

order to ascertain to the best of his judgment the true financial position. It is clearly laid down that where the services of an outside and independent valuer are employed, the auditor cannot go behind his certificate, but in the report, the auditor should set out the fact of an outside valuation. The Court of Appeal had certainly held that an auditor can accept the certificate of an official inside the firm, yet an auditor is not wise to accept the certificate without making as close an examination as possible. The auditor to the London General Omnibus Co. expressly stated in his certificate his incompetency to judge of the value of the horses, and declined to take any responsibility thereupon.

Fourth—It has been laid down by Lindley (C.J.), that an auditor's duty in examining the books is not only for the purpose of ascertaining what the books merely show, but to show the true financial position of the company. This to an auditor, under certain circumstances, is a hard doctrine, and the decision has been somewhat qualified later. The same judge has stated it is the duty of the auditor to "frame a balance sheet." This is not always the practice. But where it is so, his duty is plain. Where it is otherwise, his duty is also plain, and his report must have a like character. An auditor's certificate should not be clouded.

Fifth—England expected that every auditor should do his duty.

The paper read by Mr. Martin sketched the rise of the professional accountant and organizations. In referring to these organizations, special reference was made to the fact that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario was incorporated by Act of Parliament. The Society of Accountants in Montreal was also noticed.

After a complete and closely reasoned review of the position of the Chartered Institutes of Great Britain, and the Incorporated Society respectively, the declared policy of the society was stated, which is, to obtain the incorporation of accountancy as a profession by public Act of the Imperial Parliament, through the creation of a statutory register of accountants upon which must be placed the name of every person claiming to be registered, who at the date of the passing of the Act is *bona fide* practising as a public accountant. After a lapse of time (to be determined hereafter) sufficient for registration, no person to be allowed to publicly practice as an accountant until he has qualified and passed the examination of one of the recognized bodies of accountants. In this way no attempt is made to obtain a monopoly for the members of any existing organization, who would not amalgamate. An Accountants' Bill, prepared for the society by the eminent London solicitors, Norton, Rose, Norton & Co., is now in circulation, and will be brought to the notice of Parliament in course of time.

The conference closed with the satisfactory British institution of a banquet, at which the city officials and the leading Manchester representatives of the sister professions were present as guests of the society. Among the toasts on the list were the "Societies of Greater Britain." In these stirring days no function is complete without reference, in warm and earnest tones, to the Imperial spirit of Greater Britain beyond the seas.

E. WOODROFFE, A.S.A.A., (Eng.).

London, Eng., October 20th.

#### ARREST OF BURGLARS IN MONTREAL.

For a month or two past there have been burglaries and safe-blowings in Montreal with such frequency that merchants and other citizens were thoroughly aroused to the existence of an organized gang of night-mechanics. The detectives and the police have been especially on the alert, and at last, early on Tuesday morning, 31st October, they made "a haul." In the Griffintown district, two constables on duty espied four men slinking along on Common street or thereabout, at two in the morning. Being reinforced, the constables, after stealthily tracking these men, saw them enter a house on Spiers' lane, kept by Martin Burke. The permission of Burke being given, the house was surrounded, and the four captured, as they were dividing their booty. One drew his revolver but was overpowered. While search was made of the house, one of the accused was seen placing something behind a bureau. It proved to be a bottle partly full of nitro-glycerine. Soon there were found percussion caps, fuses, steel wedges and drilling bits, in fact, a whole

kit of burglars' tools. Each one of the men caught in the house had a revolver, and a combined sum of about \$90. When brought to the police station they gave their names as Edward Brennan, Joseph Rodgers, George Edwards and Peter Boyle.

As the morning wore on and daylight appeared, a report reached the detective department of two burglaries during the night. The first one was in the place of James Price, a dealer in hides, at 44 Grey Nun street. No money was found here, but some papers are missing. At the establishment of J. R. Walker & Co., 35 Common street, the safe was blown open and about \$100 stolen. A strange coincidence was seen in the fact that in the money found upon the accused was a marked coin, which was identified by a clerk in the employ of the above firm.

In the afternoon the four accused were brought before Judge Lafontaine. They all pleaded not guilty, and were remanded till to-day. Four complaints were sworn out against them, one for burglary, one for carrying firearms, one for carrying explosives, and one for carrying burglars' tools. No charge was brought against Martin Burke, who was liberated during the day.

#### ASSESSMENT OF MONTREAL.

The assessment of Montreal for the current financial year shows an increase of more than nine millions of dollars over last year, the figures to-day being \$151,774,010, as compared with \$142,226,500. This year's assessment includes the new and objectionable machinery tax, which is supposed to apply to immovable property. There are thirteen wards, and we compare the figures as follows:

	1888.	1899.
East Ward .....	\$ 3,057,400	\$ 3,084,970
Centre Ward .....	5,734,000	6,513,000
West Ward .....	10,566,300	11,357,150
St. Ann's Ward .....	12,330,775	14,097,305
St. Antoine Ward .....	46,669,935	48,058,185
St. Lawrence Ward .....	13,537,250	14,123,120
St. Louis Ward .....	10,204,540	10,436,365
St. James' Ward .....	12,606,460	12,949,240
St. Mary's Ward .....	10,300,645	11,371,270
Hochelaga Ward .....	4,725,100	5,454,020
St. Jean Baptiste Ward .....	6,591,010	7,046,605
St. Gabriel Ward .....	3,521,690	4,375,910
St. Denis' Ward .....	2,381,395	2,906,870
	\$142,226,500	\$151,774,010

#### A TIMELY PAMPHLET.

At this time, when the whole body of loyal Canadians are interested in the war with the Transvaal, because a thousand of our best and bravest have gone with other British forces to engage in it, a brief and comprehensive epitome of the causes of the war and the circumstances of the farmers and the Outlanders is nearly as essential as a good map of South Africa. Such an epitome is being furnished in "The Boer War; Its Causes, and Its Interest to Canadians," a pamphlet of forty pages on sale to-day at Toronto bookstores for the sum of ten cents. The writer of this pamphlet is Mr. E. B. Biggar, a Canadian who has resided for some years in South Africa, and is familiar with his subject. He has anticipated a public want, too, in appending to his narrative a glossary of Cape Dutch and Kafir terms, together with some hints on pronunciation. Some of these terms we copy. For example: Baaken means landmark; Berg—Mountain, as Tafelberg (table mountain), Drakensberg (Dragon's mountain), etc.; Besluit—Resolution, order-in-council; Boer—Farmer, applied by the English to the Dutch of the country districts; Bosch—Thicket or bush; Burg—Town; Burgher—Voter, elector; applied by the Dutch to their own citizens as distinguished from aliens; Commandeer—To call out for military service; Commando—A military force; the word conveys no meaning as to numbers; a commando may consist of a hundred men, or a thousand or more; Dorp—Village; Drift—Ford; Fontein—Fountain or spring, as Bloemfontein (fountain of flowers). The pamphlet is printed at The Monetary Times office, and will be supplied to the trade through the Toronto News Company.