

and in wealth from generation to generation? And, would they not rise up and call us blessed? Thus they might be assisted in a way that they would ever after be independent, and no more be a burden on the communities in which they are dragging out a miserable existence.

In an interview which Elder Joseph E. Wheeler had with Mr. J. H. Holmes, who is general manager of the Animas River Land and Irrigation Co., and who is widely known through Idaho, Utah and Colorado, as a great canal and reservoir builder, the latter said: "If you will insure me that you will bring a colony of Mormon people in here and settle them under this ditch, on the Salmon Mesa, I will deed over to you at once the ditch; or, I will put the water on the land for you for \$8.50 per acre for a permanent right and 50c a year for water to keep up assessments, and will give you six years or as long as you want, at a very low rate of interest. I will let your people do all or a part of the work on the ditch to pay for their water, if they wish to do so this spring." The gentleman further stated that he knew the Mormons better than Brother Wheeler did, that he knew wherever the Mormons settled they were sure to stay and be successful; and he said he would rather see the Mormons settle this country than any other class of people, for they were more industrious than any other people he had ever met.

The Salmon Mesa above mentioned is about 23 miles east of Burnham ward (Fruitland), and will be irrigated by a twenty-foot canal now in course of construction by a Denver company of which J. H. Holmes is general manager. The ditch is about 20 miles long and it is claimed that it will redeem about forty thousand acres of good, rich, tillable land. It has been proved beyond all question that there is no better fruit raised in the United States than San Juan Co., New Mexico, produces, and it is impossible for more to be grown per acre anywhere. Besides this, it is a good grain, hay, vegetable and stock producing country. Wood, water and coal are in abundance, and between the San Juan and Animas rivers, and on the south side on the San Juan river there is a good opening for those wishing to engage in the sheep business.

Those wishing to move into the country by rail can get the lowest possible rates by conferring with J. H. Holmes, of Aztec, New Mexico. If these statements are doubted by any one, let them write to J. H. Holmes or send to the Editor of San Juan Times, of Farmington, who will send them a special copy of the Times, which will corroborate all that is here stated, and tell much more.

JOSEPH E. WHEELER,
L. B. BURNHAM.

BRIGHAM CITY ITEMS.

Brigham City, Feb. 2.—The opening of 1898 found Brigham City tolerably well provided for in regard to school facilities. In addition to the regular district schools we have had a high school running all winter with Prof. A. McDonald as principal and J. D. Peters teaching the winter course. This has been quite a convenience for many of the older students, and a large number have taken advantage of it.

The Stake Sabbath school superintendency has recently been reorganized with L. S. Snow as superintendent and John H. Bott and J. D. Call as his assistants.

The Stake superintendency of the Y. M. M. I. A. was also recently organized with Olen N. Stohl Jr. as superintendent and Brigham W. Wright as his assistants. Notwithstanding that the former officers of these associations were energetic workers, it is believed

that these changes will result in much good. Through the united efforts of the officers of the Mutual Improvement Associations of the city, we have now a public library nearly completed. It is located on the vacant square north of the courthouse on the Main street. The size of the building is 20x30. Mr. Chas. Squire of Brigham was architect, and great credit is due him and his assistants for the neatness of its design and construction. Its cost is something over \$500, most of which has been subscribed by voluntary donation. The collection of books, to consist of some 300 to 400 volumes, will be mostly contributed by the citizens. The library will be ready for the reading public in a few days, and it is hoped that our young men will frequent this treasury of information.

Yesterday, February 1st, court convened here, being the opening of the February term. His honor, Judge Hart, was present on the bench. Some probable cases were disposed of and several cases continued for the term.

Dr. Carrington's attorneys asked the court for a change of venue, which his honor granted. The case is to be tried at Logan at the next term of court in April.

Ephraim Nielson of Honeyville, on examination, was adjudged insane and ordered committed to the asylum at Provo.

The court adjourned till Monday next.

We have recently experienced some extremely cold weather for these parts. Thermometers have registered from 10 to 1 degrees below zero. The city's waterworks and courses were frozen up and occasioned much inconvenience to citizens for a few days but now milder weather prevails, and unfortunately ruin has seen his shadow, and if so we are threatened with six weeks more winter.

