

PEORIA

AND THE

State Capital.



18.6.8

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Ill. Hist. Surv.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

The proposed removal of the State Capital from Springfield to Peoria is one of the most important questions now before the people of Illinois. It is due, therefore, that the people should be placed in possession of some of the steps taken in behalf of the removal and the reasons urged therefor.

Dissatisfaction having been expressed with regard to the present location of the proposed new state house, the scanty amount of ground (wholly insufficient) upon which it is being erected, and the questionable manner in which the appropriations for its erection are being expended, the citizens of Peoria were induced to make a formal offer for the removal of the capital to the beautiful bluffs which overlook their place.

The first public act of Peoria was the appointment, on the 11th day of March, 1871, of a committee of the Peoria Board of Trade to confer with the citizens and city council on the subject.

On the following evening, Saturday, March 12, a public meeting was held at the court house, at which it was unanimously resolved that Peoria ought to offer a sum sufficient to indemnify the state against any loss from her present work, and to donate twenty acres of ground as an inducement for the removal of the capital to their city.

On the evening of Tuesday, March 14, a meeting of the city council of Peoria was held, at which communications signed by several hundred citizens were read, offering if the city should make an offer for the capital, to enter into personal bond guaranteeing the fulfillment of any contract that might be made. The council thereupon unanimously adopted the following

RESOLUTION AND MEMORIAL OF PEORIA.

WHEREAS, There is good reason for believing that with proper inducements the capital of the state of Illinois can be permanently located at Peoria; and,

WHEREAS, Such location is deemed of sufficient interest to said city to warrant her in repaying the state for her present outlay for the unfinished state house at Springfield, and also the presentation of a site for said house upon our bluffs; therefore,

Be it Resolved by the city council of the city of Peoria that his honor, the mayor, be authorized and instructed in the name and upon the authority of the city to present the following memorial and proposition to the legislature of the state of Illinois now in session at Springfield, and ask for the acceptance of the same:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Illinois in General Assembly Convened:

The undersigned, acting in the name and behalf of the city of Peoria, by resolution of the city council authorized and instructed, respectfully presents to your honorable body the following memorial and proposition:

Believing it to be for the interests of the state of Illinois that its capital be transferred to Peoria, provided the same can be done without loss occurring to the state and the people thereof, and also believing that the city of Peoria can afford to remunerate the state for its present outlay on the unfinished state house at Springfield, the city of Peoria offers and agrees that in case said capital be permanently located at Peoria and a state house erected thereat similar to the one now in process of erection at Springfield,

First, To pay to the state of Illinois in such manner and times as your honorable body may determine, a sum (not to exceed \$805,203.08) sufficient to indemnify the state for its outlay upon the present structure at Springfield. In case the offer be accepted, several hundred property holders of the city of Peoria are ready and pledged to enter into a good and sufficient bond that the city shall, in good faith, carry out its portion of the contract and pay over to the state such sum whenever called for;

Second, To also provide and convey to the state of Illinois, free of cost, such lands upon the bluffs of said city as may be selected by a committee of your honorable body, in quantity not less than ten acres, upon which said lands the state shall immediately proceed to erect a state house similar to the one now contemplated to be erected in Springfield;

Third, That the city of Peoria will for the space of five years, if deemed necessary, beginning from and after the first day of January, 1872, provide free of cost to the state of Illinois halls for the assembling of the legislature in Peoria, and holding sessions therein, said halls to be equal in capacity and acceptability to those now used by the present legislature at Springfield;

In submitting these propositions, your memorialists would call attention to the superior advantages presented by Peoria for the capital of the state. She is nearer the centre of population and the geographical centre of the state, than any other city. She has competing railroads, diverging to every point of the compass. She will have four routes to Chicago, three to St. Louis and the southeast, two east, three west, and three northwest. Freights and fares to Peoria are now as low as to any other point in the state.

The new state house can be erected at Peoria at from ten to fifteen per cent. cheaper than it can at Springfield. Fuel of excellent quality, and unlimited in abundance, can always be obtained at Peoria, at lower rates than elsewhere in Illinois. Her water supply is abundant and cheap, being fully equal to that of Chicago. Her magnificent bluffs present a site for the location of a state house unsurpassed by any other locality in the entire country. Abundant hotel and boarding house accommodations will be provided for the members of the legislature, at reasonable rates.

Should this proposition be deemed worthy of serious attention, we hereby tender to the general assembly an invitation to visit the city of Peoria, either as a body or by committee, as it may deem proper, to examine the site proposed and offered to the state for the erection of its state house, and will for this purpose, upon reasonable notice, engage to provide, free of cost to the state, special transportation for your honorable body to and from the city, and also to entertain you while there.

The foregoing memorial was presented to the Legislature by Hon. G. T. Barker, Mayor of Peoria, and the invitation to visit the city was accepted. On Thursday evening, March 23d, both houses embarked on a special train, arrived at Peoria

the following morning, and spent the day in examining the locality and the site proposed for the new capitol building.

KING'S BILL.

On the 28th of March, Hon. R. A. King, of Jersey county, introduced a bill into the House of Representatives for submitting the question of removing the state capital to Peoria to a vote of the people. The bill is entitled, "A Bill for an act to permanently locate the Seat of Government of the State of Illinois at the city of Peoria."

The preamble to the bill recites the propositions contained within the Peoria Memorial. The bill proper is as follows :

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois represented in the general assembly, that from and after the first day of January, 1872, the seat of government of the state of Illinois shall be deemed and held to be at the city of Peoria, in the county of Peoria, and from and after said date all acts, judicial, legislative or executive, required to be done or executed at the seat of government, shall be done and executed at the city of Peoria, and all laws requiring any officer to reside at the seat of government, or requiring any matter or thing to be done and performed, or requiring action of any kind by officers or individuals at the seat of government, are hereby made and declared applicable to the city of Peoria as the seat of government. All laws or enactments inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 1 of this act shall not go into effect or be in force until the city of Peoria shall substantially comply to the satisfaction of the general assembly with the terms of the preamble in this act.

SEC. 3. At the election, to be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of November, 1871, at the usual places of holding elections, according to the laws of this state, the question whether or not the first section of this act shall go into effect or in any manner be in force, shall be submitted to a vote of the people, and if the same is approved by a majority of all the legal votes cast for or against the same, it shall go into effect and be in force, otherwise it shall not go into effect or in any manner be in force. Notices of said election shall be given, and said election shall be conducted according to the laws of this state regulating general elections. Each qualified elector voting at said election shall have the right to use a ticket with the words written or printed thereon : "For the permanent location of the seat of government at Peoria." Each of said tickets shall be counted as a vote for the approval of the first section of this act, unless the same be erased with ink or pencil, and against said approval in case it is so cancelled. And the return of such votes shall be made accordingly by the judges of the election.

SEC. 4. The return of the votes for and against the approval of the first section of this act shall be made by the several county clerks as is now provided by law, to the secretary of state within twenty days after the election, and said returns shall, within five days thereafter, be canvassed by the auditor, treasurer and secretary of state, or any two of them in the presence of the governor, and proclamation shall be made forthwith by the governor of the result of the canvass.

SEC. 5. The secretary of state shall cause to be published, in pamphlet form, 50,000 copies of this act, and shall distribute the same to the county clerks of the several counties of this state, who shall distribute the same throughout their respective counties.

The rules were suspended, the bill was read a first time and ordered to a second reading.

On the 4th of April, Mr. Heafield, of Chicago, asked for a suspension of the rules of the house, in order that he might introduce a series of resolutions pro-

viding for a special committee to investigate the construction of the present unfinished state house at Springfield. A majority of the house voted for suspension, but as two-thirds are required to suspend the rules, the proposition failed. Subsequently a committee, without any power to compel the attendance of witnesses, and with no appropriation to pay the expense of their attendance, was raised; and this committee, thus hampered, is now conducting its investigations. Hon. C. A. Roberts, of Tazewell county, is chairman. A report has been circulated that this committee has closed its labors, and found everything in the most satisfactory condition. The report is not true.

