

# The Deseret Weekly.

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Saturday, - - September 13, 1890.

## OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

THE voting citizens of Utah Territory should bear in mind that there will be an election in November for Delegate to Congress. Also that no one can vote at that election whose name is not on the registration list for the precinct in which he resides.

A great many names of legal voters have been stricken from the lists by "Liberal" registrars, who thought more of party interests than of their official oath. Perjury was a small matter in their eyes compared with a majority for their party candidates. Through this criminal course the People's Party has been defrauded in several important instances. Steps should be taken to prevent a repetition of this great wrong.

Voters sometimes remove from one precinct to another and neglect to take the proper measure to have their names changed on the registration lists so that they can vote in the precinct to which they have removed. This oversight should be remedied, as the People's Party has lost many votes through the failure of such persons to comply with the law.

It should be universally known that during the week commencing on Monday, Sept. 8th, the deputy registrars will be at their respective offices in the various precincts throughout the Territory, to "enter on the registration list the name of any voter that may have been omitted, on such voter appearing" and taking the oath prescribed by law. Every unregistered voter should register and every registered voter should see that his name is on the list.

The lists are to be delivered to the clerk of the county court on or before the 10th of October, and voters removing from one precinct to another in the same county, may appear before the registrar at any time previous to the delivery of the lists and have their names registered in the proper precinct.

Voters should take notice that there will be no house to house visitation by the registrars, and also that it will be necessary for each citizen to go to the place designated as the registrar's office for his precinct and make sure that his name is properly on the list for the November election.

It is notorious that the "Liberal" party, to which all the registration officers belong, has announced its intention to carry, if possible, the Delegate election. The methods which have been resorted to heretofore will, in all probability, be repeated on this occasion. Therefore it is necessary that every voter shall make it a personal duty to see that his name is correctly placed upon the registration list, so that he may not be defrauded of his vote.

This should be done without delay. It should not be postponed till the latter end of the week. As soon as the office of the registrar is open, voters should commence to appear and make sure of a legal registration. The time and place should be announced so that all voters may be informed, and the local officers of the People's Party ought to circulate the information and urge upon all the members to do their duty.

It should be remembered that this will be a territorial election. Every vote cast in any part of the Territory will count in the grand total. This will render it more difficult for the "Liberal" manipulators to accomplish their purpose than they have found it in this city and county. Let not a single vote be lost through failure to register. The fact that a voter's name has been on the list heretofore should not be held by him as sufficient. He must see that it is on the list for November. He must do that during the week commencing on Monday, the 8th of September.

Let all the People's Party be vigilant, conform to the law and each man see to his own rights, and the Party will certainly elect its candidate to the Congress of the United States in November. It is important that these hints shall be attended to throughout the Territory. Wake up those who are asleep, stimulate all who are indifferent and make the registration complete. Next week, or never!

## MAMMOTH ANTI-TAX PETITION.

THERE are some unusually striking features in the attitude of the City Council toward the mammoth popular petition asking for a reduction of the enormous burden of tax-

ation placed upon the community through the instrumentality of the assessor. Statements have emanated from radical "Liberal" sources intended to be derogatory to the former Council, composed of members of both political parties. The executive sessions of the latter were characterized as "secret conclaves," "star chamber" deliberations, etc. Everything done by the "Liberal" council was to be "open and above-board." They had "nothing to conceal from the public gaze!"

It is a fact, however, that the present Council is notorious for its "star chamber" sessions. Perhaps this phase of their *modus operandi* has something to do with the apparently sliding process by which measures of importance are passed without an attempt at discussion. The rank and file of the Council have doubtless been instructed, and their thumbs go up or down mechanically, according to preconceived arrangement.

Their usual "star chamber" process was resorted to in the consideration of the tax question. If there ever existed any doubt on this point, it is now dispelled. On Tuesday evening, August 6th, the following was presented:

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 5, 1890.  
To the Hon. Mayor and City Council  
Salt Lake City:

Gentlemen—I herewith present the assessment roll of Salt Lake City as assessed by me for the year 1890. The total valuation is \$54,853,740. I would most respectfully suggest that you fix the rate in mills this evening, as also the time when you will sit as a board of equalization.

And I also ask you to fix the compensation of the assessor and collector.

Yours respectfully,  
E. R. CLUTE,  
Assessor and Collector.

The following occurs in the published minutes of the proceedings of the same session:

The finance committee rendered a report recommending that the rate of city tax be fixed at four mills, and that the compensation of the assessor and collector be fixed at two and a half per cent of the tax collected. Adopted.

This action was taken without a word of discussion, and so far as we can recollect, without any reference to the finance committee which made the report. In fact such open reference could not have been made as the assessed valuation was the only intelligent basis that could be used upon which to fix the rate of tax, and the roll was not reported complete until the holding of the session when the action was taken, and the assessor's communication was dated the day previous (August 5th.)