

berty to combine; and freedom of religion. For though the Lutheran Church is the Established Church of Iceland, the constitution expressly states, that nobody shall forfeit any part of his civil rights or his rights as a subject of the State for his religious opinions, and it is permitted to form societies for divine worship with such organization as may best suit the conscience of the members, provided nothing is done contrary to good morals and the general rules of conduct. The constitution forbids unlawful arrests, deprivation of property, and domiciliary visits; it guarantees industrial liberty, provides parish relief for those who are unable to earn their bread, and maintenance and education for destitute children. It forbids the enactment of laws conferring exclusive privileges on nobility, title, and rank, and prescribes that foreigners can be naturalized only by an act of parliament, and that their right to acquire real estate in the country shall be settled by law. On the other hand it provides that the defence of the country is obligatory on every man able to carry arms, according to a system which may later be fixed by law. As yet Iceland has no military force and has declared itself permanently neutral.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The king wields the highest administrative power; but his power is exercised by the ministers who are responsible for the conduct of affairs. There are three ministries with a minister at the head of each. The apportionment of business among the three ministries is as follows:

a. The Ministry of Justice and Church Affairs includes: The civil and criminal administration of justice; the police; the control of prisons; the granting of licences for lawsuits; matters relating to family-rights; inheritance; personal rights; rights of property; ecclesiastical affairs; public health; education (except agricultural schools); elections to Althingi, and the publishing of the official Gazette.

b. The Ministry of Industrial Affairs and Communications. This ministry has charge of all matters relating to industries, as farming; fisheries; trades; handicrafts; communications; roads; postal, telegraph, and telephone services; matters respecting local government; and public domains.

c. The Ministry of Finance. This ministry has under its supervision: The country's financial affairs in general; taxes and customs; adminis-