mineral law, many of its topics are of great value as well as considerable interest to attorneys outside the state of Louisiana, whether they have clients operating in Louisiana or not. Two of the discussions deal with tax matters, one on "Financing Oil and Gas Interests" (variations of the A. B. C. plan), the other on "Income Tax Consequences of Lease and Sale of Mineral Interests." These discussions can fit into any picture, whether the property be in Louisiana or Texas, or elsewhere.

One of the best papers for attorneys residing outside Louisiana is "The Application of Curative Statutes in Land Title Examinations." Not only does the text give the reader a concise idea of limitation problems in Louisiana, but the author has added to his paper a selected list of Louisiana statutes of "Repose and Prescription" and other laws relating to land titles. This list of statutes can be a terrific time-saver to the attorney desiring to check various points of Louisiana law relative to prescription, or, as is said in Texas, "limitations."

One of the special assistants to the Attorney General of Louisiana discusses Louisiana's claim to a portion of the Gulf of Mexico, and two petroleum engineers with one of the major oil companies present a well thought-out and significant paper on "Well Spacing."

A discussion of decisions of the previous year affecting mineral law is divided into three groups, one on Louisiana Supreme Court decisions involving unitization and their effect on mineral servitudes and royalty rights, one on decisions of the appellate courts of Louisiana on general mineral law, and one on opinions in the federal courts affecting mineral law, tax-wise or otherwise.

The Institute closes with a paper by the Commissioner of Conservation of the State of Louisiana on developments in the year 1956. No discussions of decisions would be effective without a further discussion of the resultant effects of those decisions on the

work of the Department of Conservation. The Commissioner of Conservation is able to present such a discussion most effectively, inasmuch as in addition to being Commissioner, he is a practicing attorney well versed in oil and gas matters, and recognized as such throughout the state.

The volume is complete with table of cases, subject index, books and articles index and index of Louisiana citations.

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