

But on reflection the outlook is not so "blue" for the Republicans as it seems to some people. The total vote is more than a thousand larger than was at first supposed. It is generally conceded, too, that a very large proportion of the "Liberal" faction will be Republican in politics when the combination is dissolved. Some put the number at two-thirds, others at three-fourths of the whole. This would leave still a majority in favor of the Democrats, which would be increased by the one-third or one-fourth of the "Liberal" remainder.

However, a great many citizens voted for the Democratic nominees at this election who are not attached to any political organization. Some of them did so because they thought that ticket the most likely to win; others because they have Democratic leanings, from various causes, without any definite conclusion in their minds as to parties. Here is a field open for political labor. Both parties may engage in it with profit. And the conditions are such that neither can say, positively which will be in the majority when there are but the two legitimate national parties in contention, and side issues are cut off.

The claim that "Liberalism" and Republicanism are identical, or nearly so, because the greater part of the "Liberal" faction have Republican proclivities, will not stand close examination. We regard the aims and methods of that faction as antagonistic to both Republican and Democratic principles. It is doomed to die and its time is short. There are still active and bright men in it who have Democratic tendencies, and though the roughest and toughest elements of society affiliate with that faction yet when it is defunct the respectable element will not all drift one way.

What is needed now in this Territory, by both of the regular parties, is thorough and complete organization with efficient, yet rational, fair-minded and gentlemanly public political educators.

The Republican Territorial Convention will meet in this city on the 2nd of September for the purpose of effecting a general organization and appointing committees. The county conventions are to meet on Wednesday, August 26, to select delegates to the territorial convention. This shows that the results of the election are hopeful to that party, and that the intention is to make a concerted struggle for future victory.

The Democrats will, no doubt, encouraged by their late success, prepare to meet the foe and we may look for lively political campaigning. We hope

it will be conducted in such a way that truth will come uppermost and intelligence will be diffused. Mere contention breeds bitterness and darkness, while enlightened discussion spreads freedom and light.

TAXPAYERS' INDIGNANT.

THERE is always some complaint about taxes. No doubt there always was, and the probability is that there always will be until "that which is perfect is come;" then justice and equity will prevail, and public duties will be regarded as privileges and be discharged with promptness and pleasure.

Just now there is a general outburst of dissatisfaction in regard to the city taxes. The strong language used is not so much against the rate as against the valuations. That they are excessive and unreasonable is universally claimed, and we think not without reason. Of course it is easy to grumble even when there is little or no cause. But on this occasion the cause is ample.

Property is assessed at fancy prices. Large advances are made over last year's assessment without any apparent reason. Many places are put at figures far beyond what they are offered at on the market. Houses are valued at higher prices than they cost to build. The city assessments are again much ahead of the county assessments. And there is an outcry that is very unfavorable to "Liberal" management.

The only answers we have heard to the vigorous complaints are, "the assessor is required by law to assess property at a cash valuation, the fault is therefore in the law;" and "you can't have public improvements without money to pay for them." These replies are open to criticism. Let us examine them.

The law has always required property to be assessed at "a cash valuation" or at "a fair cash value," which means the same thing. But the present law defines its own meaning and says:

"The terms value and fair cash value mean the amount at which property would be taken in payment of a just debt due from a solvent debtor."

This definition has been derided by some of the officials interested in making exorbitant assessments, but every intelligent person can understand it and see that it is a fair guide. Cash value does not mean a fancy price fixed by the Assessor, but what the property would fetch on a cash sale for debt.

It is well known that real estate has declined in price, ever since the "Liberals" captured this city by fraud.

The boom burst, bona fide transfers are few, values are much lower than they were two years ago, and forced sales would bring but small figures. Yet in the midst of all this, taxpayers are assessed at speculative prices, and fictitious values are placed upon their property, and there is no wonder that they emphatically object.

Then the public improvements are chiefly to be seen in boastful comments of the "Liberal" organ. A few streets have been leveled and improved. Sidewalks have been graded so that the property adjacent in many instances has been nearly ruined. It is either left away up so that steps have to be made to reach it, or so low down that a ladder must be placed to get down to it. Some of the most cranky and utterly ridiculous work has been done at immense expense and to the detriment of adjacent property holders.

What else? Who can tell? What is there to show for the exorbitant taxes, reckless expenditure and enormous debt which are the result of "Liberal" municipal control? The cry for more money at the expense of the overburdened taxpayers is impudent and outrageous, and the method of obtaining it is deserving of all the odium which it bears.

The system of paying a per. centage for assessing property is a premium upon injustice. It is an incentive to the officer to make valuations exorbitant. Why should these values be kept up to make a big per centage for the Assessor, and provide more revenue than is actually needed for municipal purposes, as the muddled estimates show?

The Board of Equalization have a heavy task before them. It is to be hoped they will be considerate to the taxpayers, even if being so shall cut down the amount to be reaped by the Assessor and Collector. It is not unlikely that the matter will be taken into the courts before it is done with. The law is plain. Its intent and purpose have not been considered. The endeavor seems to have been to get as much out of the taxpayers as possible. There should be a remedy for this. We believe it can be had in the courts.

Last year the pleadings of the oppressed taxpayers were, in most instances, sneeringly disregarded. This year, unless they are listened to with reason and some attempts at fairness, the aggrieved should combine to press their appeals to a legal issue, that burdens may not be fastened upon them too grievous to be borne. Meanwhile let all who are over assessed make their applications to the Board before the close of the coming week. Don't leave it until it is too late.