

In this city the Mayor is the presiding officer of the City Council, and acts until his successor is sworn in. So with the members of the Council. Each member holds office and continues to act until his successor is seated. Such are the provisions of the law. There is no break between Mayors or Councils. Section 19 of the city charter provides:

"Said Council shall determine the rules of its own proceedings, and be judges of the election and qualification of its own members."

Now as the old members comprise the Council until the new members are seated, it devolves upon them to determine who are entitled to seats. They have a right to prescribe the method by which they will proceed, and the usual way is to act upon the contested seats last. If it be determined to seat the new members, one at a time, of course the new members by a gradual process would become a majority; but the old Council might decide on the election and qualification of the new members in a body. In case of a contest, the body has an investigation made, causes the findings of fact and law to be laid before it, and determines the matter by vote, seating the member whom it concludes to be best entitled to a seat.

In the organization of the City Council on Tuesday, Feb. 18th, the body was ignored so far as its right to judge of the claims of members to seats was concerned. Parliamentary law, custom and courtesy were utterly disregarded. The new recorder, without a motion being put or a word being said, constituted himself a committee on credentials, though not a member of the body at all. He then rendered a report upon which the body took no action whatever. Not a member uttered a word respecting it. The new mayor received and adopted it, and dictated action in accordance therewith, thus usurping the functions of the whole body.

Mr. Young's remarks were addressed to the presiding officer, because that is the parliamentary method of communicating with the house. The mayor made a personal reply, and on his own responsibility refused both requests made by Mr. Young. Instead of so doing, he should have asked the pleasure of the house upon each request, announcing that a motion upon the subject was in order.

Imagine, for a moment, what the result would have been of such a course by the presiding officers of

the two houses of the Montana legislature during the contest for seats in that body. Imagine the furore that would be raised were the president of the United States Senate to declare either the Republican or Democratic claimants from Montana to seats in that body, entitled thereto, without permitting a Senator to say a word or cast a vote upon the subject! Revolution is a mild word with which to describe such a complete overthrow of parliamentary law, usage and authority as such a proceeding would involve. Yet this identical proceeding was gone through by Mayor Scott in the organization of the "Liberal" City Council on February 18th.

It may well be deemed ominous of evil to Utah's fair metropolis. And yet the summary denial, by a one man power, of People's Party members to seats to which they had been, by a judicial proceeding, found to be entitled, is strictly in keeping with the methods by which the "Liberal" ticket was elected, and is strikingly illustrative of the tendency to anarchy of that party. The procedure of Tuesday, Feb. 18, is a logical sequel to the registration car which ran over the Rio Grande Western, to the assumption of supreme judicial authority by the registrars, and to the numberless acts of arrogance and injustice, not to say downright lawlessness, by which the People's Party majority was fraudulently overcome.

The claim is made in defense of Mayor Scott, by the organ of the conspirators, that "there did not happen to be any parliamentary body around" him, and "no one but him to decide who should be sworn in." Section 4 of the city charter provides that the members of the City Council "shall hold their offices for two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified." Taking the oath of office is a part of the qualifying process, and the old "parliamentary body" exists and acts until the new members have taken the oath. As above stated, there is no break. The assertion that there was no one but Mayor Scott to decide who should be sworn in is such a flat contradiction of the statute that it is a marvel it should be put forth. By no possible concurrence of circumstances, under the present law, could he legally exercise such power. In further defense of his usurpation it is urged by the "Liberal" organ:

"And speaking of the House of Representatives and its rules, the clerk places the name of every man who has a certificate on the roll and none others, and that is what Mr. Scott ordered done."

The Clerk of the House of Representatives acts in accordance with the requirements of the statute; Mayor Scott usurped authority in defiance of those requirements.

#### TIN WHISTLE IMITATORS.

The usurpations and farcical proceedings that characterized the actions of the Salt Lake City registrars is being duplicated in Logan, the fair city of Northern Utah. C. C. Goodwin, in whom seems to be concentrated the great burden of governmental authority, is the appointee of the Commission for registrar of Cache county. Mr. Nelson is registrar for Logan city.

The illegal and high-handed processes by which the names of People's Party electors were stricken from the lists in this city are being acted upon in that municipality also. In Salt Lake City hundreds of victims were summoned to appear before the the registrars that the latter might decide whether they should be permitted to vote. That is to say, whether the registrars—who were candidates on the "Liberal" ticket—would allow the cited electors to cast their ballots against them. Registrar Nelson, who is a "Liberal" candidate on the Logan City ticket of that party, also occupies the position of supreme judge in the same way.

There is an additional feature in the Logan parody on fairness that gives it special spice. U. S. Commissioner-Registrar Goodwin is as well a candidate on the ticket on which Nelson's name appears. The way they run the striking-off business there is this: U. S. Commissioner-County Registrar-Candidate Goodwin appears before City Registrar-Candidate Nelson in the capacity of "Liberal" counsel in demanding that the names of People's Party voters be stricken from the registration lists. The anti-People's election processes beat the record of the world for villainous scoundrelism and impudent effrontery.

It may be well to state that the C. C. Goodwin referred to is not the C. C. Goodwin of Salt Lake City. There need be no mistake as to identity, as the gentleman last referred to has brains.

ROME, Feb. 24.—Two slight earthquakes have caused great alarm.