

ten years ago, to about ten and a-half times in 1893. This great disproportion may be due, 1st, to the two different bases already referred to which discriminates against Real Estate; 2nd, to some defect in the machinery of the law; and 3rd, to a defective administration of the law. From the fact that the proportion has gradually crept up from three times to ten and one-half times in the past twenty years, and from the fact that in Kingston, in 1892, it was only about four times, and Hamilton five times under the same law, the Association has come to the conclusion that there is a glaring defect in the administration of the Assessment law in this city, and it cannot reasonably expect any relief in this respect from our present mode of assessing, and have petitioned the Council to seek legislation for such amendments to the Assessment Act as will place the assessment into the hands of a Board of Assessors endowed with ample powers to investigate all cases of suspected fraud, and empowered to adopt the same rule in the assessment of Merchants' Stock that is now adopted in Real Estate assessment, viz., the full value of a parcel of Real Estate is assessed to the nominal owner, and he has to pay the taxes on the whole assessment, no matter if his equity in said parcel only amounts to one-tenth of its value. The Association cannot see why the same rule should not apply in the assessment of Merchants' Stock instead of the one now in vogue, viz., a mer-