

to seize the reins of rule by the most disreputable methods known in the muddy pool of politics. We doubt if any such scenes have ever been witnessed in relation to the taxation of the people of any city in the world as those transacted before the Council Board of Equalization during the last few days. The protests that have been uttered against the burdens that have been imposed on the people by the city government have poured in like a flood, and have exhibited the most flagrant and unjust discriminations in the assessment of values. Besides those already heard, a host of written objections are in and will have to be considered.

Some of the features of this popular opposition to burdensome taxation are almost ludicrous. When the Salt Lake County Board of Equalization met to perform their important duty, they were flooded with protests against what were complained of as unreasonable and excessive assessments made by the county assessor, and feeling against that official ran high. Now many of the same complainants are, in substantiating their grievances against the high estimates placed on values by the city assessor, citing, by way of comparison, the lighter figures of the county officer, who is now viewed, because of late city tax developments, as the acme of moderation and justice.

The residence property, which is practically non-productive, is assessed at figures that beggar comparison. The working people who own nothing except their homes, are the class who suffer and groan most under the burdens imposed. It will be exceedingly difficult and in many cases impossible for them to meet the drain upon their humble resources without parting with a portion of their substance. To produce this condition is evidently the purpose of the excessive public financial obligations placed upon the people by those who should be their servants, but who assume the role of taskmasters.

Heretofore light taxation, which was hardly felt by the people, and freedom from indebtedness, have ruled in this municipality. These features are being rudely wiped out, and the cry of the poor, and, in many instances, the wail of the wealthy who feel the pinch of oppression, are ascending into the ears of a city government that is rapidly becoming odious beyond

estimate. Unless the latter listen to the popular voice they will be execrated in almost every household, without reference to class, and denounced as the inaugurators of an era of tyranny which should have no place within the borders of the United States.

#### CLEAR ARTICULATION IN SINGING

There are numbers of superb voices among the songsters of both sexes in our community. They make charming melody, but, as a rule, to which there are few exceptions, they have a fault common to non-professionals—a failure to clearly and distinctly articulate words so as to enable their auditors to catch them without straining. In most instances the listener finds it impossible, even at short range, to hear more than an occasional word of a solo. This only makes the situation more unsatisfactory than if none of it was understood, because, in the mental effort to fill up the intervening spaces, the charm of the music is partially lost to the listener.

The trainers of professional vocalists are aware of the importance of clear-cut articulation, and consequently put their pupils through a special regime for its attainment. Those of our readers who have had the pleasure of hearing Adelina Patti can recall that distinctness of utterance gave a peculiar charm to the performances of that inimitable queen of song. Had this not been a feature of her singing, we doubt if she could ever have attained to so great an eminence in her profession as she has reached.

Good articulation is, we believe, an aid to the singer as well as a satisfaction to his auditors. To attain it he must clearly sense the purport of the words, and he is thus assisted in his efforts to express the sentiment embodied. Earnestness and soul are essential elements in singlug, as they are in oratory. Without these constituents the effect of brilliant execution is comparatively lost.

These remarks apply with special force to the singing of sacred songs in worshiping assemblies. The vocal music is an essential part of the worship in which the congregation should join either actually or by mentally following those who engage in it, thus according with the sentiment expressed. If the audience are unable to understand the words that are sung, through slurring articulation of the singer,

this is impossible. Thus, so far as the assemblage is concerned, what the Lord has said regarding a song of praise, when sung in the spirit and meaning thereof, being a prayer unto Him, cannot be conformed to.

We believe it would enhance the pleasure which our local vocalists impart by their performances if more attention were paid to the point at which the foregoing remarks are directed.

#### THE ABSORBING QUESTION.

THERE is no local topic of general interest which causes so much agitation as the tax question. The county assessment raised a rumpus, as the valuations were almost universally considered excessive and the amount of revenue to be raised thereby largely above the needs of the county.

The assessment list for the city was purposely delayed until after the August election, and the "Liberal" stump speakers, with their organ, commented upon the high valuations made by the county assessor, using them as argument against the People's Party and intimating that the "Liberal" assessment of city taxes would be very different.

When the city list was filed and the tax notices were served, it was found that the county assessor had touched the people with a feather in comparison with the grievous burden prepared for their weary shoulders by the "Liberal" city assessor, who seemed to have smelled in advance the certain termination of his official career at the close of his two years, and determined to feather his nest as thickly as he could while opportunity lasted.

The protests against the valuations placed upon realty by the city assessor represent the great bulk of the property. They have come from all classes and parties. They show that very little system has entered into the methods of assessment. Some of the figures are ludicrous in comparison with former valuations. They appear to have been made more with a view to the profit of the assessor than fairness to the taxpayer or regard for the law governing the revenues of the city.

In addition to hundreds of objections to these excessive assessments with requests for a reduction, the City Council has been petitioned to lower the rate determined upon by that body. A question has been raised as to whether the Council has