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Established 1883

(A Municipal Report From South Africa.—Continued)

Aggregate Revenue Account.

This account again classified as the Balance Sheet shows in summary form the annual administrative operations of the municipality, both as to the General Administration, as well as to the Administration of its public utilities. The additional feature showing comparative figures for the previous four years and that of estimates (Budget) for the following fiscal period, renders the account very interesting from many viewpoints.

To be of much service, however, from the point of view of budgetting, the abstract must be prepared immediately at the close of the Financial year, and the establishing of the rate of taxation for the ensuing year can only then be fixed after the year has commenced; this, however, is no hardship, and is, perhaps, the better way by reason of having available the exact results of the expired year. It would be as well for those municipalities who wish to adopt this precise method to remember to provide themselves with a substantial **working cost balance** and to thus avoid many discussions and difficulties with their bankers.

The Revenue Accounts of the Public Utilities show the adoption of the prescribed forms used in Great Britain.

If only we in Canada could get down to this point and also to insist on the observance of this practice by the many Utilities Companies, we should, indeed, have cause to congratulate ourselves. We should have found the way to avoid much discussion, arbitration and litigation.

The South African municipalities, so far as promoting finance goes appear to be under the control and guidance of a Federal Government Board Auditor. Be this good or bad, I leave to the individual reader, but that does not in any way take away from the merits of the Town Clerk and Treasurer of Bloemfontien as exposed in the abstract of accounts here reviewed.

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