

so that Salt Lake may have one municipal code that can be readily referred to and will not need patching or to be compared with other charters to learn what is existing municipal law. The city is to be congratulated in having the work placed in such good hands.

A HAVEN FOR RUSSIAN HEBREWS

NONE of the South American republics is more desirous of foreign immigration than Venezuela. Its code of laws pertaining to this are perhaps the most liberal and encouraging of any government on earth. Immigrants may enter that country by their own will in search of employment or under contract with private individuals or corporations. A few of the advantages offered by the Immigration Bureau of that country read as follows:

- "1. The payment of the passage from the point of embarking to the port of landing in the Republic.
- "2. Landing expenses, board and lodging during the first fifteen days after their arrival.
- "3. Exemptions of import duties on their wearing apparel, domestic utensils, machinery and tools of their profession.
- "4. Exemption of payment of consular fees, including those for passports, with which they must be provided, and upon which their condition as immigrants shall be expressed; and
- "5. The cost of transportation of the immigrant to any of the existing colonies under the direct administration of the government if the immigrant is not under contract by the government of a State, private individual or corporation."

Europeans interested in finding a place of refuge for Russian Jews naturally turned their eyes in the direction of Venezuela. But lest the immigrant regulations on paper may mean one thing and those practiced in the country another, a special agent named Bitton was sent from London to Caracas to ascertain full particulars in this respect. Mr. Bitton is now in New York after his conference with the Government of Venezuela, and is satisfied that he has found a land of promise for the unfortunate victims of Russian tyranny.

He was well received by the Minister of the Interior at Caracas, and made special inquiries as to any possible or probable objections to immigrants of the Hebrew religion. In reply the Minister said: "I must say that Venezuelan ports are open to all foreigners. There is no occasion to suppose or fear that the Hebrews, for the simple fact of being such, much less by their religious creeds, shall be forbidden to come to Venezuela, to reside in it, to become citizens and enjoy the same civil and political rights as native Venezuelans."

Immediately on Mr. Bitton's arrival in London, steps will be taken to plant several colonies of Russian Jews in Venezuela. The country abounds in lands suited for pasturage or agriculture. In the interior it is but sparsely settled. The climate is mild in the high table lands. The soil is inexhaustively fertile. Wood, water and timber abound almost everywhere. If the Russian exiles

should be treated as promised, they will in truth call the day blessed that Russian despotism drove them from her shores.

The news from Venezuela at present is not, however, the most gratifying to prospective emigrants. The President of the republic, Pulaccio by name, is endeavoring to prolong his administration two years more, in defiance of the constitution. Should he persist in doing this, civil war will very probably ensue, and the question of Hebrew colonization will most likely be postponed.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Released from Prison.

Tuesday afternoon, December 29th, on his release from the penitentiary, after serving a term of imprisonment for unlawful cohabitation, Neils O. Wahlstrom went before Commissioner Greenman and took the poor convict's oath. The defendant hails from Lake Town, Rich County.

Death of Winthrop Graves.

An old and faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints passed away to his rest at Dayton, Ohio, on the 11th instant, notice of which will be found in the appropriate column. Brother Graves had been a subscriber to the DESERET NEWS almost from the first and was a devout believer in the latter-day gospel. He was eighty-seven years of age. The memory of the just is blessed.

Kanab Stake Conference.

The quarterly conference was held at Orderville on December 6th and 7th. There were present Apostle John H. Smith, the Kanab Stake Presidency, President Jesse N. Crosby of Panguitch Stake, Elder Edward Stevenson of Salt Lake City, and a good representation of the presiding Priesthood of the various wards throughout the Stake. The meetings were crowded. The remarks of those who addressed the Saints during our conference were very instructive. The Spirit of the Lord was greatly poured out upon the speakers, and the Saints were greatly blessed under the divine influence.

Our Sabbath school conference, held Sunday evening, was also a very pleasing feature of the quarterly conference, and the hearts of the Saints were made glad with the feast of good teachings given to the Saints. F. L. PORTER, Stake Clerk.

Returned Elders.

Elder L. Dahlquist, of this city, returned from his mission in Sweden, where he has been laboring in the Gothenburg Conference, over which he presided the last eight months. He left for his field of labor April 30th, 1890, and returns honorably released. He states that there are very fair prospects of a good work being accomplished in the Scandinavian countries.

Elder Luman Shurtliff, of Eagle Rock, Idaho Falls, returned this morning from a mission to Alabama. He left Salt Lake on November 6th, 1889, and the first year labored in the North

Alabama Conference. Then he was called to take charge of the South Alabama Conference, and there passed the remainder of the time. His labors were attended with good success, and two or three new fields were opened in the South Alabama Conference. Elder Shurtliff met with hospitable treatment during the entire time, and returns home in first-rate health, having greatly enjoyed his mission. Before proceeding to Eagle Rock he intends spending a few days with his friends in Ogden.

St. George Stake Conference.

The regular December Conference of St. George Stake was held on the 12th and 13th inst., in the Tabernacle St. George. The attendance was very good.

A predominant feature of the conference was the many and powerful testimonies borne as to the divinity of the work restored through the agency of the prophet Joseph Smith.

The usual business as to the presentation of reports and of sustaining the General and Stake Authorities of the Church by vote of the people, was gone through.

We were not favored with the presence of any of the general authorities, but Brother Edward Stevenson, of Salt Lake City, addressed us in an interesting manner. We also had the counsel of Elder M. F. Farnsworth, an old-time fellow laborer in this southern mission. JAMES G. BLEAK, Stake Clerk.

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 14, 1891.

A Meeting House Dedicated.

Early in the present year the members of the Church in Farmers ward decided upon building a meeting house. Operations were at once commenced and by September 15th last, the structure was completed. It has, however, not been used owing to a margin of indebtedness upon it. By the determined and increasing efforts of the finance committee and the generosity of the people the unpaid balance has been liquidated, and last night it was formally dedicated.

It is a neat and commodious structure and is a credit to the ward. It is 33x59 feet and is built of red brick with handsome cayuse stone trimmings.

The total cost was \$6,650.97. The plans and specifications were drawn up by Joseph D. C. Young, and gratuitously presented to the ward.

President George Q. Cannon and the members of the Stake Presidency were present at the dedicatory services which were well attended. The financial statement of the cost of the building was read and unanimously approved. The dedicatory prayer was offered by President George Q. Cannon, after which timely and instructive remarks were made by Counselors C. W. Penrose, Joseph E. Taylor, President Angus M. Cannon and Bishop Burton.

VIENNA, Dec. 30.—A letter is published here describing the ten weeks' siege of Yemen by the Arabs. The town was under bombardment daily, while terrible famine prevailed there. The Turks relieved the city. A general butchery of prisoners occurred on both sides.