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## THE POSITION OF THE PEOPLE.

REALIZING the questionable character of the latest eccentricity perpetrated upon the public by the City Council—the effort to dispose of Pioneer Block to a private corporation—the “Liberal” papers continue to make the most ridiculous representations in reference to that transaction. Instead of seeking to bolster such a conspicuous piece of public jobbery, they would show much more prudence if they introduced a few brilliant flashes of silence on the subject. They ought to allow the matter to work its way through the courts, into which it has been carried, until final adjudication is reached under the law.

Instead of doing this the newspapers alluded to keep on stating that the sale of the Old Fort Block is widely and almost universally endorsed by popular sentiment. All the evidence adduced before the Council and otherwise shows the opposite of this to be the fact. It has been demonstrated, however, that the present city government does not care a straw for public opinion. Neither does it manifest any anxiety to act in accord with the law, nor with any of the glittering “Liberal” promises made before the election. If there is any denial of this position, let it be stated and the proof will be furnished.

An exhibit of popular opinion and desire on the subject is exactly what the manipulators of the transaction have never wanted. If they had it would have been a matter of simplicity to have ascertained them by a test—giving the people an opportunity to vote yea or nay on the question. Bogus or even real statements of a few individuals, many of them given anonymously, have no bearing on the subject.

There are numerous reasons for the people being opposed to the sale of Pioneer block to a private corporation. It is a historic spot of ground. It was there where the brave and hardy pioneers first pitched their tents when they entered Salt Lake Valley in 1847. It was around that plat of Ground that they erected a wall to protect themselves from attacks by Indians

and against it built the rude lean-to cabins in which they found shelter until more commodious and sightly structures could be erected. Pioneer Block is the initial centre of civilization and development for this entire inter-mountain region. No wonder if even from that basis alone popular opinion should be overwhelmingly against its being disposed of to a private corporation and this prominent landmark be thus obliterated by having it transformed into a railroad depot, with all its attendant noise, bustle and confusion. They prefer to have the property devoted to the original purpose for which it was intended—a public park. It is only in this way that it could be preserved as a notable feature of this vast region.

The sentiment of the people is overwhelmingly against the transaction because they believe it to be contrary to law, they being in line with the legal adviser of the corporation, who very ably showed that the Council had no right to sell to a private party property which had been set apart for a public purpose. But seeing the matter is in the courts, we would be willing to let the question remain there but for the false cry of “Liberal” journals that popular sentiment favors the job. The Salt Lake morning anti-“Mormon” organ gave a list of alleged expressions of citizens on the subject. One of them was unique, being as follows: “Mr. Bacon will now be able to float his bonds in the east.” This statement was exultingly flaunted by the paper which published it as an indication of popular opinion being in favor of the sale of Pioneer Block. What does it imply? Simply this: That the people are desirous that the council should sell their (the people’s) property at one half its intrinsic value in order to inflate the credit of a private party. The other “Liberal” organ announced, however, that the sale was necessary in order to save the credit of the city, and to meet certain demands that are “family secrets.”

We advise the clumsy bolsters of the latest suspicious transaction of the city government to let the courts decide the question of its legality, independent of popular feeling, and not keep on reiterating the falsehood that it is endorsed by public opinion or sentiment. This claim is totally false, and is evidently not dished up for home effect, but to save “Liberal” methods from being execrated, as they ought to be, abroad.

Four people in Bodertelge, Sodermaland, have inherited one million kronor from a relative in America.

## THE DRIFT OF THE CONUTRY.

THE condition of the farmers in Ohio is deplorable. In that State the situation is worse than even in Kansas. According to dispatches from Cleveland a short time ago, and according to the press of Ohio, farming is not by any means a desirable or profitable occupation. The returns of the last census, show that the population of the agricultural districts is less than it was ten years ago. The mortgage indebtedness of the farming interests is increasing at a yearly rate of \$8,500,000. In addition to this, farm values have depreciated \$200,000,000 since 1880, or in other words, the price of land has fallen on an average, over the whole State, of \$7 per acre. Farmers there, are dissatisfied. They are looking to the Alliance for relief. Within the last six months that organization has doubled its membership.

Hitherto, the farmers of Ohio have been a very conservative class. Probably a majority of them voted the Republican ticket. Ohio has always been classed as a doubtful State in politics. Its cities have often given Democratic majorities, but Republicans always looked to the agricultural districts for the salvation of their party. It argues badly for the future that the break is now coming. The farmers realize their wretched financial condition. Demagogues will spring up, and tell them that such and such reforms are needed, and like a sick man who is ready to try any remedy offered, the farmers are likely to fall into political heresies that may prove the ruin of the nation.

Of course free and unlimited coinage of silver will be discussed. The question is one that has two sides. It is one of those peculiarly economic issues, the merits of which can only be demonstrated by actual experience. Some of the best political intellects of the country are arrayed both for and against it. The farmers in adopting this, for it is almost certain that they will, because unlimited coinage is one of the planks of the Alliance platform, should be careful not to go too far. Perhaps, to begin with, the coinage of American silver would do very well. If that proved beneficial, why extend it to the silver of the world?

But it is not on this issue that any great blunder can be made, either for or against it, because its evils or its benefits can be seen in time for reform. It is in those issues of an ultra-socialist character that the unthinking masses in times of excitement can be led astray. The confiscation of railroads, for instance, is an issue that involves so radical a