

improvement of the city; the community is, or should be, a co-operative association, and every dollar contributed to the municipal exchequer, enables those in authority to inaugurate such works as enhance the value of property, also to reduce taxation and thereby induce residents and business men to become permanent taxpayers, and becoming permanent taxpayers, assist in promoting civic prosperity. Each permanent resident is a consumer, each permanent manufacturer or business man, an employer of labor, the demand for labor giving additional revenue producing power. Property would then be in demand, yielding a profit or interest manifestly more remunerative than land and tenements lying idle or going to decay. We find over \$10,000,000 worth of taxable property exempt, whilst the remaining \$10,000,000 has to meet all expenditures, thereby keeping taxation at a high rate, preventing necessary public improvements, crushing out general industry and drawing all that vitality from the civic body, so necessary in a young corporation. I have on several occasions given my reasons for believing that Governments holding exempt property should contribute to the local funds in lieu of rates. We loose annually nearly \$12,000 on official income exemptions, we furnish a fire brigade, police force, light, side walks and all other conveniences either for public safety or public comfort. All enjoy the benefits alike and should be willing to assist in defraying the necessary expenses; why Governments should not contribute, is a mystery yet to be solved. Ottawa being the Capital of the Dominion, is entitled to consideration, and it is to be regretted some arrangement has not before this been effected, by which street and other improvements of a similar nature might be defrayed by a government contribution towards local rates, as in England and the United States. The subject of exemptions is not confined to any one class, or any one section. All are jointly interested in considering the whole question and in endeavouring to arrive at a practical solution of this very interesting problem. Personally, I have never been in favour of taxing places of worship, for although some, who differ from the doctrines preached, consider it a hardship to have to be virtually taxed for their maintenance, they yet, as members of a community, enjoy the blessings flowing from the wide spread civilization and morality promoted and maintained by the teachings of religion.

CIVIC ASSESSMENT—THE OLD AND NEW SYSTEMS CONTRASTED.

You will remember that the present system of assessing was inaugurated during the latter part of 1876. Formerly, three assessors were appointed by the Corporation at the beginning of each year, the assessment commencing on the 1st of February, the Rolls being returnable to the City Clerk on the 1st day of May. Under that system, it was found impossible to have the Rolls completed within the legal time, for usually it was the 1st of August before they were ready. Consequently, no estimate could be made or rate struck until after this work was completed; thus the Council in the mean time were expending the revenue of the city without having any knowledge of what that revenue was likely to be, except by comparison. This was not only unbusiness