Previous to the agitation of the removal of the capital to Peoria, the senate had passed a bill appropriating \$600,000 for continuing the work on the Springfield structure. This was amended in several particulars, and was passed to a third reading in the house, but a vote on its final passage was not reached before adjournment.

Mr. King's bill was brought up several times, but as the rules had to be suspended for its consideration, a two-thirds vote could not be obtained.

PROTEST OF THE HOUSE.

On the 6th day of April, the bill appropriating \$600,000 for continuing the work on the new state house was considered, when Mr. King, of Jersey, offered an amendment submitting that question to a vote of the people. The amendment was voted down, when the following protest of the minority was presented and ordered spread upon the journal:

PROTEST.

We, the undersigned, members of the house of representatives of the general assembly of the State of Illinois, do most respectfully dissent from and protest against the action of this house as follows, that is to say:

On Thursday, the 6th instant, the following proposed additional section to senate bill No. 112, entitled "A bill for an act to provide for the early completion of the new state house," as an amendment thereto, was under consideration in this house as follows:

SEC. 5. At a general election, to be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of November, 1871, at the usual places of holding elections in this state according to law, the question whether or not sections one, two, three and four of this act shall go into effect, shall be submitted to a vote of the people, and if said sections are approved by a majority of the legal votes cast at said election, then the said sections shall be in full force and effect from and after January 1, 1872; but unless a majority of the legal voters voting at said election shall vote to approve said sections, the same shall not be in force or of any effect, and the secretary of state is hereby required to notify the county clerks in this state of such submission, and said clerks shall cause notice of the same to be given in the usual manner, and the manner of voting shall be "For the appropriation of \$600,000 to the new state house, in Springfield," or "against the appropriation of \$600,000 to the new state house, in Springfield," and the returns of such votes for and against this law, shall be made by the several county clerks of this state within thirty days after said elections, and said returns shall, within five days thereafter, be canvassed by the auditor, treasurer and secretary of the state, or any two of them, in the pres-

ence of the governor, and proclamation shall be forthwith made by the governor of the result of the canvass.

And the question being on a motion to lay said proposed additional section on the table, it was voted and decided that said proposed amendment lie on the table, and said bill was thereupon ordered to a third reading without said amendment being a part thereof.

The reasons for our dissent and protest are as follows.

1. We believe that the location of the seat of government at Springfield has been, and still is, the cause of great dissatisfaction to a large number of the people of the state, and that the erection of the new state house, which has been commenced in Springfield, will, if completed, fasten the location of the seat of government at Springfield against the will of the people.

2. We believe that the grounds upon which the new state house is located are totally unfit for the site of so important a building, and that the constantly increasing dissatisfaction of the people therewith will ultimately lead to the removal of the seat of government to some other and more desirable locality.

3. We believe that the new state house, now in process of construction, will require an expenditure of from six to eight millions of dollars to finish and furnish the same in a style in accordance with the original plan and design of the building, and, inasmuch as the constitution forbids the appropriation of more than \$3,500,000, without a vote of the people, we believe that a vote of the people will ultimately be required to authorize the necessary appropriation to be made. We therefore believe that before any further appropriations are made, a vote of the people should be taken whether the building already commenced shall be completed or not.

4. We believe that the appropriation of the sum of \$600,000 in the manner proposed in said bill, without consulting the people, will not in any degree allay the great and increasing dissatisfaction which exists in relation to the location of the seat of government at Springfield, and the erection of the new state house on the site where it has been commenced, and in our judgment the public interest require that said appropriation be withheld or submitted to the people for approval or rejection.

5. We call attention to the fact that the city of Peoria, which is nearer the center of population, commerce and wealth of the state than the city of Springfield, has proposed to indemnify the state against loss in case the seat of government is removed to that city, and that a bill is now pending to submit the question of such removal to the people. We also call attention to the fact that a vote of the people has never been taken in regard to the location of their state capital, which, in our opinion, ought to be done before any further appropriations are made.

6. We believe that, with the appropriation of \$600,000, the new state house cannot be far enough advanced toward completion to accommodate the general assembly at its next biennial session, and that a vote of the people can be had upon the question of the re-location of the seat of government before the final adjournment of this general assembly, and that no serious detriment can accrue to the state from the postponement of such appropriation until after such vote shall have been taken.

7. We therefore, for the reasons stated, believe it to be our duty, as the representatives of the people, in our own names, and in the names of those whom we represent, to thus publicly protest, and we do hereby dissent from and protest against the action of this house in laying said amendment on the table, and in that manner refusing to submit the question to the people of this state, whether or not the appropriation should be made, and we claim the right, under the constitution, to have this, our protest, and the reasons of our dissent from the action of this house, entered upon its journals.

Dated at the hall of representatives, this 7th day of April, 1871.

C. A. Roberts,	R. M. Pritchard,	J. L. Campbell,
J. H. Jones,	Wm. Massenburg,	R. H. Foss,
T. M. Morse,	J. S. Lee,	P. F. Remsberg,
A. M. Cavan,	Geo. J. Richardson,	J. W. Heafield,
M. Langston,	H. C. Senne,	Wm. McElwee,
Levi North,	R. P. Derrickson,	John Morris,
Miles A. Fuller,	John Humphrey,	E. M. Haines,
Geo. W. Herdman,	James M. Rice,	A. S. Rowley,
O. F. Price,	W. A. M. Crouch,	R. A. King,
S. F. Fleharty,	Wm. Vocke,	Carlisle Mason,
Robert Hunter,	A. L. Morrison,	W. K. Sullivan,
J. W. Olson,	A. H. Burley,	J. F. Latimer,
W. M. Whitney,	J. Rheinhardt,	Anson L. Clark,
B. Edgcomb,	Geo. W. Armstrong,	J. N. McElwain,
S. T. Shelton,	L. Mussetter,	D. S. Efner,
W. S. Brooks,	A. P. Rowley,	James Manly,
S. S. Benson,	Nathan Williams,	John W. Ross,
Wm. B. Dodge,	R. S. Williamson,	Thomas J. Turner.
Arthur Dixon,	J. F. Latimer,	James Shaw,
Ira B. Hall,	Samuel Caldwell,	E. H. Johnson,
J. G. Phillips,	John T. Morgan,	Norman H. Ryan,
S. P. Cummings,	Phillip Collins,	M. J. Braiden,

PEORIA GIVES BOND.

The good faith of Peoria, in making her offer, having been questioned, one hundred and twenty-three of her citizens, representing some ten or twelve million dollars worth of property, subscribed to the following bond which was presented in the house on the 15th of April by Col. T. J. Turner, of Stephenson, and ordered to be filed in the office of the secretary of state :

Know all men by these presents : That we who have signed our names hereto, being citizens of the city and county of Peoria, and state of Illinois, are held and firmly bound unto the people of the state of Illinois in the sum of eight hundred and five thousand dollars and eight cents, lawful money of the United States, for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, and each of us himself, and each of our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns firmly by these presents.

Dated this 11th day of April, A. D., 1871.

The condition of the above obligation is such that in the event that the said state of Illinois transfers the capital of said state to the city of Peoria, in the county of Peoria and state of Illinois, and permanently locates the same in said city, and erects a state house thereat similar to the one now in process of erection at Springfield, in said state, then the undersigned shall fully indemnify and remunerate the said people of the state of Illinois from all pecuniary loss caused to said people by such removal and location of the capital and erection of state house as aforesaid, and shall also furnish, provide and convey to the said people of the state of Illinois, free of cost, a suitable site for said capitol, in said city of Peoria, in quantity not less than ten acres, and such as shall be acceptable to the legislature of said state, then this bond to be null and void and of no effect, otherwise in full force and virtue.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seal, on the day and year first above written.

[Signed by one hundred and twenty-three names.]

PEORIA COUNTY ENDORSES THE BOND.

