

man votes. France will have to ship a hundred thousand voters to the United States annually for a long series of years before she will be able to count on aid or comfort from this country, in a war with Germany. Political advantage is king.

GAS STOCK.

In the chief "Liberal" organ the following advertisements appear:

Seven hundred and eighty-seven shares of stock in the Salt Lake City Gas Co. is hereby offered for sale to the highest bidder; bids will be received up to and including the 28th day of April, 1890, by Geo. M. Scott, Mayor. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. By order of the City Council.

LOUIS HYAMS,

City Recorder.

City Hall, Salt Lake City, March 28th, 1890.

Salt Lake City Corporation wants to purchase a quantity of stock in the Salt Lake City Gas Co. Any parties having same for sale who will quote figures to Geo. M. Scott, Mayor, on or before the 28th day of April, 1890, may be able to effect a sale. By order of the City Council.

LOUIS HYAMS, City Recorder.

City Hall, Salt Lake City, March 28th, 1890.

These two advertisements, when placed side by side, look queer. They convey the impression that the municipal corporation has gone into the business of stock dealing, and is buying gas stock at private sale, and selling it to the highest bidder.

In every community there are suspicious individuals who are ever ready to suggest an evil motive for the acts of public officers, and there are not lacking persons in this city who will mistrust that an Ethiopian lies secluded somewhere in the fuel supply connected with the gas works—or stock—which the city wants to sell and buy.

In the City Council on Tuesday, March 25 a motion was carried with marked unanimity, instructing the Mayor to sell the city's gas stock "in the manner provided by law for the selling of city property." At a later stage of the session a member suggested that, in order to ascertain what the stock was worth, it would be well for the Mayor to advertise, inviting offers to the city of gas stock. Perhaps this is what the second advertisement is for; merely a blind, by means of which to find out what gas stock is worth. But some people will not be satisfied with such an explanation. They will urge that it would be silly for the city government to resort to such a scheme, and that the real market value of gas stock is as easily ascertained as that of any other stock.

It has been suggested that the present City Council wishes to make a bopper of the city government, into which to scoop

all the stock of the gas works, thence to be conducted to the pockets of favorites. Another suggestion is that, by a pre-concerted arrangement, the present holders of stock will offer it to the city at a very low figure, with the understanding that it will not be purchased. This would make a record that would ostensibly justify the city in selling its 787 shares at a low price to bidders to whom the "tip" has been given, and that the latter may be the very holders who have offered their stock at a low figure to the city.

"THE LATE CITY COUNCIL."

OUR unesteemed "Liberal" morning contemporary takes great delight in assailing "the late City Council." That the truth is no obstacle in its way is too well known to need any demonstration on our part. But it would seem that common prudence would prevent its frequent assertions, contradicted by the public records.

This morning it consumes a large amount of editorial space on the basis of the error, that "the late City Council" granted to the Salt Lake Railway Company "a new charter permitting it to establish a double track street railway over all the principal streets of the city and connecting with all the depots." This, it says, "was fought by the Liberals in the Council and its iniquities fully pointed out," but all amendments offered were "sullenly and unanimously voted down by the majority." It then goes on to talk of the "fraud" of it and the "gift to favorites" and much more similar nonsense.

The facts that "the late City Council" did nothing of the kind, and that the franchise under which the Salt Lake City Railroad Company claims the right to operate on First East Street is fifteen years old, do not weigh a feather in the party-blind eyes of the reckless *Tribune*. The opportunity to berate "the late City Council" and deal out a little very doubtful "taffy" to the "Liberal" members was enough for the scribe, and so he turned loose.

But he also says that the Railway company "claim" that "the late City Council granted to it" this "new charter." Anyone who has read the accounts of the controversy of the past two or three days, knows that the company have made no such claim but a vow that they are proceeding under their old franchise.

In another part of the same paper the revised ordinances of the city are held up to animadversion and ridicule, on the alleged ground that while they prescribe that owners of public buildings must provide means of escape from fire, under the direction of the Inspector of Public Buildings, yet "there is no clause fixing a penalty for the violation of any of these sections." It then cites a fragment of Section 30, Chapter 20, of the revised ordinances, and repeats the above assertion, commiserating with the successor of the present inspector and calling for a revision, which it says, in black capitals, is "WANTED AT ONCE."

Now let us see how much truth there is in its assertions and how much cause there is for its sensational call. Section 7 of Chapter 19 says in regard to the failure of any owner or agent to act under the notification of the Inspector of Buildings, that he shall "on conviction thereof be fined not more than one hundred dollars," and adds:

"And in like manner any owner or agent of any building or any architect or contractor employed in or about a building who shall violate any provision of this chapter or of Chapter 29 of this ordinance where no other penalty is provided, shall upon conviction, be fined not more than a hundred dollars."

It is very easy to find fault, but not always so easy to be accurate. If the hasty person who was so eager to find fault with "the late City Council" had only examined the first chapter of the revised ordinances which he wants revised, but seems to know nothing about, he would have found a penalty provided covering all ordinances, present or future, and providing a penalty for their violation when no other is specially prescribed.

The late City Council performed a great amount of labor in a conscientious and able manner. If the present City Council shall prove to be half as good as the old, the *DESERET NEWS* will not imitate its unesteemed "Liberal" contemporary in carping and exaggerated objections, and certainly not in manufacturing grievances which have no substantial existence.

THE LOUISVILLE CALAMITY.

WHOLE streets of buildings razed in an instant, hundreds of people killed, thousands injured, and tens of thousands rushing frantically about, in a wild search for loved ones, is the substance of the story