

important measure pending in the Assembly, and will probably be passed.

SATURDAY.

This morning Hatch introduced in the House the resolution subjoined. Stanford is chairman of the Capitol grounds commission, and his face was a study while the resolution was being read. At the conclusion of the reading he instantly arose and said: "Mr. Speaker, I move that that resolution be tabled indefinitely." The motion was carried by a roll call vote of 11 to 10, some of the members evidently thinking that the resolution ought to go to the Capitol grounds committee. It is as follows:

A RESOLUTION.

Abandoning the Capitol Grounds in Salt Lake City.

Whereas, the Territory of Utah is not the owner of the grounds on "Arsenal Hill," but the title is conditioned that in case of any future removal of the seat of government, the grounds, with all buildings erected thereon, will revert to Salt Lake City, and any and all monies expended in improvements will be a total loss to the people of the Territory, and

Whereas, said grounds are located three-quarters of a mile up an alley, over and beyond a hill, and on the side of a mountain that slopes in such a direction, and at such an angle, that said grounds are not visible to any inhabitant of the Territory, unless, perhaps, to a chance hunter shooting ducks on Warm Springs lake, and

Whereas, On account of the excessive altitude and the irregular conformation and perpendicularity of the said grounds, the cost of construction of any buildings will be from twenty-five to fifty per cent greater than on any suitable site, and

Whereas, owing to the natural obstacles of the location, the board of commissioners on Capitol grounds, using the utmost wisdom and economy, have been unable to make any improvements commensurate with the money appropriated and expended for such purpose; and

Whereas, The topography of the immediate vicinity and the scarcity of water, will prevent the settlement and improvement of the adjoining mountains, thereby leaving the Capitol building of the Territory remote and isolated from the Territory itself:

Resolved, by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, That the present site for the Capitol grounds is unsuitable, inadequate and unworthy;

That the further improvement of said grounds will be an extravagant, reckless and dangerous use of public money, and That said grounds should be and are hereby abandoned.

The silk bounty debate in the House yesterday afternoon was listened to by a large audience of ladies, who were ranged on either side of the Speaker's desk, and who came out in force evidently for the purpose of exerting, by their presence, a silent but potent influence in favor of the measure. For a time it was wondered whether any Democratic member would have the courage to make a speech in opposition to the bill, in the face of such an audience. But Tolton courageously led off, and after him came several other Democrats. Party lines were sharply drawn and the final vote was strictly partisan.

While Tolton's bill, H. B. 7, appropriating \$300 for the redemption of court scrip in the Second district, was under consideration, the whole matter

of court expenses was gone into, to some extent. Tolton showed the injustice to which jurors and witnesses were subjected in the Second district by the practical repudiation by the Territory of court scrip. Powers said in his opinion, every such promise to pay, issued by authority of the Territory, ought to be, and some time would be, redeemed. It was a shame that persons holding the Territory's obligations should be defrauded out of their pay. Ivins made remarks in the same line and Varian agreed with these gentlemen, and thought the Territory could not afford to repudiate these obligations. Allen thought a special law ought not to be passed for the relief of only one district. The debate did not produce any tangible result other than the appropriation of the small amount asked for in the bill.

The Assembly seems to have inaugurated morning sessions in earnest. It met at 10 o'clock today, and the House adjourned until that hour on Monday after a session of nearly three hours. The Council adjourned at about 12:30 today until 2 p.m., Monday; but it will doubtless commence morning sessions next week.

In explanation of his concurrent resolution which the House adopted this forenoon, authorizing the joint claims committee to employ an accountant to assist them, Sears stated that that committee was so crowded with work that it could not possibly check up certain matters without expert assistance, and that the services of a good accountant would save large sums to the Territory.

One of the bills passed by the House today, H. B. 121, is of special interest to farmers and livestock owners, living near railroads. It requires the railroad company to post up, at the first station each side of the point at which the killing occurs, a full description of animals killed by trains. Agriculturists who miss an animal can thus ascertain whether or not it has been killed on the track.

[MONDAY.]

One of the first items of business considered in the House was H. B. 34, Allen's bill to restore the control of elections to the county courts, which came up on minor amendments made by the Council. These were concurred in without debate, and the bill was sent to the enrollment committee. It will be engrossed and sent to the Governor as soon as practicable. It will be remembered that this bill aims to do away with the Utah Commission, but of course it will go into effect only with the consent of Congress. On approval of the bill by Congress, it will go into effect, but without such approval it will be nugatory. The question is, will Congress approve this bill, and if so, when?

The matter of leasing school lands, treated of in the report of the House committee on ways and means, given in full below, is an important one, which has not heretofore received the attention it merits. Should the House judiciary committee report in favor of the proposition that the Legislature may control the matter it is a foregone conclusion that a law will be passed providing for a generous revenue from that source, which will materially lessen the burden of taxation for the

support of schools. Whether the Territory on the respective counties will have the full benefit of this revenue, or whether it will be divided, is a matter that will have to be fought out in the Assembly. Salt Lake county members will probably insist that the receipts on leases of school lands shall come to the Territorial treasury, while at least some of the country members will contend for it to go to the county treasuries.

H. B. 118, substitute for H. B. 74, Warner's general revenue bill, came up in the House as special order at 10:30 a.m. today. The first section provides a tax of three and one-fourth mills for Territorial purposes; three mills for district school purposes, to create the Territorial school fund; a county school tax not exceeding two mills, to be fixed by the county court; a general county tax not to exceed three mills, also to be fixed by county court; and a special tax for county purposes not exceeding two mills, to be levied only after an election shall be held at which a majority of the votes shall be in favor of it. Varian moved to make the Territorial school tax two mills instead of three. Without debate the motion prevailed. Hatch then moved to increase the county school tax from two to five mills, and in support of his motion said that many of the outlying counties could not maintain a free school system without a county school tax of more than two mills. The debate on Hatch's motion led some of the members to see the result of Varian's amendment and Nebeker moved to reconsider it. A debate ensued which gradually took in a wider scope, until the whole fiscal and educational policy of the Territory were under discussion. The Salt Lake county members held to the old position that the Territorial school tax resulted in injustice to the city and county, because it compelled them to help educate the children of the outlying counties, and they contended for a reduction of the rate, so as to thereby reduce that injustice. Several country members cited the fact that this city enjoyed the advantages of the University, the support of which laid a heavy burden on the whole Territory, which was an offset to any injustice Salt Lake City and county may suffer under the Territorial tax. Incidental to this issue was discussed the propriety of the state providing free higher education for its children. Ivins was opposed to its doing so. Varian agreed with him as to principle, but said the University existed and must be maintained. Nearly every member who referred to this phase of the question agreed with Ivins. Several country members insisted that the territorial school tax must not be made less than three mills, for if it were, many counties could not maintain free schools more than two terms in the year. Allen said it was unusual for a state tax to be levied for the support of schools, and held that each county should sustain its own schools, though he would favor a small territorial tax to assist them. Parsons took a similar position. Hubbard thought the strong should aid the weak and the country members generally were with him. Nebeker's motion to reconsider the vote by which Varian's amendment was carried, making the territorial school tax two instead of three mills, pre-