At the April term of the Peoria county Board of Supervisors, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, The question of the removal of the seat of government of the state of Illinois from Springfield to Peoria is now agitating the public mind, and

WHEREAS, The city of Peoria has made such proposition to the state as will fully protect the state against loss in case such removal is made, and

WHEREAS, About one hundred and fifty of the most wealthy citizens of Peoria have also given bonds to the state to indemnify the state against loss in case such removal of the capital is made, therefore

Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Peoria county, that the county of Peoria will and hereby does guarantee that the said proposition of the said city of Peoria to the state shall be faithfully performed and carried out by said city of Peoria.

Resolved, That in our judgment the interests of the state demand and require that the question of the removal of the capital should be at once submitted to the people, and that we, as the representatives of the several towns of Peoria county, do hereby protest against more of the people's money being expended on the building at Springfield until the question of the location of the capital has been decided by the people.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the clerk to the honorable president of the senate and the honorable speaker of the house of representatives, at Springfield, at the special session shortly to convene in Springfield.

It would seem from the above that if any reliability can be placed in the pledges of mankind, no fears need be entertained that Peoria will not in good faith carry out her agreement. The city, the county, and citizens worth twelve millions of dollars, have solemnly pledged themselves to its fulfillment.

LOCALITY OF SPRINGFIELD & PEORIA COMPARED.

The following extract from a speech of Hon. S. D. Phelps, of Chicago, delivered on the question of capital removal, strikingly shows the location of Peoria and Springfield with regard to the balance of the State :

"South of an east and west line running through Springfield, you will discover that there are 901,558 inhabitants, and north of that line 1,658,685 inhabitants, according to the federal census for 1870.

"You may well look surprised, gentlemen, only 35 per cent. of the population of the state south of Springfield, and 65 per cent. north of the place where we are now sitting.

"How about taxable property? The discrepancy is even greater. According to the last equalized valuation, we find south of an east and west line running through Springfield, \$144,061,189.00, and north of Springfield property valued at \$336,602,869.00, a percentage of taxable property of 30 per cent. south, and 70 per cent. north of Springfield. What do these figures indicate? What momentous warning do they shadow forth?

"While I am considering this subject in view of centres of population, wealth and communication, permit me to submit a few deductions with reference to Peoria.

"The population of the state south of an east and west line running through Peoria, is about 1,384,624, and north about 1,165,619, that is 54 per cent. south and 46 per cent. north.

"The ratios of wealth are about the same, though more nearly equal.

"You will, therefore, perceive that there is a decided advantage in favor of Peoria over Springfield in regard to wealth and population. But the discrepancy

between the two cities in the matter of communication by rail is even greater, and most decidedly in favor of Peoria. By careful computation it will be found that, pursuing the ordinary and most advantageous routes from their respective places of residences, the members of the general assembly would travel 8,000 miles less in going to Peoria than they would by going to Springfield, and save the same number of miles in returning, as also no considerable sum to the state in the way of mileage."

THE FINANCIAL ABILITY OF PEORIA.

It has been represented that Peoria is financially unable to do what she proposes, that she is so heavily burdened with debt that she cannot if she would. Herewith is a statement of the financial condition of the city of Peoria as taken from the records of the city clerk :

Total railroad and other indebtedness of Peoria, (including school bonds,) January 1, 1871,----- \$1,043,246 96

AGAINST WHICH THE CITY HOLDS :

1,000 shares of T. P. & W. R. R. stock,-----	\$25,000 00
783 shares of P. & B. V. R. R. stock, drawing 8 per cent. interest,-----	78'300 00
Bounty Bonds,-----	20,000 00
Water Bonds,-----	21,000 00
General Fund,-----	4,000 00
School Bonds,-----	19,000 00
Cash in Sinking Fund,-----	89,364 86
School lots owned in city and county of Peoria, for sale, valued at-----	72,000 00
Cash, School Fund,-----	12,000 00
Other Personal Property,-----	33,000 00
	<u>\$373,664 86</u>
Net indebtedness of Peoria,-----	\$669,582 10

To offset this indebtedness the city owns property as follows, (real estate being placed as assessor's valuation only) :

City Water-Works,-----	\$435,000 00
Central Market,-----	15,000 00
City Hall,-----	12,000 00
City Hospital,-----	9,000 00
Block 85 Morton Square,-----	15,000 00
Central Hose House,-----	2,000 00
Engine House, No. 3,-----	2,000 00
Lot 12, block 64, Morton, Voris & Lavielle's addition,-----	310 00
Second District, lots 7, 8 and 9, block 47, occupied by school-----	50,000 00
High School and Lot,-----	20,000 00
Third District,-----	12,000 00
Fourth District,-----	12,000 00
Fifth District,-----	11,000 00
Sixth District,-----	14,000 00
Lots 2 and 3, block 1, Bradley's 2d Addition,-----	5,000 00
Seventh District,-----	2,000 00
Lots in Frye's Addition,-----	1,500 00

All the above described property is pledged by ordinance for the payment of the bonded debt of the city. The bounty, water and other bonds held by the city, form a portion of a sinking fund set apart for the extinction of the principal of the city's debt.

VALUATION OF PEORIA.

The following is the valuation of Peoria city (not including Township), as returned by the assessors, April, 1871 :

UPPER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT.

Real Estate,	\$5,780,570 00	
Personal Property,	1,967,145 00	\$7,747,715 00

LOWER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT.

Real Estate,	\$4,652,040 00	
Personal Property,	113,275 00	\$5,365,315 00

Total,

		\$13,113,030 00
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PEORIA AND SPRINGFIELD COMPARED.

From a tabular statement published March 1, 1871, by Elwood of Joliet, giving the comparative taxation of cities in Illinois, the following is extracted :

Annual interest paid by Springfield.....	\$100,000 00
Annual interest paid by Peoria.....	80,815 00
Difference in favor of Peoria.....	\$ 19,185 00
Tax per capita Springfield.....	12 97
“ “ Peoria.....	7 77
Average tax on \$100, Springfield.....	.021
“ “ “ Peoria.....	.013

The cost of building at Peoria is at least fifteen per cent. cheaper than Springfield. The comparative cost of some of the main articles used in building may be stated as follows :

	Springfield.	Peoria.
Brick, per M.....	\$ 8.85	\$6.00
Sand, per load.....	1.25	15
Pine lumber, per M.....	22.00	19.00
Coal, per bu.....	12	6

It may be safely said that at least \$250,000 can be saved by erecting the new capitol at Peoria. Peoria has an unlimited supply of pure water from the most efficient water-works in the west.

At the public meeting in Peoria on the 11th of March, Mr. Valentine Jobst, architect, of Peoria, submitted the following rough estimate of the amount that could have been saved on the new state house by building it at Peoria, over the cost of the structure at Springfield. It is due to Mr. Jobst to say that this estimate was hastily made, and might possibly need some revision. The quotation below is from the press report of the meeting :

“ Mr. Valentine Jobst followed Major Wells, making a practical speech. He presented an estimate of the amount that might be saved by removing the capitol here, owing to the difference in material in favor of Peoria. He estimated the brick required at 19,541,660. These cost \$8.85 per thousand in Springfield, while they could be procured for \$6.00 per thousand in this city. The following exhibit was read by him, as his estimate of the amount that could be saved the state by building here :

Saving on brick.....	\$ 48,966 78
Sand for brick at Springfield, per cubic yard, \$1.50 ; the same at Peoria for 25 cents ; saved.....	1,300 00
Water free at Peoria ; saved.....	2,800 00

Sand for plastering; saved.....	1,500 00
Freight on cut stone to Springfield 22 cents; to Peoria 10 cents per cubic foot; saved.....	48,000 00
For general freight, less to Peoria.....	30,000 00
Ten per cent. of cost of building.....	100,000 00

In favor of Peoria.....\$232,766 73

HOW THE PRESENT STATE HOUSE AT SPRINGFIELD IS BEING BUILT.

