

business purposes, meets with our approval, as in the erection of such building, the needs of the Territory or State will be provided for in this direction for many years to come.

By the erection of this building, at an estimated cost of \$125,000, which amount can be obtained by issuing bonds at 5 per cent interest, it is evident by representations in figures made to your committee by the Secretary and Governor on cost of rent for halls, office rooms, etc., that the advantages in building over that of renting would not only pay the interest on the bonds but be a net saving to the Territory annually of from \$3,000 to \$5,000. And as suggested in the messages of Governor West, the erection of this building at the present time would give work to a large number of the unemployed working class, a subject worthy of the most earnest consideration of this Legislative Assembly, under existing distress and want among so large a number of this class of citizens. Your committee are also of the opinion that all kinds of material and labor can be obtained at greatly reduced prices at the present time; on that a saving of at least 20 per cent in the cost of such a building can be saved to the Territory. We therefore recommend the issuing of bonds and erection of one wing of a capitol building.

(Signed.)

STANFORD.  
STOKER.  
MASON.  
POWERS.

McBride dissenting.

TUESDAY.

"What are you going to do with the University and Agricultural College?" asked a NEWS representative of a prominent member of the House, today. "O, I don't know; give me something easy," was the verbatim reply of the legislator. The same question has been put to several other members of the Assembly within the last few days, and substantially the same reply has been received, except in one instance. Such is the situation on the 58th day of the session, with only two days remaining in which to do business. But there is one member of the Assembly who has clear cut ideas upon this and other financial questions now pending in the Assembly, and when the above interrogatory was put to him he answered it comprehensively and explicitly by giving the man of news the program which he was in favor of having carried out by the Legislature. The member referred to is Representative Stanford, chairman of the committee on ways and means, and of the committee on Capitol grounds, and his program is as follows: Purchase the Military academy at Ogden, which cost \$50,000, but is offered to the Territory for \$20,000, and make a reform school of it; remove the deaf mutes and blind to the present Reform school premises; remove the University to Logan; unite with the Agricultural College, and give to both \$40,000 to run them for two years; appease Salt Lake by erecting a wing of the Capitol building; make no change in the present rate of Territorial tax; let the Territorial school tax remain as it now is in order to get the support of members from the weaker counties to the program as a whole; and issue bonds to meet unavoidable deficiencies,

but make these as small as possible by a policy of retrenchment in all public expenditures. If the University is not sent to Logan, I should favor closing it. In my opinion it would be better to suspend it than give it a starvation appropriation."

As far as the legislative mind has thus far assumed shape on the matters included in the above program, it is believed that it reflects the views of the majority of both houses; but the amount of blankness of opinion among the legislators on the subjects named is remarkable.

The Council spent considerable time yesterday and much of its morning session today in considering Varian's mechanics' lien bill. As the measure left the House it provided that the mechanics' lien should take precedence over any other incumbrance on the property, without regard to record notice. Thus the owner of a lot might mortgage it for money to build with, and the mortgage might be on record before work on the building commenced; yet should the laborers on the building not get their pay, they could claim lien on both land and building, which would have priority of the mortgage. The doubtful constitutionality of such a provision did not deter the House from passing it, but it shocked the legal and moral sense of the Council to such an extent that they amended the section so as to provide that any mortgage or judgment lien on record prior to the creation of the mechanic's lien should have preference over the latter. The Council made numerous other amendments in the bill, some of them of a somewhat radical character. In fact, it met with a general overhauling in the upper branch. What the House will do with the amendments the Council has made in this bill remains to be seen.

The House has a habit of acting on any measure before it with a promptness which borders on rashness, and it waded through a long list of measures on third reading yesterday, passing some and killing others with remarkable dispatch. It is well up with its work, and today's session will leave not a very large number of bills awaiting final action.

The fire and police bill continues to be a remarkably fruitful subject of discussion among members and in the lobby. Today its author had a reading of it in company with a number of gentlemen who were interested in it, and it was to come up as special order at 4 p. m. today, in the House, on Council amendments.

The council held a session this morning and met again this afternoon. At the forenoon session a large amount of business was transacted, and the Council, like the House, is showing a disposition to rush through the calendar. The House, however, is more nearly up with its work than is the Council. The latter body proceeds with more deliberation than does the House.

The militia bill has passed the Council and it is a foregone conclusion that Utah is to have a military system, as the Governor is reported to be quite willing to accept the title of commander-in-chief, which office he will hold, with reference to the militia.

## DAVIS STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Davis Stake of Zion was held at East Bountiful on Saturday and Sunday, March 3rd and 4th, 1894. There were present Elders F. D. Richards and H. J. Grant, of the Council of the Apostles, Elders John W. Hess and J. H. Grant, of the Stake presidency, ten members of the High Council, with one exception all the Bishops of the various wards in the Stake, and notwithstanding the bad weather and wretched roads the Tabernacle was filled to its utmost capacity all through conference.

Elders F. D. Richards and H. J. Grant in their addresses to the Saints were filled with the Spirit of God, and they gave counsel and instructions which if put into practice by the Saints will make us better men and women.

Elder John W. Hess gave a brief report of the condition of the Stake, saying the Saints generally were living their religion. Superintendent Nathan T. Porter reported the Sunday schools in the Stake as being in an excellent condition, there being a marked improvement in the year that is past. The general and Stake authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

On Sunday afternoon Elder John W. Hess of Farmington was set apart as President of the Davis Stake of Zion (vice Wm. R. Smith deceased) and Joseph H. Grant of West Bountiful was set apart as first counselor to President Hess. These brethren were set apart under the hands of Elders Richards and Grant; also Elder James G. Wood, ordained a High Priest and set apart as first counselor to Bishop David Cook, of the South Hooper ward.

Last but not least, much praise is due to Professor Edward Thomas and the members of the East Bountiful choir for the excellent singing and music rendered by them during conference. Altogether it was a very enjoyable time, and will be long remembered by those that were present and listened to the words of encouragement and counsel given. JOHN J. SMITH, Clerk.

## EALDEST NATIVE UTONIANS.

TOQUERVILLE, Washington county, Utah, February 23, 1894.

There was an inquiry put forth, Who was the first boy born in Salt Lake valley? And as I was about to answer it, I found in the NEWS of February 20, 1894, the answer from Taylorsville of February 10 which is correct. My child, a girl, was born August 9th, 1847, on Monday, at 4 a. m., on the Temple block. There were three other girls born and then Brother Lorenzo D. Young's boy came along, being the first boy; and he has the right of precedence of all boys born in the valley.

Very respectfully yours,  
JOHN STEELE.

A telephone company has been organized to connect Albuquerque, Cochiti, Cerrillos, San Pedro and Santa Fe with talking wire. The company, it is said, has ample capital for the enterprise.