

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY NULLIFIED.

THE utter defiance by the "Liberal," or, as the *New York Mail and Express* put it, "Christian" City Council, of the pronounced wishes of almost the entire population of Salt Lake in relation to municipal taxation, is a striking lesson in despotism. If the petition for a reduction of the rate of tax be combined with the flood of protests against the extortionate and unjustly discriminating assessments made by the "Liberal" assessor, the arbitrary refusal to grant the request has no parallel in the line of tyranny of its class exhibited by the officers of any city in the United States. It is a flat denial of the principle of popular sovereignty, and transforms those whose legitimate capacity is that of servants to the people into mere levers of tribute.

The chief "Liberal" organ which, not long since, roundly berated the Council, asserting that there were some "bad men" in it, seems to now be seeking to crawl back into favor with that body. In doing so, however, it must share the popular execration directed at the municipal officials who peremptorily trample under foot the people's wishes in order to deplete the latter's pockets. The journal referred to, while heading to reports of protests of citizens against Mr. Clute's excessive assessments with such flammers as "The Wail of the Widows," supports the oppressors of the poor in their inexcusable action.

As usual the unscrupulous libel on journalism, as it does on almost every other subject, resorts to the most glaring falsehoods to sustain its untenable position. These untruths are iterated and reiterated until perhaps the writer of them, through force of use, may possibly, in the end, himself believe them to be correct. One sample in this connection is sufficient, and we quote it:

"Last year the levy was ten mills; this year it is four. Where, therefore, does all the weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth come in."

It will be observed that in this oft-repeated statement the rate of last year is doubled, as it was, as ought to be well known, the half of one per cent, which is equal to five mills. This year it is four mills—one mill lower—yet by a process of excessive, extortionate assessments the aggregate valuation is increased to over three times that of 1889. The increased value of real

estate cannot justify, in so brief a period, such an upward leap in taxation. The residence property, which is non-productive, has been assessed to an extent that cannot be justified by any process of reasoning, and the weight falls with special force upon the shoulders of the thrifty poor who own their own homes, but whose permanent possession of them is endangered by the imposition of the new and heavy burdens under a "Liberal" regime.

THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The city council met as a board of equalization at 8 o'clock Monday, September 8. Councilman Pickard presided in the absence of Mayor Scott.

The valuation of \$4500 on Celia Hyde's property in plat A was confirmed, notwithstanding the fact that she was an invalid.

The assessment of \$3170 on B. Guiver's property in plat C was confirmed.

The valuation of \$16,400 on Henry Heath's property was reduced \$1000.

The valuation of \$2800 on the property of Mary B. Burbidge, a widow, was reduced to \$1250.

William Burbidge's complaint of Clute's valuation of \$3000 on his property in plat A was not recognized.

Mary C. Wilder's request for a reduction on the valuation of \$6,000 on her property was not granted.

Mrs. Harriett Bell was relieved from paying taxes on property valued at \$1450, because she was a widow.

Mary Nixon requested that her money tax be reduced from \$2100 to \$400. Referred to the assessor.

The valuation of \$9500 on Mrs. R. S. Tripp's lot in plat C was confirmed.

Fred. Trimmer, a resident of Denver, was relieved of paying taxes on \$8700 cash.

A reduction of \$200 was made on the valuation of Wm. McRae's property in plat B, and the valuation on his property in plat E was reduced from \$6000 to \$4000.

The tax assessed against William Gatehoan, of the Nineteenth Ward, \$3.20, was remitted, because Mr. Gatehoan was an invalid.

Five dollars of the tax assessed against Mrs. Benschaw was remitted.

The tax against Mrs. T. Hall, of the Third Ward, was confirmed.

The Masonic and Odd Fellows societies and the Jewish Benevolent Society asked that the tax on their cash be remitted as it was used purely for benevolent purposes. The matter was referred to a special committee consisting of Councilmen Hall, Pembroke and Cohn.

The taxes of Mr. C. F. Hardy, \$3.20 remitted.

Mrs. H. R. Margetts, a widow, was relieved from paying taxes to the same amount.

Mrs. E. T. Mulhall's taxes, \$4, were remitted.

The valuation of \$4975 on H. G. Whitney's property in the Nineteenth Ward, was confirmed.

The taxes of Mrs. Walworth, \$5.96, were remitted.

Five dollars was remitted from the taxes of Mrs. McKinney, amounting to \$16.40.

Mrs. Hoffman's taxes was reduced from \$9.80 to \$4.80.

Five dollars was remitted from the taxes of Mary A. Lyon, whose property was valued at \$7900.

Alice Bailey's taxes, \$7, were reduced to \$2.

Mrs. A. Edler's tax, \$6.20, was remitted.

Five dollars was remitted from the taxes of Mrs. Annie Snow, of the Eighteenth Ward, amounting to \$16.80.

The valuation of \$3500 on Mrs. A. Johnson's property in the Eighteenth Ward was reduced to \$2000.

Five dollars was remitted from the taxes of G. M. Hannibal, of the Eleventh Ward.

The tax of Mrs. Abbie Piggot, of the Eighth Ward, amounting to \$8, was reduced to \$5.

The valuation of \$41,200 on the property of Mrs. Butterworth, on Third South Street, was confirmed.

Richard Provost, of the Fourth Ward, was relieved from paying \$4.40.

The tax of \$2.60 assessed against W. P. Owen was remitted.

A. P. Madsen's tax of \$7.70 was reduced to \$2.70.

M. E. Peck's request for a reduction in the valuation of \$4300 on his property in the Seventeenth Ward was refused by a vote of 5 to 4.

Mr. Karrick said he believed Clute's valuations on Seventeenth Ward property were all too high. He knew of lots of property in that ward which he could purchase at 20 per cent less than Clute's figures. He moved that no more protests from the Seventeenth Ward be acted upon, and that a committee of three be appointed to investigate Clute's valuations in that district. The motion was carried and the chair appointed Councilmen Hall, Pembroke, Cohn, Spafford and Karrick.

The valuations of H. Brisacher's property on Third South Street, two pieces, \$11,000, was confirmed, as was also the valuation of \$65,000 on the St. Elmo property.

The valuation of \$4,000 on James Sabine's improvements was confirmed.

The valuation of \$4,070 on M. Boyd's property in the Fifteenth Ward was confirmed.

The valuation of \$18,350 on Mrs. Ruth Kimball's property in the Eighteenth Ward caused some discussion. The matter was finally laid over as unfinished business.

The valuation of \$14,200 on S. H. Auerbach's property on Third South Street was confirmed.

The valuation of about \$700,000 on Auerbach Bros. Main Street property was confirmed.

The valuation of \$31,300 on J. G. Brooks' property in the Eighth Ward, and the valuation of \$80,000 on his property on the corner of First East and Third South was also confirmed.