The following extract from the speech of Hon. R. A. King, of Jersey county, on his amendment submitting the State House appropriation to a vote of the people, throws light on the way the money of the people is being expended on the Springfield structure. Every tax-payer in the state should carefully peruse the same:

"MR. SPEAKER — In discussing this question I wish to be brief. As the mover of the amendment to submit it to the people, I feel it was offered in sincerity and good faith, and propose now to show the facts that justify me in this course; these, with the figures, I find to my hand in the reports by officers of this assembly. To bring out the facts and show why this appropriation should not be made, I must use the records of the state house commissioners.

"The money thus far appropriated to this purpose, has in part been improperly expended.

"Sir, I wish to show by the report of our own house committee that of the sum of \$805,000 only \$465,000 have gone into the building. The remaining \$339,000 have gone elsewhere. I shall show from the same source where and in what way that \$339,000 have been expended. Now I do not propose to say that anybody has stolen anything.

"The report shows the amount improperly expended to November, 1868, was \$329,329.42. It shows also the amount expended in the building in November, '68, to November, '69, was \$197,330.23, and it shows the amount expended from November 30th, 1869, to November, 1870, was \$278,543.43. The total, then, expended up to November, 1870, was \$805,203.08. Now, sir, as to the application of this money, the report shows that \$465,686.67 had been expended upon the foundation. Gentlemen may claim that we have more than the mere foundation, but in my view we have not. What we have is merely the basement of the capitol, and of that, sir, simply the bare walls. Inside not a particle has been expended, nothing is done but the mere stone and brick work of the foundation of the capitol, for which already \$805,000 are expended, of which sum, sir, but \$465,000 has gone into the building, the balance having trickled out. \$24,395 have gone to the commissioners in items as follows:

Paid W. T. Vandever.....	\$2,235 00
" Philip Wadsworth.....	2,240 00
" W. L. Hambleton.....	2,305 00
" J. W. Smith.....	2,395 00
" J. C. Robinson.....	5,135 00
" Jacob Bunn.....	4,995 00
" J. H. Beveridge.....	5,090 00

Total commissioners' pay.....\$24,395 00

In '67, the law was passed appointing first seven commissioners with power to employ such mechanics, laborers, &c., as should be necessary, those commissioners to receive for their services the sum of \$5 per day for the time of actual service. The number of commissioners has since been reduced, but the terms of compensation remain the same. If you look at the items closely you will see that

they have received \$5 a day for every month during the whole time, (seven commissioners, afterwards the three,) \$130 a month during the whole time of their appointment. I say, sir, that it is too much. I say \$24,395 is too heavy a percentage of expenditure upon \$805,000 of the people's money merely for the service of commissioners. These commissioners wasted money on the architect, giving him a \$3,000 premium and then awarding him a contract for erecting the building at 2½ per cent. commission upon the sum of \$3,000,000 to be expended.

Then, sir, here are other items of leakage in the capitol fund :

Paid J. C. Webber, secretary commissioners-----	\$3,140 00
“ W. D. Clark, assistant superintendent-----	8,538 45
“ Willie Clark, rodman-----	1,498 00
“ David Doe, porter-----	2,050 50
“ Alexander Pender-----	1,252 70
“ Charles Brodie, at Joliet-----	588 00
“ A. R. Robinson, sand receiver-----	172 50
“ R. M. Robinson “ “-----	150 00
“ O. Marble, surveyor-----	200 00
“ man in lime house-----	50 00
“ J. H. Beveridge, secretary of board-----	2,565 00
Total paid for salaries-----	\$20,100 15

“By their report, \$71,000 have gone in three years in three items of percentage upon the \$805,000. You will readily see how only \$465,000 have gone into the building, and \$369,000 elsewhere.

“Now, sir, being anxious to sift the thing, I took a pencil and reckoned on each page the number of items which actually went into the building of the state house, and then the items that went elsewhere, setting the sums at the bottom of the page. On the first page forty-eight items went in different ways, as here reported, and four only into the state house. That looks as if there was something wrong. For example, here is J. C. Cochrane, first item, \$3,000 to the architect as a premium for a plan. That didn't go into the state house. Then, sir, here are various other items, as follows: I will show you the first page of their own report entire, as a specimen :

Statement of Expenditures made by the Board of State House Commissioners, from March 13th, 1867, to November 30th, 1868.

Oct. 1867—J. C. Cochrane, premium for design,-----	\$3,000 00
W. T. Vandever, per diem as Commissioner-----	105 00
J. C. Robinson, “ “-----	498 16
J. W. Smith, “ “-----	521 31
Journal Company, advertising-----	134 95
P. W. Harts, stationery,-----	7 05
J. C. Webber, services as secretary,-----	345 00
J. H. Beveridge, per diem as commissioner-----	215 10
H. Lieb & Co., advertising-----	23 00
W. L. Hambleton, per diem as commissioner-----	379 00
J. Bunn, advertising, paid secretary, etc-----	1,295 20
E. L. Merritt & Bro., advertising-----	28 75
Johnson & Bradford, letter press-----	16 30
Jan. 1868—J. W. Smith, per diem as commissioner-----	426 25
J. C. Robinson, “ “-----	390 00
J. H. Beveridge, “ “-----	421 50
Phillip Wadsworth, “ “-----	495 00
W. L. Hambleton, “ “-----	428 00
W. T. Vandever, “ “-----	420 00
J. C. Cochrane, traveling expenses-----	47 00
J. C. Webber, services as secretary-----	695 00
Journal Company, advertising-----	65 00
Fitzhugh & Bugg, labor and materials-----	58 41
E. L. Merritt & Bro., advertising-----	35 50
Illinois Staats Zeitung, “-----	156 00
Chicago Times, “-----	210 00

C. L. Wilson & Co.,	"	-----	159 25
Chicago Tribune Co.,	"	-----	262 50
Chicago Republican,	"	-----	126 00
March—W. H. & R. P. Officer, lumber		-----	310 05
W. L. Hambleton, per diem as commissioner		-----	315 00
J. C. Robinson,	"	-----	315 00
J. W. Smith,	"	-----	315 00
J. H. Beveridge,	"	-----	315 00
Phillip Wadsworth,	"	-----	315 00
W. T. Vandever,	"	-----	315 00
J. C. Webber, services as secretary		-----	353 00
J. C. Cochrane, services as architect		-----	2,000 00
W. D. Clark, services as assistant architect		-----	538 45
do office furniture		-----	50 05
Palmer & Hay, legal services		-----	1,250 00
C. Beckwith,	"	-----	2,500 00
Stuart, Edwards & Brown, legal services		-----	1,250 00
C. H. Flower, office furniture		-----	88 75
N. A. Garland and others, sand		-----	3,221 37
E. L. Merritt & Bro., advertising		-----	22 50
Journal Company,	"	-----	36 00
J. A. Hough, office furniture		-----	51 00
E. Kreigh, stove pipe		-----	34 05
J. J. & W. H. Mitchell, concrete		-----	8,847 45
Chicago Republican, advertising		-----	96 00
J. M. W. Jones, stationery		-----	43 50

"None of the above items have gone into the capitol, except four.

"Take the next page, March, 1868, thirty-four items on that went into the state house in the way of stone and other material, and twenty-seven items went as reported. This, sir, is the only page where you will find the balance of items in favor of the building. Here, on another page, are twenty-six items for the state house and thirty-seven somewhere else, and so on.

"Here in the year commencing January, 1870, on that page you will find all but three items going elsewhere. As this page is of later date and still more curious in the character of its items, I show you this also entire. Please notice the regular recurrence of the commissioners' per diem, like the refrain of the old song,

"We won't go home till morning."

A Statement of the Expenditures for the current year, ending November 30, 1870.