Some of our fruitgrowers are inclined to believe that much of the fruit has been damaged by the severe frosts. Last week a rather singular event occurred, viz., three persons in this vicinity by the name of Johnson died within three days. On Thursday Lemon Johnson of Brigham was visiting his brother at Beaver and died suddenly. On Friday Jarvis Johnson, his brother, died suddenly. On Saturday Judge E. P. Johnson of Corinne also died. J.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The monthly Priesthood meeting of the Salt Lake Stake was held in the Assembly Hall at 11 a.m. Saturday, the counselors of Stake President Angus M. Cannon presiding. There were present Counselors Joseph E. Taylor and Charles W. Penrose of the Stake presidency, four High Councilors, two Patriarchs, two members of the presidency of the High Priests' quorum, twenty presidents of Seventy, and ten home missionaries. All the wards of the Stake were properly represented, as were the First, Second, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth quorums of Elders. The Lesser Priesthood of a goodly number of wards was represented. The Stake superintendents of the Sunday schools and Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake were present.

On the recommendation of their respective Bishops, twenty-seven brethren were authorized to be ordained to the office of Elder, first covenanting to magnify the calling if ordained.

It was recommended by Bishop L. G. Hardy that the Bishops, in writing transfers, name all the members of families, with the Church standing of each. He also recommended greater system in the care of the poor and the infirm.

The first suggestion was commended by Elder Joseph E. Taylor, and greater care in respect to notes of transfer was urged. With reference to the care of the poor, it was recommended that practical suggestions be given by all interested to the general board organized to look after this matter.

Elder Richard R. Lyman reported the condition of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake, explaining the practical nature of the work done, and the strength given to the young men through exercising them in the labors of the associations. Harmony with the presidency of the Stake was preserved and lecture courses were provided to meet the needs of the young men. Some discouragement was expressed at the fact that in some cases Bishops and their counselors had been negligent in attending the M. I. meeting.

The aim in these associations was to meet the needs of men, not children, and it was therefore urged that men of knowledge and experience enter these meetings, to give and receive the instruction to the found there.

The association work was briefly explained, its practical and general character being especially referred to. Care was exercised in all the work of the associations, that there should be no entrenching on the province of the Bishops, and no interference with their work. The aim was rather to support and assist the regular officers of the Church by training young men for general duties.

Elder Chas. W. Penrose spoke of the special field occupied by the Mutual Improvement associations and urged that there be no interference between these and the other interests of the ward, all of which should be under the direction and control of the Bishop. It would be to his interest to bring as many as possible of the young people into the associations, and to encourage them in their work, and Elder Penrose urged them to do so. He commended the steady growth manifested by the M. I. work.

It was suggested that those who were in a position to teach the people should do all in their power to become learned and capable, in order to have material on which the Spirit might draw. Both of these elements were absolutely necessary for the full benefits of public speaking to be realized. All the ability in the midst of the people should be brought out and cultivated to the greatest possible extent.

Referring to the support of the poor, the speaker stated that this had been placed in the hands of the general board organized for the purpose, with which the Bishops should communicate. He also recommended greater care on the part of all officers in fulfilling their respective duties.

Elder Joseph E. Taylor urged the handing in of statistical reports. Carelessness regarding notes of transfer and its unfortunate consequences were spoken of and deprecated. The proper order of the Priesthood in quorum and auxiliary organization was briefly explained, and observance of this order recommended.

The thought that a man in debt should be excused from the payment of tithing and donations was strongly opposed, on the principle that one-tenth of every man's income belongs to the Lord, and cannot under His law be used in any other direction.

The meeting adjourned to Saturday, March 12, at 10 a.m., when the quarterly conference will convene.

San Marrinovotch, a miner from Butte, Mont., was found dead in his room at the Europe hotel, San Francisco, Sunday morning, having been asphyxiated by gas. A draft for \$1,600 was found in one of his pockets and there is no reason to suspect that death was not accidental.