

laws in force in such cases in Lower Canada, each time the said *contrainte* is demanded by the declaration.

21. The said Town Council shall have power, whenever they may deem it advisable, to appoint three assessors or valuers of property to estimate the rateable property in the said town according to its real value, and in the manner and within the periods which shall be fixed by the said Town Council.

22. Every person so appointed assessor shall be bound, before proceeding to the valuation of any property in the said town, to take the following oath before the Mayor of the said town, or in his absence, before a Councillor, to wit:

"I, _____, having been appointed one of the assessors of the Town of St. Ours, do solemnly swear, that I will diligently and honestly discharge the duties of that office to the best of my judgment and ability: So help me, God."

23. The assessors who shall be appointed for the said town shall be proprietors of real estate in the said town of the value of at least four hundred dollars.

24. When the assessors shall have made a valuation of all the rateable property of the said town, they shall deposit the assessment roll with the Secretary-Treasurer of the said town, and notice of such deposit shall be given by the Secretary-Treasurer in the same manner as notice of an election of Councillors; And at the next ensuing meeting of the said Council, the said assessment roll shall be produced, and if they desire it, examined by the Councillors; and the assessment roll shall be deposited in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer for the period of one month, dating from such meeting; and during that period it shall remain open to the inspection of all persons whose property shall have been estimated, or their representatives; and within that period, persons considering themselves aggrieved may give notice in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer of their intention to appeal to the said Town Council, complaining of any excessive valuation, and such appeal shall be tried by the said Council at the first meeting which shall be held after the expiration of the month above mentioned; and the said Council, after having heard the parties and their witnesses under oath, which shall be administered by the Mayor or presiding Councillor, shall confirm or alter the valuation, the change whereof shall have been prayed for, as to them shall seem just; and at the same meeting the said assessment roll shall be declared closed for two years; unless, however, from the number of appeals, the Council shall be compelled to adjourn, in which case the said assessment roll shall not be declared closed until all the appeals shall have been heard and determined; Provided always, that if, after the said assessment roll shall have been declared closed as aforesaid, any property in the said town should suffer any considerable diminution in value, either through fire, demolition, accident, or any other reasonable cause, it shall be lawful for the said Council, upon the petition of the proprietor, to instruct the assessors to reduce their valuation of such property to its then actual value; and provided also, that if any omission shall have been made in the said assessment roll, the said Council may order the assessors to value any property so omitted, in order to its being added to the roll; and provided also, that the said assessors shall, when directed by the said Council, make a yearly-valuation of the stocks of merchandize held in the said town.

25. At the first meeting after each annual Municipal Election, two