Jan. 3, '70—Jacob Bunn, per diem	-----	\$ 135 00	
J. C. Robinson, per diem	-----	135 00	
J. H. Beveridge, per diem	-----	135 00	
W. D. Clark, services as assistant superintendent	-----	250 00	
David Doe, services as porter	-----	67 50	
J. H. Beveridge, services as Secretary	-----	135 00	
Richards & Weber, printing specifications, etc	-----	14 50	
Feb. 2—Jacob Bunn, per diem	-----	130 00	
J. C. Robinson, per diem	-----	130 00	
J. H. Beveridge, per diem	-----	130 00	
do per diem as secretary	-----	130 00	
W. D. Clark, per diem as assistant superintendent	-----	250 00	
David Doe, per diem as porter	-----	65 00	
Chicago Republican Co., advertising notice	-----	216 75	
Chicago Evening Post,	"	-----	202 05
J. A. Hough, matting, etc., for office	-----	63 55	
Journal Company, advertising notice, printing, etc	-----	94 00	
Illinois State Register,	"	-----	52 50
J. H. Beveridge, office ex., ex. charges, etc	-----	36 40	
March 1—Jacob Bunn, per diem	-----	120 00	
J. C. Robinson, per diem	-----	120 00	
J. H. Beveridge, per diem	-----	120 00	
" services as secretary	-----	120 00	
W. D. Clark, services as assistant superintendent	-----	250 00	

David Doe, services as porter-----	60 00
I. H. Voorhis, pho. iron beams—specimens-----	56 40
J. H. Beveridge, ex. charges and office expenses-----	14 61
April 6—Jacob Bunn, per diem-----	135 00
J. C. Robinson, per diem-----	135 00
J. H. Beveridge, per diem-----	135 00
“ services as secretary-----	135 00
W. D. Clark, services as assistant superintendent-----	250 00
David Doe, services as porter-----	67 50
P. W. Harts, stationery-----	26 25
Newton Bateman, office rent-----	150 00
Charles Fisher, drafting board, etc., for office-----	39 46
Gehlman & Tainter, drawers for plans-----	115 62
J. H. Beveridge, traveling and office expenses-----	84 72
A. J. Babcock, plumbing in office-----	75 18
May 2—Jacob Bunn, per diem-----	130 00
J. C. Robinson, per diem-----	130 00
J. H. Beveridge per diem-----	130 00
W. D. Clark, services as assistant superintendent-----	250 00
David Doe, services as porter-----	65 00
J. H. Beveridge, services as secretary-----	130 00
Gehlman & Tainter, repairs in office-----	5 78
Cochrane & Piquenard, commission, etc.-----	2,000 00
R. W. McLaughry & Co., Market Street R.R.-----	500 00
do circular R. R. track-----	500 00
Geo. W. Perkins, stone, etc.-----	17,526 82
June 3—Jacob Bunn, per diem-----	130 00
J. C. Robinson, per diem-----	130 00
J. H. Beveridge, per diem-----	130 00

“Turn over again, you find thirteen items for the state house and forty-two items elsewhere. On another page twenty-six items outside and but seventeen into the building.

“Such, sir, is my argument. I reason from such premises, and my theory is wrong only if my figures are incorrect.

“I now show what the commissioners have expended in lawyers' fees, as follows:

LEGAL EXPENSES.

Palmer & Hay-----	\$1,250 00
C. Beckwith-----	2,500 00
Stuart & Edwards-----	1,250 00

“Making \$5,000 paid out in three years for attorneys' fees.

“I don't know that the state house had had any litigation. The lawyers in Springfield must be getting higher fees than in other parts of the country. I do not believe there were any questions to litigate to call for all this array of legal talent, Palmer and Hay and Beckwith and Stuart, Edwards & Co., at an expense of \$5000.

“Now, Mr. Speaker, the report shows that \$71,000 have been expended improperly in four items only of the committee's report, and summing up that report and the report of the commissioners to the governor, it appears that \$369,000 of the whole \$805,000, has gone in various directions outside of the actual building.

“The commissioners have given Mr. Cochrane, the architect, or his partner, a house to live in at the expense of the state which would rent from \$400 to \$500 a year, and have paid all the architect's traveling expenses. They have also furnished offices in the city, and are doing it still. And I say that if these architects are to get 2½ per cent. commission they ought to be satisfied without being pampered with any more of my people's money and your people's money—the money of the people of the State.

“The first estimate given of the state house amounted to only \$2,557,000 That included everything, and upon that basis first the architects were content

with 2½ per centage. Here, sir, is the contract entered into by the commissioners. You will find it on page 35 of the reports.

[Here Mr. King read several extracts from the contract.]

"Now, sir, as to Mr. Cochrane; by the contract he is under the direction and control of the commissioners to take a general superintendence of the work, giving it all necessary personal attention until its completion. Now of course if that was carried out, he ought to have relieved these commissioners of a great deal of duty. But I understand he didn't come here more than once in two or three months, but that his partner took his place.

"Well, the commissioners have provided in the contract, giving him authority, in his absence to appoint a substitute. What was that for? Is that another appendage of expense? If we are to pay commissioners \$5.00 a day for three years, I say let them superintend the work themselves. If they can't do it, then they ought to appoint some one to take their places.

"I have assigned some reasons why I cannot vote for this further capitol appropriation. I might give a great many others, but I crave your indulgence only a little longer.

"If gentlemen will take the pains to look at this book of reports to the general assembly, page 49, they will find that this architect, Cochrane, made an original estimate of the entire cost of the capitol at only \$2,537,408, and he also, in that estimate, said to these commissioners that upon that estimate he could accept of a percentage of 2½. In addition to this they give him a premium of \$3,000 for a plan. Now the estimate is to be overrun, yet the percentage remains the same. This looks like mismanagement somewhere.

"The expense of the foundation amounts to \$465,686.67. Is it likely that an estimate of even \$3,000,000 will not be overrun?

"In the last report of the architect we are told that the iron piers for the basement floor have been dispensed with, and brick piers and arches substituted, though as is stated, without additional cost. I suppose the commissioners allowed this. But, gentlemen, the result of taking out the iron piers and putting in the brick was this—wherever there was a column of brick, the whole space to the next column is reckoned in together as solid work. This, sir, would amount to no less than \$8,000 or \$9,000 additional.

"It is difficult, sir, to make a good argument from a mass of figures without arrangement, as I have them here. I have given you, as well as I could, the facts from which I draw my conclusions.

"My figures say that much of the money has been improperly expended—so much of it that the public interest imperatively calls for an investigation.

"Now, gentlemen, but a few words in reference to the capital removal. I am in favor of that measure, it is true. I have looked at it in this way. The people, I contend have never been satisfied with the location of their capital at Springfield. There are many people in this state, whether mistaken or not, who think that the location here has been made by some improper influence. Whether that be true or not they believe it.

"Now, sir, Peoria does, in my opinion, present advantages far superior to Springfield or any other city in the state for the location of the capital. She has in the first place, as many members of this house can testify, one of the most beautiful sites possible to offer. In the next place, she proposes to give us twenty acres to take the place of the seven or eight acres furnished here. In the next place she offers to give back all the money thus far expended upon the capitol and put the state upon the same footing again precisely as at the beginning of this enterprise.

"It has been urged that Peoria has made overtures for this capitol. In my opinion Peoria never opened her mouth about the capitol till representatives began to look for a remedy against the enormous prospect of expenditure. When Peoria

saw dissatisfaction throughout the legislature, then for the first time she came in with an offer of relief. Legislators, sir, are not easily dissatisfied, and their dissatisfaction was a significant occasion for removal. Is there anything wrong about it? What city has made a more public spirited offer? Neither Springfield, Chicago, nor any other place has done more for the benefit of the people."

SHALL THE PEOPLE BE CONSULTED ?

All that the advocates of capital removal have demanded, and all that they now demand, is that the question shall be referred to the people of the state for their decision. The people have never yet been consulted on the question. The state capital has heretofore been located without any immediate reference of the matter to them. Now, a state house involving the expenditure of millions of dollars for its construction has been commenced and the work has been so loosely and recklessly carried on, that the late Constitutional Convention felt impelled, from a sense of duty to the people, to place a limit on the amount to be expended upon it.

