

to personal property, that it should be assessed on its actual value, and that the taxes should be a lien.

The first object of that reform has to some extent been realized—that is real estate. Real estate has been assessed to its whole value, but in the matter of the reform as related to personal property, expectations have not been realized. Personal property in Halifax, as well as in other cities, has been found very difficult to be reached by the tax assessor. It is something like the matter of income. All the people who have made taxation a study—political economists and others—while admitting that in theory income may be defined, practically it cannot be defined. So with personal property, and while in theory and by law it is supposed to be all assessed, it is really only such personal property as reaches the eye that is assessed. I think this can be verified in each case. In the City of Halifax to-day there are only four and one half millions of personal property that is taxed. Now, any one who is familiar with the personal property in the City of Halifax must know very well there must be seven times that amount. When you take into consideration all cash, stocks in banks and otherwise, everything in the line of personal property, and you learn that only four and one-half millions is assessed out of some thirty millions, you realize how imperfect and unjust the present system is in its operation. Consequently this Reform Committee looked about for a redress in this respect and to bring about an adjustment which would not bear heavily on any class in the community. In doing so we have gone into the assessment schemes of Canada and the United States. Mr. Bishop, the Secretary, wrote to various cities, and in most cases received replies. We found that in a great many cities similar agitations were going on, and especially in cities where they had a tax on personal property. In reports from Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, they all pointed to the fact that they were bringing about an adjustment on the principles laid down by the Montreal Assessment Act. That led us naturally to look into the Montreal system, and we found that it has been