

THE LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

Yesterday afternoon Sears, chairman of the House committee on claims, submitted the following report:

Your committee on claims and public accounts, acting jointly with the committee on claims and public accounts of the Council, to whom was referred House Claim No. 24, of Garfield county, of \$1,571.19; H. C. No. 6, of H. W. Hawley, of \$377.50; H. C. No. 51, of Grand county, of \$1,011.36; H. C. No. 47, of Sanpete county, \$12,262.70; H. C. No. 34, of Sevier county, of \$2,536.75; H. C. No. 32, of Millard county, for \$538.85; H. C. No. 8, of B. B. Quinn, of \$402.85; H. C. No. 36, of J. H. Tipton, for \$190.65, respectfully submit the following: Said committees, acting jointly, as aforesaid, and after spending considerable time in the consideration of the respective claims adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That no claim incurred by the respective counties or by any county officer for criminal expenses in justices' courts, including the fees of witnesses, jurors, stenographers, constables, sheriffs, justices and commissioners, be allowed, but that the same be rejected.

And, whereas, The above mentioned claims come within the said resolution we recommend that said claims be rejected.

All of the claims disallowed by the committee were for costs of criminal prosecutions, and the discussion of the report opened up the whole subject. Varian asked by what right the claims committee rejected claims that were, by a law of Congress, made a charge against the Territory. Sears promptly replied that the committee were governed by a law of the Territory, which provided that costs of criminal prosecutions in certain cases were a charge against the county. Varian deprecated the intelligence of any man who would give a law of the Territory preference to one of Congress, and Sears promptly replied that, so far as he was concerned, he would obey the law of the Territory until the Territorial Supreme court should pass upon the question.

Varian remarked that he desired the gentleman (Sears) to place himself on record, which the latter promptly did. Later Varian supported the action of the committee, in rejecting this class of claims, in view of all the circumstances, and voted to adopt the report, including the resolution. In fact the report to adopt was unanimous, and the House has thus made an explicit record of its position in respect to this class of claims. Sears has been carrying the brunt of this fight, with Stanford, who is chairman of the ways and means committee, a close and able ally. These gentlemen have had to contend with the very disagreeable features connected with this question, and the action of the House, especially its unanimous character, is both a victory for and a vindication of them.

Yesterday afternoon while the revenue bill was under consideration in the House, the motion to strike out the clause exempting from taxation, mortgages and trust deeds, and the notes and debts secured by them, gave rise to a debate of a character precisely similar to that which was had on Varian's bill to tax debts secured by mortgages and trust deeds, except that it was briefer. The same denunciations of capital, and the legislation favoring it,

were reiterated, and the motion was carried by the same vote, viz., 12 to 11, by which Varian's bill passed the House. Johnson, who made the motion, expressed defiance of the press and its opinions and influence, and predicted a revolutionary uprising of the people, if the injustice of existing tax laws is not remedied, and Allen spoke in a similar strain. A marked flavor of Populism characterized the remarks and sentiments of these two gentlemen.

Three of the bills "to regulate the practice of medicine," which have been in the hands of the House committee on public health, were adversely reported yesterday, by Chairman Wines. The report was adopted and the bills were killed. The bill "to advance the science of medicine and surgery," by providing bodies of persons dying under certain circumstances, in public institutions, for dissection, was included in the slaughter. A day or two ago, a physician representing the interests and wishes of the "regular" physicians, took occasion to expostulate with a member of the health committee of one of the houses on account of the delay of the committee in reporting the amendments to the present law which the "regulars" had recommended, and intimated that it was evidently the intention of the committee to delay action until it would be too late for the Assembly to do anything but repeal the present law. The legislator thus addressed replied to the effect that the health committee had its own ideas of its duty, and intended to perform it.

This afternoon Stoker, of the House committee on public health, presented a bundle of petitions asking for the passage of a bill amending the present medical law, which had been prepared under the auspices of the so-called regular physicians. The petitions and the accompanying bill were referred to the health committee. It is said of this bill that it is as objectionable in many respects as is the present law, and it is not believed that the health committee will favorably report it.

After a long and wearisome discussion, the Council yesterday passed H. B. 37, creating Carbon county. The bill has been amended, since the House passed it, by eliminating all provisions specifying who shall be the officers, and where shall be the seat of the new county. This was done mainly for constitutional reasons. It is thought the bill will readily pass the House as amended. An election will determine the county seat and officers.

FRIDAY.

In the House this forenoon Parsons, chairman of the committee on appropriations, introduced H. B. 139 (substitute for a bill previously introduced), which is designed to create a fund for the employment of the poor. There was an attempt to pass the bill under a suspension of the rules, but Allen pointed out reasons why it should be printed and considered by the committee on ways and means, and the House so ordered. The bill is as follows:

A Bill for an Act to Provide Labor for the Destitute Poor of Utah Territory.

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah:

Sec. 1. That the several counties of this

Territory may and they are hereby authorized and empowered to issue warrants to the amount of one-fourth of one mill for each dollar in value of the taxable property situated in the county, said value to be computed from the assessed value of property within the respective counties, according to the issue of the assessment roll of A. D. 1893, said warrants to bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum from the date of issue until called in for payment; provided that such warrants shall not be issued for any other purpose than in payment for labor performed upon the public roads within the county issuing them.

Sec. 2. Said warrants shall be redeemable one or two years from the date of issue, at the option of the county issuing them.

Sec. 3. Any county issuing warrants as is herein provided, may levy and collect a special tax, not to exceed three-eighths of one mill on each dollar of the taxable property within the county, for the purpose of redeeming said warrants, and the funds so collected shall be applied, first to the redemption of said warrants, and the surplus, if there be any, shall be covered into the poor fund of the county.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Whether or not a sensation is produced by the following resolution remains to be seen:

Resolved, That the ways and means committee is hereby authorized to summon and administer oaths to witnesses in matters of public interest pending before said committee; and the sergeant-at-arms is hereby directed to serve subpoenas signed by the Speaker upon request of the said committee.

In support of the resolution, Sears said that parties who had been called upon for information, had ignored the request of the committee. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and it is probable that the sergeant-at-arms will next be waiting upon individuals who know something about public accounts and finances.

Party politics were actively employed in the House today. While H. B. 117, providing for the payment of jurors and witnesses, and appointing court commissioners, was under consideration, it became necessary to choose a court commissioner for each judicial district and insert his name in the bill. The Republican nominees, which had been agreed on in caucus, were presented by Varian, and were as follows:

First district, Benjamin Bachman; second district, James Lowe; third district, L. M. Earl; fourth district, T. J. Stevens.

The Democratic nominees, presented by Powers, were as follows: First district, John Turner; second district, W. H. Bakes; third district, G. D. Pyper; fourth district, H. H. Rollap.

By a strict party vote, the Republican nominees were chosen.

The next measure called up was H. B. 99, offering a bounty of 50 cents per ton on sugar beet, and the Democrats indulged in jocularly and burlesque while it was under consideration. Hubbard offered an amendment, paying a bounty on wheat, potatoes, barley, etc. Ivins offered another providing that the compensation of the chemist, on whose report the beet bounty is to be paid, he paid out of the treasury of the company using the beets. Nebeker offered several additional sections, appropriating \$100,000 to encourage the raising of bananas, and containing a number