The first estimate for this structure was about two and three-fourths million dollars, and this, too, for the building as originally designed. Subsequently the estimate was raised to \$3,000,000, and the original design somewhat curtailed. As the work went on it became evident that three millions would not do, and the constitutional convention fixed the limit for the building and furniture at three and a half millions, and said, "thus far shalt thou go and no farther." It is now pretty generally believed that, the way the thing is progressing, three and a half millions will not suffice. And this, too, after the building is being greatly shorn of its originally designed proportions.

Removed to Peoria, the state house can be erected for less than the constitutional limit, and as originally designed. From twenty to twenty-five acres of ground can be found on which to place it without any cost to the state, forming one of the most magnificent sites in the whole country. The state can suffer no pecuniary loss in removal. Shall not the people therefore be consulted ?

Shall not the bill submitted by Hon. R. A. King, of Jersey county, or one similar in character, be passed by the legislature ?

Shall not further appropriation for the Springfield structure be deferred, until the people can be heard from on the question of removal ?

A thundering majority of voices come up from all parts of the state, crying, YES.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE.

The following are brief extracts from the many spontaneous expressions of the press and the people in various quarters of the state. A full report of them would fill a volume :

BUREAU COUNTY.

[From the Princeton Republican.]

We trust our senators and representatives will vote persistently against all proposed expenditure of public money in Springfield, and in favor of the removal of the capital to Peoria.

VERMILLION COUNTY.

[From the Danville Commercial.]

We have no particular ill-will at Springfield, but we would be pleased to see the capital at Peoria, and if it is ever left to a vote of the people of the state, it will go there.

COOK COUNTY.

[From the Chicago Times.]

There is but one city in the state of Illinois which presents all the advantages which the people generally could desire for their seat of government, and that city is Peoria. No inducement that any other place could offer should prevent the permanent establishment of the seat of government in that city.

[From the Chicago Tribune.]

The Springfield *Register* assails with vituperative epithets the legislature because its members accepted an invitation to visit Peoria the other day.

The *Register* surely cannot object to a bill which shall submit to the people of the state the question whether the capital shall remain at Springfield or be moved to Peoria. Its confidence in democratic principles, and in the virtue and intelligence of the masses, must be sufficiently strong to insure its acquiescence in so fair and honest a measure as that.

[From the Chicago Journal.]

It is high time that the question of a removal of the state capital from Springfield should be seriously considered by the people of the state at large. The issue is being strongly forced upon the people, whether Springfield shall rule the state, and whether the entire state shall be placed under continual and everlasting contribution for the especial benefit of that city and its self-seekers. We think that the time has arrived when the question of removal of the capital should at least be submitted to a vote of the people of the whole state.

[From the Chicago Legal Adviser.]

On the whole, the subject is of that importance to the people of the state, and to generations to come, that it should be carefully considered by both the people and their representatives, and whatever action is taken, it should be with a view to the future interests of the people of the whole state. The matter having now attracted so much attention, it is doubtful if it can be satisfactorily settled without submission to a vote of the people.

ROCK ISLAND.

[From the Rock Island Union.]

It is confidently hoped that they (the legislature) will, at an early day, take occasion to accept this liberal offer, which, in brief, includes the donation of ten acres of land, worth about \$20,000; the reimbursement to the state of what has been spent on the new capital at Springfield; and the furnishing of buildings, free of cost, for five years, suitable for the sessions of the legislature and the different executive offices. No more liberal offer was ever made, and when the advantages of location over Springfield, or indeed any point in the state, are considered, it is not easy to see how any member can do otherwise than decide in favor of the change.

TAZEWELL COUNTY.

Preamble and resolutions unanimously adopted by the board of supervisors of Tazewell county, Saturday, May 6th :

WHEREAS, The seat of government of the state should be permanently located at a point near the centre of the population, commerce and wealth, and where the locality contains all the advantages necessary for the erection of such public buildings as will be commensurate with the growing interests of our state, and will reflect credit and honor upon our people ; and

WHEREAS, Peoria contains all the advantages in a much greater degree than any point in the state, and has made such propositions, and given such security for their fulfillment as will insure the erection of a new state house, on the most eligible locality in the state, without any increase in the cost over what will be required for the erection of the one now in process of construction in a place totally unfit for such a structure ; and

WHEREAS, In view of the general dissatisfaction in a large portion of the state over the erection of so costly a state house in such a place as the one now being constructed at Springfield, it is eminently proper that the question of the permanent location of the seat of government of the state should be submitted to a vote of the people ;

Therefore Resolved, By the board of supervisors of Tazewell county, that our representatives in the general assembly be requested to use all honorable means to secure the passage of a law by the general assembly of this state submitting the question of the removal of the seat of government of the state from Springfield to Peoria, and that they be requested to vote against any further appropriations of the people's money for the erection of a new state house until after the question of the removal of the seat of government shall have been passed upon by a vote of the people.

Resolved, That the clerk be, and he is hereby directed to furnish to our representatives in the general assembly a copy of these resolutions, with a request that they be presented to the general assembly as soon as the same shall be in session.

WILL COUNTY.The Joliet *Republican* says :

"The people of this county will not easily forget that Goodhue brought back with him from the constitutional convention the seeds of fatal disease. While alive he often protested against the villainous qualities of the Sangamon waters. We have often heard it alleged that not a drop of unpoisoned water can be found in any of the country covered by the fatal Sangamon swamps.

MARSHALL COUNTY.

[From the Lacon Statesman.]

Peoria is the best point in the state for the location of the capital, and we have no doubt that money would be saved to the people of Illinois in future, by removing it there, if the state were compelled to saddle the entire loss of the present unfinished structure.

[From the Lacon Home Journal.]

It (Peoria) is the business centre of the state, its railroad facilities render it easy of access, it is healthful, abundantly supplied with water, its hotel accommodations will always be ample, its mercantile and manufacturing interests are a sufficient guarantee against its becoming a state pauper, and, best of all, its citizens will donate ample grounds for public purposes, and reimburse the state for its outlay at Springfield.

Resolution adopted at a public meeting held at Henry, April 14, 1871 :

Resolved, That we are unalterably opposed to the further expenditure of money on the state house in Springfield, and that our senators and representatives, Messrs. Mark Bangs, L. H. Kerr, Joseph Reinhardt and J. H. Jones, are respectfully requested to vote and use all their influence against any appropriation looking to that object.

[From the Wenona Index.]

That Peoria is the natural spot for our state buildings, no one will deny, and her many advantages are known all over the state.

We have no doubt but Peoria would secure the capital if the question was submitted to the people, and there is no good reason why our legislature should not vote for it. This representative and senatorial district would go solid for Peoria, and we might say the same of all northern Illinois. That Peoria is the natural spot for our state buildings, no one will deny, and her many advantages are known all over the state. The only claim that Springfield can make is the foundation for the new state house; but this objection is obviated by Peoria's liberal offer. Let the capital go to Peoria by all means.

[From the Varna Courier.]

Any town or city in the state that would pretend to present as many natural or artificial advantages for the state capital as are combined and concentrated in Peoria would deserve to be treated with supreme ridicule.

[From the Henry Republican.]

The elements at work indicate that a removal is a necessity and a surety. Peoria has everything in her favor, and, we think, a majority vote of the state were it expressed. Some eighty-one newspapers of the state have commented on the change, and have taken decided grounds in favor of the "Central City," and with such a power to back her that city will have little to fear. This region very generally favors the removal, and were a vote taken there

would not be found probably a vote in the negative. The change is but a matter of time, and that time is not far off.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

Resolutions passed at a meeting of the citizens of Livingston county, held at the court house, April 12, 1871, Judge L. E. Payson chairman and Hon. C. C. Strawn secretary :

Resolved, By the citizens of Pontiac, Livingston county, Illinois, in meeting assembled, that in our opinion Springfield is not and Peoria is a fit and proper place for the permanent location of our state capital.

Resolved, That we are unalterably opposed to any further appropriation of money to carry on the present building at Springfield, but are in favor of the legislature accepting the proposition made by the city of Peoria, and passing an act immediately removing the state capital to that city.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to each of the representatives from this county, viz: Hon. John Stillwell and Hon. James C. Strong, and also to Hon. J. W. Strevell and Hon. Wm. Reddick, senators from this district, and that they and each of them be and are hereby requested to present the same to their respective houses, and that they and each of them are requested, and the representatives are instructed to vote against any further appropriation of money to carry on the capitol building at Springfield, and to vote in favor of the removal of the state capital to and for its permanent location at Peoria.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

Resolutions adopted by a meeting of the citizens of Rockford, April 8, 1871; Duncan Furgeson, chairman; A. E. Smith, secretary :

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the question of further appropriation for the construction of the state house at Springfield, be deferred for the present session.

Resolved, That the question as to whether Springfield shall be the permanent seat of our state government should be submitted to a vote of the people.

Resolved, That our representatives in both branches of the legislature be and are hereby respectfully requested to use their influence for the accomplishment of this desired end.

JERSEY COUNTY.

[From the Jerseyville Democrat.]

But one thing is certain—the will of the people should rule, and we see no good argument which can be advanced against giving the people of the state a chance to say by ballot which place they prefer for a capital.

KNOX COUNTY.

The Galesburg *Republican* says :

"That Peoria has many advantages for the capital which Springfield does not possess must be apparent. She has better railway facilities than Springfield. She has a navigable river, with the almost certain prospect of a ship canal connecting her with Chicago and the great lakes. She has already a population of twenty-five thousand souls. She has large manufactories and manufacturing interests. Besides she is centrally located and has the advantage of being situated where all the people can be accommodated."

Resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in Galesburg, March 28, 1871, Geo. W. Brown president ; Geo. Ekins, secretary :

Resolved, That this meeting is decidedly in favor of the removal of the state capital, for the following reasons: First, Peoria is situated on a navigable river, and Springfield is not. Secondly, Peoria has greater railroad facilities than Springfield. Thirdly, Peoria has greater manufacturing and commercial advantages than Springfield. Fourthly, Peoria is situated nearer to the centre of population in the state than Springfield. Fifthly, Peoria presents natural advantages and picturesque beauty of location, such as would make the state capital a matter of pride to the people of the state, while Springfield possesses none of these advantages.

Resolved, That our senators and representatives to the legislature are requested to use all honorable means for the removal of the capital from Springfield to Peoria ; and that they are also requested to do all in their power to oppose and prevent any further expenditure of money upon any public building or buildings at Springfield.

Resolution adopted at a meeting held in Yates City :

Resolved, By the citizens of Salem, Elba and Truro townships, Knox county, Illinois, in meeting assembled, that in our opinion Springfield, in view of its distance from the centre of population, its limited railroad facilities, its lack of marine advantages, and entire destitution of public spirit, is not, and that Peoria, on the contrary, possessing all these requisites, is a proper place for the permanent location of the state capital.

[From the Galesburg *Republican*.]

The very superior advantages presented by Peoria needed only to be seen to be appreciated, and now that the members have had an opportunity to witness the beautiful valley in which Peoria is situated, the commanding bluff, the charming lake, the splendid water-works, the network of railways which centre there, the immense coal deposits, the important manufacturing and commercial interests of the city, there can be no doubt that those who are not immediately interested in Springfield are satisfied that the capital should be removed.

ALEXANDER COUNTY.

[From the Cairo *Bulletin*.]

SHALL THE STATE CAPITAL BE REMOVED TO PEORIA ?

At the first thought one would hardly think there could be any question about it, but the Peoria authorities and the Peoria people have set about the matter in such earnestness, and with such an evident appearance of business, that it is really very much talked of. Of course, objections are made, but Peoria meets them all with a vigor to which a simple denial is not a sufficient answer. The state has already expended over \$800,000 on the new state house, here, says Springfield. We will pay it all back, says Peoria. It would put off the time for its completion, says Springfield. We will furnish rooms for the departments and for the meetings of the assembly for five years free, says Peoria. The legislature has agreed to build here, says Springfield. Take the old state house for nothing and be satisfied, says Peoria ; and add, we will give the finest site in the state, consisting of twenty broad acres on our healthy bluffs.

WARREN COUNTY.

The Monmouth *Review* says :

"A more desirable location for the capital cannot be found in the state, while any obscure inland town would be preferable to Springfield."

Resolution adopted by a public meeting held at Monmouth, April 1, 1871 :

Resolved, That we believe the passage of a bill for the immediate removal of the seat of government to Peoria, without submitting such removal to an election, would meet with the hearty concurrence of a vast majority of the people ; but if such an act is not passed, then we most earnestly request our senators and representatives to vote against any and all appropriations for the building of the new capital at Springfield, or for the purchase of any grounds at that point for government purposes.

[From the Monmouth *Atlas*.]

Peoria will yet be the capital of Illinois. In soil, natural scenery, and business impetus, it has a vast advantage over its rival. The present capital is in a low section of the country, very imperfectly drained and therefore never a healthy locality. Of scenery it is entirely destitute, and business has never developed and never can.

MENARD COUNTY.

"Menard county is unanimously in favor of removing the capital to Peoria ; and we call upon our members in the legislature—Laning in the senate and Knowles in the house—to use every effort in their power to bring about the desired result."

FULTON COUNTY.

The following is a resolution adopted at a public meeting held in Farmington, April 10, 1871; Wm. Caldwell, president; George Kidder, secretary:

Resolved, That we believe that the passage of a bill for the immediate removal of the seat to Peoria, without submitting such removal to an election, would meet with the hearty concurrence of a vast majority of the people; but if such an act is not passed, then we most earnestly request our senators and representatives to vote against any and all appropriations for the building of the new capitol at Springfield.

Resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in Canton, April 11th; J. G. Piper, chairman, and Dr. A. Bell, secretary:

Resolved, That the best interests of the state calls for the removal of the state capital from Springfield to Peoria, and that our representatives and the senators from this district be requested to vote for and use every honorable means to secure the removal of the capital to Peoria.

Resolved, That we do not believe the majority of the people of this state feel willing to see more money expended in building a state house at Springfield, and that we therefore request our representatives and senators to oppose all appropriations for that purpose.

Resolved, That in our opinion a large majority of the people of this state would endorse the action of this legislature in passing a bill for the immediate removal of the state capital, but in case the same is not done we request our senators and representatives to procure the passage of a bill submitting the question of such removal to the people.

Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the citizens of Fulton county, held at the Court House, in Lewistown, April 1, 1871; J. W. Proctor, chairman; W. T. Davidson, secretary:

Resolved, That in the contest between the cities of Peoria and Springfield, as cities, we express no preference, but as citizens of the state interested in its prosperity and greatness, we unhesitatingly declare for Peoria. And she having in her offer assured the state against loss in case of removal, and proposed to present to the state the magnificent site for the capitol on the bluff, added to her natural and artificial means of communication with all sections of the state, we believe that the best interests of the people demand that the capitol be removed from Springfield to Peoria at once.

Resolved, That, as the whole people are interested in this important subject, we

earnestly urge upon the senators from this district and the representatives from this county, if in their opinion a removal by the legislature cannot be obtained, to submit the question of removal to a vote of the people at as early a day as practicable; and in the interim we ask them to use all honorable means to prevent any and all additional appropriations for the work on the state house at Springfield, until such vote can be had and the result ascertained. And in this course we pledge them our undivided and earnest support.

[From the Canton Register.]

The question is narrowed down—Springfield or Peoria, which shall it be? It is out of the question to consider any other point as in competition with Springfield. Let the matter go to the people and it can soon be decided. If the people decide in favor of Springfield, then will we all hold our peace, and go on and build a state house at that place worthy of the state. If the people prefer Peoria, then let it be so, and in due time we will be able to point to one of the most beautiful capital cities to be found in the west.

[From the Lewistown Democrat.]

Peoria is using every effort to secure the removal of the state capital to that city, and her citizens in these efforts have the entire sympathy of the people of this county.

[From the Canton Ledger.]

The people speak in terms which cannot be misunderstood. Fulton and Mason counties are almost to a man in favor of Peoria.

