

power to comply with the request. We have no doubt as to the authority of the Council in the premises, the only question, it appears to us, is as to its will.

The powers of the City Council, as a board of equalization, to "change the valuation of assessment of any real or personal property by increasing or diminishing the assessed valuation thereof, as shall be reasonable and just," are set forth in the Act of the Legislature of 1888, amending the charters of incorporated cities, Sec. 8 of article x. And the Revised Ordinances of Salt Lake City, Sec. 14 of Chap. xxiii, agree with the charter, and say that the Board of Equalization "may change and correct any valuation, either by adding thereto or deducting therefrom."

As to changing the rate of taxation after it has been fixed, the City Council has the same power as in regard to any other action it may have taken, whether by ordinance or resolution; that is, the power of amendment or of repeal. It may be said that there is a time set for the fixing of the rate. So there is a time fixed for the completion of the assessment roll and its return to the Council. But the Council extended the time, to accommodate the assessor and help the "Liberal" party, and has ample power to change the rate of taxation to accommodate the taxpayers, relieve the public of a needless burden and prevent a surplus of revenue.

The disposition of the Council, not its power, is a matter of doubt. The will of the people has been emphatically expressed. The sentiment in favor of a reduction is general. It is held by all classes and parties alike. Will the men elected to office, and those who are holding places to which they know they were not elected, act as the servants or as the masters of the people? That is the problem which will soon be solved.

As an advocate of the People's Party, we might almost wish that the "Liberal" City Council will turn a deaf ear to the appeals of the public, reach out for large revenues, support the assessor in his flights of arithmetic and palpable game of grab, refuse to relieve the oppressed taxpayers, and thoroughly ruin the party that placed them in power. But the public welfare is or should be above all sectional interests and party proclivities, therefore, for the good of the city and the interests of its people, we hope the Council will both regulate the valuations and reduce the rate, and thus do justice to all and maintain the reputation of Salt Lake City for reasonable taxes and conservative progress.

ANTI-"MORMON" LEGISLATION.

It is scarcely probable that the monstrous propositions embodied in the bill which bears the name of Representative Struble will be seriously considered by Congress at the present session. He is reported as anxious to have action taken upon it in the House. Should the Speaker recognize him for the purpose we do not believe he will succeed in his project, for the object of it is pretty well understood by members of Congress, and no just person who comprehends its purport can fail to be disgusted with its tenor and spirit.

Mr. Struble has thus far failed in achieving the fame which he anticipated from fathering a measure against the unpopular "Mormons." He is the very opposite of the gentleman in the Upper House whose name has become notorious in connection with anti-"Mormon" legislation. Yet he imagined that by similar means he could obtain popularity and pave the way to coveted honors. But alas for human expectation! He has not been renominated in his district. The speakership did not get within forty feet of his reach, and the prospects for the Presidency have utterly faded away.

Not by injustice to the "Mormons" will ambitious politicians reach the goal of their desires. They may all write that down for ready reference. The history of the United States shows numerous political wrecks, shattered by striking upon the rock of "Mormonism." But it records no grand success for any statesman who has built his hopes of renown upon the sands of anti-"Mormon" schemes and projects. Mr. Struble might just as well retire gracefully and wait for another turn of the political tide.

A COMMITTEE OF INTELLIGENCE.

FROM our Washington dispatches we learn that the Committee on Territories adopted on Monday a resolution, submitted by Mr. Mansur of Missouri, relative to Arizona and New Mexico, which incidentally includes something specially interesting to Utah.

It authorizes the appointment of a sub-committee of seven members who are to visit Arizona and New Mexico and inquire into the actual situation in those Territories, with the view of determining whether they are fit for and desirous of admission into the Union on a footing with existing States.

And this sub-committee is also authorized to visit such localities in Utah as they may deem proper, for the purpose of learning about the extent or decadence of the doctrine and practice of plural or celestial marriage.

A report on these matters is to be prepared and submitted to the present Congress at its next session.

This we regard as a very important and very sensible movement. Such conflicting rumors reach Washington in regard to the people in the Territories mentioned, that Congressmen may well be puzzled to arrive at the truth. Party interests are so strong that facts are frequently kept out of sight, while others are grossly exaggerated and the welfare of the people is ignored. As to Utah, the most glaring and stupid fabrications are presented as admitted truths. And those who are ready to make the needful explanations are looked upon with natural suspicion as representatives of an unpopular religious body.

We hope the examination will not be too hurried. It ought to be thorough and complete. Prejudice and opinion, and party and sectarian notions ought to be excluded and only facts considered. The appointment of this sub-committee is a prudent measure, and, as the resolution was unanimously adopted, it is probable that shortly after the adjournment of Congress the gentlemen selected will be on their way toward the wild and wonderful West.

RETIRING COUNTY OFFICERS.

THE People's Party have reason to be proud of the county officers who have retired to give place to their successors, chosen at the last election. One of the gentlemen who has stepped down and out is Elias A. Smith, selectman and formerly probate judge. He has served the public with ability and probity that do himself and the community credit. The same can be correctly and truthfully said of the other retiring officers. Mr. John C. Cutler's business qualifications and fidelity to an upright course have fitted him admirably for the duties of the position (County Clerk) he recently filled. Mr. George M. Cannon, ex-Recorder of the county, is recognized as one of the most competent officers that ever occupied the position, his merits being recognized by all classes of the community. Added to his ability he has exhibited fo-