

with under ground ducts for the artificial application of water to the roots of the plants by capillary attraction from below instead of through surface ditches. That he raises the finest fruit in the State, and has followed up his system for nearly ten years, is evidence that he at least has found something desirable in irrigation.

THE CITY TAX QUESTION.

THE opinion of City Attorney Hall on the tax question will be found in full in our report of the City Council proceedings. The gist of it is that in his view the Board of Equalization can only make inquiry and act upon the complaints of taxpayers, and increase and lower the individual assessments and make them equal with each other.

"That is an opinion as is an opinion," as Captain Cuttle would say. According to this no assessment, however too small, could be raised to make it fair and just unless the owner of the property made complaint about it. How many complaints would be heard about too low a valuation on real or personal property? If the Board has power to increase any valuation without a complaint from the property owner, it has also the power to lower a valuation without a complaint.

Such a limitation of the power of the Board is a manifest absurdity, and would defeat the object of the charter and the ordinances in this respect, which is to secure a just and fair as well as equitable assessment of all property, real and personal.

The charter provides that the Board "shall have power to alter, add to, take from and otherwise correct and revise said assessment roll." This is in the original Charter, and the law of 1888, which is amendatory of it, provides that it "shall be construed to be cumulative and supplementary" to it, not in the light of a repealing statute. What may the Council sitting as a Board of Equalization do, then, besides hearing complaints and acting upon them? It may "add to, take from, and otherwise correct and revise said assessment roll." It is not limited to the individual complaints, as the Attorney seems to think, but can correct and revise the entire assessment roll.

Suppose the Assessor were to make a general addition to last year's valuation of real estate and place it beyond marketable value would the attorney mean to say that only the property owners who made complaints could gain redress? Where would be the fairness and justice and equalization in lowering the assessment on some and not on others who were equally injured?

It was argued by the Mayor last night that the taxpayers who had not complained were largely in the majority and their silence showed they were satisfied with the assessment.

That is a great mistake. There are hundreds of taxpayers who are thoroughly dissatisfied and angry, but they know by last year's experience that their complaints would be vain. They did not want to be insulted, sneered at and jeered by the Assessor or any other person and so made no complaint. The grievance is that real estate has been placed at too high a valuation generally, considering the state of the market, and the citizens look to the City Council for a remedy. It is a wholesale wrong and needs a wholesale cut to right it. That the City Council has power to relieve the taxpayers either by a horizontal reduction of the assessment or by a reduction of the rate, any sane person can see by reading its chartered powers.

Little technical pottering over a crabbed construction of part of the language of the charter, may answer the purpose of that part of the Council that wants to retain the excessive revenue demanded, but the whole purport and intent of that instrument must be considered in order to arrive at a full understanding of its scope and the powers of the Council.

A reduction is required. The Council has power to make it general and uniform. Let the work be done without delay and if it is done wisely there will be no difficulty in the way, but the citizens universally will approve of the action.

UNPATRIOTIC RESOLUTIONS.

THERE is an organization in this country known as the Patriotic Order Sons of America. It has branches or "camps" in this city, in Ogden and in Park City. The National Camp has recently been held in Philadelphia and the following preamble and resolutions were presented from the Utah camp and adopted:

Whereas, It is one of the fundamental principles of our order, that any union of church and state can only be harmful to the best interests of the citizen, as well as subversive of all good government, and therefore should be vigorously opposed by all the influence we can bring to bear through the power of association; and

Whereas, The majority of the people of this Territory of Utah, have organized themselves into a body called "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;" but which is in fact a dangerous theocracy which has always opposed the dissemination of American principles, and has, for more than forty years, denied the supremacy of the National Government and its right to enforce the laws of the land, and whose central principle is

that of obedience to those in authority in the said Church, and who are reputed by them to receive frequent and direct revelations from God, as to how the affairs of government should be directed; and

Whereas, A movement is now being made by these people, constituting this theocracy, to secure the admission of Utah into the Union, as a sovereign State, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Patriotic Order Sons of America of the Territory of Utah, that we view with apprehensions of danger this movement, and we call upon all lovers of good government throughout the United States of America to use their utmost influence in every lawful and proper manner to postpone, hinder and delay the admission of Utah into the Union of States until such time as the members of the aforesaid theocracy shall be in a minority as compared with those who do not believe in the union of church and state; and be it further

Resolved, That it is our understanding of this theocracy called the Mormon Church that its faithful members verily believe that church and state should be one and that one the church, and it is our settled conviction that if this Territory should become a State, while they are in the majority, they would strive so far as possible to realize a state of affairs where the officers and leaders of their church should be their temporal rulers as well as spiritual advisers, thus bringing about one of the most serious evils that can threaten any land, complete subordination of state to the church.

We therefore call upon all members of the Patriotic Order Sons of America and all lovers of our free institutions everywhere to exert themselves in our behalf that this deadly danger may be averted."

This document was prepared in this city, and the untruths it contains emanated from the clique that is engaged in misrepresenting the majority of the people of Utah through every available source. In some quarters its efforts have signally failed. And wherever the facts are known it will meet with the contempt it deserves. Among people who are still ignorant of Utah and the "Mormons," such efforts as the foregoing may have the intended effect for a while.

The preamble as adopted at Philadelphia is erroneous throughout. The majority of the people of Utah have not "organized themselves" as stated. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in New York in 1830. It is not a theocracy, either dangerous or otherwise, unless a Church can be so-called which has no connection with or control of the State or any other than ecclesiastical affairs. It has never denied the supremacy of the National Government in national affairs, but has for one of its fundamental doctrines the duty of its members to obey the constitutional laws of the land. It does not claim to direct, either by revelation or otherwise, any government but that of the Church.

It is totally untrue that this alleged theocracy is engaged in any movement to "secure the admission of Utah into the Union." The Church has not expressed itself on the subject, and it is not agitated except by the clique