LA SALLE COUNTY.

Resolutions adopted at a public meeting at La Salle, March 24, 1871; L. Leland, chairman; J. G. Armstrong, secretary:

Resolved, That this meeting heartily approves the movement inaugurated by the city of Peoria for the removal of the capital of our great state to so eligible, accessible and beautiful location as that proposed to be furnished by the city of Peoria. Be it further

Resolved, That in the opinion of the citizens of Ottawa, here assembled, Springfield is not the proper place for the state capitol; that the former is inaccessible and the latter accessible; that the former boasts neither natural or artificial attractions in its location and surroundings, and that the latter possesses all the natural advantages required for the seat of government of the state. Be it further

Resolved, That the senators and representatives from the county of La Salle be requested to use their best endeavors to second the citizens of Peoria county in securing the proposed change.

IROQUOIS COUNTY.

[From the Watseka Republican.]

We would be glad enough to have the capital at Peoria. It is the second city of the state, and has the most beautiful location of any town in the west. So far as this part of the state is concerned, the capital might as well be over in Missouri or down in Arkansas, as where it is.

Resolutions adopted at a meeting of citizens of Iroquois county, held at the court house in Watseka, April 13th, 1871, M. Stanly, chairman; and A. Honneywell, secretary:

WHEREAS, In the opinion of this meeting a large majority of the voters of Iroquois county favor said removal to Peoria; therefore,

Resolved, That our representatives and senators in the general assembly be, and hereby are, requested to vote for a law submitting the question of removal of the state capital to Peoria to a vote of the people, at the election in November next.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, no law making additional appropriations for the building of a new state house in Springfield should be passed by the legislature, unless it contains a clause submitting said proposed law and appropriation to a vote of the people, for approval or disapproval.

STARK COUNTY.

[From the Toulon Chief.]

Peoria is the best place in the state for the seat of government. Her railroad system is becoming so complete that access is easy from every portion of the state. And her commanding bluffs, her lovely lake, and the beauty of her scenery, and the enterprise of her citizens, present inducements that are to be found in no other place.

[From Stark County News.]

Having the advantage there in esthetic and utilitarian sense, situated so as to be of the greatest good to the greatest number, and the present being the time for a change if ever, we second the motion for removing the capital of the empire state of the west, from Springfield to Peoria.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY.

[From the Champaign Gazette.]

Peoria certainly possesses the finest site for the capitol in the state, and that her proposition is liberal to a fault. There need be no doubt concerning the sincerity of the offer. Peoria, with her 25,000 industrious, enterprising, energetic inhabitants, with her churches and schools, and her character for morality and temperance, stands pledged in the strongest manner to comply with the proposition, should it be accepted.

MORGAN COUNTY.

[From the Jacksonville Independent.]

As it (the removal of the capital) is virtually a people's question, our legislature should pass a law calling for a popular vote of the people. They have to foot the bills, and it is they who should have the right to say what shall be done. Now as sixty-five one-hundredths of the population of the state reside north of Springfield, and they pay seven-tenths of the state tax, we think Peoria has very superior claims upon the state capital, and we hope she will get it. But let the people, by a popular vote, decide whether the capital shall be moved, and if so, to what place.

[From the Jacksonville Journal.]

It seems to us that the members of the general assembly cannot do less than submit the state house question to the people, to be decided by a general vote. The people have a right to be heard in the matter—the property belongs to them, and they can only express their opinions as to the proper location of the state house by means of the ballot-box. It seems to be the general desire that the matter should be put to vote.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY.

[From Macomb Journal.]

Taking all things into consideration, it would be money in the pockets of the people for the legislature to accept the proposition made by the citizens of Peoria.

[From the Bushnell Record.]

Senator Hampton gave us a call this morning (Saturday), having just returned from Peoria, where he had been "locating the capital." He said yesterday was a big day for Peoria; that her citizens did their prettiest. He confirms the statement that members are highly pleased with Peoria as a site for the state capital, and expressed his belief that it would be located there.

Senator Hampton's head is level on the capital question, and we concur with him in the opinion that Peoria will be the seat of government of the state.

KANE COUNTY.

[From the Elgin Gazette.]

Peoria is the second city in the state, and is rapidly assuming an importance which its merits justly call for. If a change is to be made—and there are many reasons why it would be very desirable—no more generally acceptable place could be chosen than Peoria.

[From the Batavia News.]

We see that a great number of our exchanges are in favor of removing the state capital from Springfield to Peoria. As for ourselves, we think the legislature could do no better than to vote for removal, as Springfield is not the point for the capital of our great prairie state. It is not accessible either by railroad or water; Peoria is by both; the site for the capitol building at Springfield is not a good one, while the proposed site at Peoria cannot be excelled by any city in the state. The proposition made by Peoria is a good one, and will be money in the treasury of the state to accept it.

KANKAKEE COUNTY.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the common council of the city of Kankakee on Monday evening, April 22, 1871. The *Times* of that city says they are a fair reflex of the sentiment of the people :

WHEREAS, It is universally conceded that the interests of the state demand a speedy removal of the state capital from Springfield; therefore,

Resolved, That in our opinion, as the city of Peoria is centrally located, easy of access from every part of the state, and distinguished for its manufacturing and commercial facilities, the generous offer of the citizens should be favorably considered by our legislature now in session.

Resolved, That we request the senator and representatives of this district, to use all fair and honorable means to secure the passage of an act that shall authorize the removal of the capital to Peoria, without the expense and delay of submitting it to a vote of the people.

[From the Kankakee Times.]

We would not attribute any undue influence brought to bear upon the action of our members, in their support of the Springfield interest, against the wishes of their constituents, but, to say the least, their action is certainly strange. It may be that our representatives are not apprised of the very decided feeling on this question, in favor of Peoria, by our citizens.

MASON COUNTY.

[From the Havana Revellie.]

In discussing the capital removal question, there is one right that must never be lost sight of, and that is the right of the people to decide where they prefer to have the seat of government located. If any attempt is made to prevent a fair test of this question, such an attempt is an interference with natural rights.

CASS COUNTY,

[From the Beardstown Illinoisan.]

Peoria has the advantage and preference of a preponderance of the state sentiment in her favor. She has the unbounded advantage in site, location, improvement, business and enterprise. The growing sentiment is in favor of Peoria as the future capital of the great state of Illinois.

WOODFORD COUNTY.

Resolutions adopted at a meeting of citizens of Woodford county, held at the court house, in Eureka, on March 30, 1871; F. Rohman, chairman, and S. S. Page, secretary :

Resolved, By the citizens of Woodford county, state of Illinois, that the proposed change of the capital of Illinois from the city of Springfield to the city of Peoria, meets our hearty approval.

Resolved, That our senators and representatives in the state legislature, be requested to use their best endeavors, by their votes and otherwise, in carrying out the proposed change; and they are hereby requested to vote against any appropriation to complete the capitol building now in course of erection in the city of Springfield, until the people decide the location of the state capitol either at Peoria or the city of Springfield.

[From the El Paso Journal.]

There never before has been so much feeling stirred up among the people, and so universal an expression in favor of removal. We say to Springfield that if she persists in the determination to *force* this measure, without at least submission to the people, that a legislature will come up to Springfield two years hence, specially elected on this state house question, who will tear down, stone by stone, and brick by brick, the present unfinished structure, and remove it elsewhere, and to a more acceptable place.

LAKE COUNTY.

[From the Waukegan Patriot.]

The people of this county are a unit in favor of the removal of the capital from Springfield, and accept Peoria's munificent offer with great satisfaction; and it is their desire that their representatives in the general assembly put forth their best efforts to accomplish the removal.

JO DAVIESS COUNTY.

[From the Galena Gazette.]

We have taken some pains to ascertain the sentiments of the people of Jo Daviess county on this question, and as far as we have heard an expression it is almost unanimous for removal. There are a few men, and some of them men of judgment and intelligence—who oppose the movement, but they do not constitute one in ten of the legal voters.

