

COURSE OF STUDY.

Before entering upon a discussion of the principles which shall govern, and the routine which should be followed in connection with an audit of the accounts of a municipality I shall enumerate, so far as I recall them, the sources of information immediately available to the student for purposes of preparatory study.

The following Acts of the Ontario Statutes:

Municipal Act

Assessment Act

General Drainage Act

Ditches and Water Courses Act

Drainage Aid Act

Tile, Stone and Timber Drainage Act

Public Health Act

Line Fences Act

Act Respecting Noxious Weeds

General Waterworks Act

Acts relating to Electric Light and Gas operations.

Other sources of information are:

The Reports of the Provincial Municipal Auditor (1898-1904).

The papers bearing upon Municipal Accountancy to be found in the proceedings of the St. Louis Congress of Accountants.

The list will probably not be complete unless I include therein the small book, "Municipal Accounting," in which is embodied an address presented by myself before this Institute at the 1900-1 session.

I would further suggest the reading of reported meetings of council, as found in the newspapers. If convenient attend such meetings and note the business done. It may not be properly or well done, but you will nevertheless be picking up information as to the nature of the business which is transacted. Having done this go to the statutes covering the matters dealt with and ascertain the statutory requirements governing the proceedings.

A MUNICIPAL AUDIT.

I should like to impress very strongly upon the minds of all aspirants for membership in the Institute the fact that the mere checking over of the accounts of a municipality, as found in the Treasurer's books, is the least of the auditor's duties. Any person of moderate intelligence can do so much as that.

And not the most important duty of the auditor is to detect fraud and wrongdoing; he should find these if they exist, but his duty is to see: