

and industry in our newest insular possessions.

Leaving aside the joy which will fill the islanders upon seeing the Congressmen, consider the hardships of the members themselves, forced to leave Washington in its hours of tress and traverse the bounding blue, Sunlight, soft zephyrs and flying fish by day, moonlight and phosphorescent spume at night as the ship glides down toward the Southern Cross; out of course the six statesmen will be in cabins, poring over books on the islands which they are about to inspect.

The easiest way to go to St. Thomas is via Porto Rico. From San Juan to Charlotte Amalia runs a vessel which once was thought fast enough to enter the America's Cup trials; a greyhound among the sleepy fleets of the Caribbean and just the thing for a Congressman to whom comfort is nothing, but we fancy we shall see a naval vessel slipping up to San Juan to take on the half dozen truth seekers and bear them away, first to St. Thomas, next to St. John and last, after a glance at the terribly named British possessions, Rum Island, Dead Man's Chest and the like, to St. Croix, where liquor once was made.

About the middle of February, when it is slushy in Washington, let us think of the Virgin Islands commission, sitting on a tropical beach eating freshly cut pineapples and drinking cocoanut milk.

Any Congressman not on the commission is likely to begin wondering whether all is well in Guam.—*Exchange*.—*St. Thomas Bulletin*, Jan. 28th.

RACE OF SUPERIOR BEINGS ON MOON.

Vegetation seen along Course of Twin Artificial Canals—other Discoveries.

Boston, Decr. 12.—According to Professor William H. Pickering, the Harvard astronomer, who recently made a study of the moon from an observatory in Kingston, Jamaica, there are evidences of a race of superior beings on the earth's satellite which has hitherto been regarded as barren and devoid of all form of life both vegetable and animal.

Professor Pickering, who has spent many years as observer of the heavenly bodies asserts that a careful study of the surface of the moon through a telescopic lens unquestionably reveals vegetation in spots on the moon's surface, particularly in and around the crater of some of extinct volcanoes.

The astronomer states that in only a single spot on the moon is the appearance of this vegetation green; otherwise as far as it has been observed is like sagebrush or some of the cacti, or black like the lichens. At the height of a summer's solace on the moon this vegetation is even purplish-black near the equator.—*Dominica Guardian* Jan. 15th.

The meat and fish famine continues. We understand that two of the Roseau butchers called upon the Acting Administrator several days ago, requesting for permit to proceed to Montserrat in search of cattle for the market, but until now His Honour has not given them his promised reply. Sugar is also nearly unobtainable in Roseau.—*Ibid*.

According to a notice appearing in the *L. I. Gazette*, the postmasters of the various Presidencies of the Colony have been instructed not to issue Money Orders on Canada and the U. S. of America of a greater value than £2 to any one person within any period of two weeks. Well may the people ask what next?—*Ibid*.

WRECKED SCHOONER

The schooner Menlayson Brothers, bound from Bordeaux, France, to Barbados, owned by H. Jason Jones, Esq., M. C. P., was wrecked off the East Point Lighthouse at 6 a. m. on Friday, January 2. After the ship had gone ashore, four of the crew, said to be natives of Barbados, put on life belts, so the report runs, got into a lifeboat and undertook to go to Bridgetown and take information. They have not reached Bridgetown up to the point of time of writing this article. The body of a man, presumed to be one of the four seamen who left the wrecked schooner, is reported to have been found somewhere in the rocks of the coast of the island. Up to now, however, nothing has been heard of the other men. The schooner is partially covered by insurance. Full particulars have not yet been gathered. The ship is said to be a total wreck.—*Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, Jan. 10th.

SUGAR NOTES.

The saccharine manufacturers are very anxious to get Congress to permit them to sell 200,000 pounds of this chemical to replace millions of pounds of sugar. Dr. Alsberg, of the Bureau of Chemistry, in the hearing of the recent resolution introduced in Congress, said that the effect of saccharine is not clear and free from doubt. He said that it was deleterious to health. He argued that the drinks were food and that any use of saccharine would be a detriment to the public. The doctor poured some fine shell fire into that committee meeting alluding to the war and how it had shown us that people did not eat to excess and that 100,000 tons of sugar were to be released that amount had to be replaced by something else and saccharine certainly was a poor substitute. The Department of Agriculture is bringing suit against some saccharine manufacturers and these cases are pending. *Louisiana Planter*, Jan. 3rd.

The German government has put the

price of refined sugar for 1919-29 at 51 marks per 100 kilograms. For raws the price is 73 marks per 100 kilograms.—*Ibid*.

Beet seed is a scarce article in Europe and that which is procurable is of a poor quality. President Petrikin of the Great Western Sugar Company returned two or three weeks ago from a trip to Europe where he investigated the beet seed supply for the next year. He finds the outlook for seed not at all encouraging and says that even German beet seed, known for its remarkable quality, is of inferior germinal qualities. Mr. Petrikin says that the leading sugar export countries would be import countries this year, the only exception being Czecho-Slovakia which will export a small amount. Holland, Denmark and Sweden will also have a small surplus.—*Ibid*.

Commercial reports say that the sugar imports into Mexico in 1918 were about 25,000 tons of raws. The total consumption in the neighbouring republic is placed at 100,000 tons while the local production is only 60,000.—*Ibid*.

The Austrian government has had an agreement with the Czecho-Slovakia republic in which the latter furnishes 71,200 tons of sugar by September, 1919, for domestic purposes, 9,100 tons for marmalade, and 880 tons for fruit juices. This sugar was delivered at 320 kronen per 100 kilograms. Furthermore the republic agreed to send monthly 785 tons of bl. products at 152.5 kronen per 100 kilograms and 8,000 tons of molasses from February to September. The delivery of this consignment has not been going on very rapidly as in July the May deliveries had not yet been made. Then the Austrian government was also notified that the prices had gone up and the contracted prices set aside.—*Ibid*.

The South African sugar situation has been greatly improved by the late round table agreements between manufacturers and cane raisers. It has been proved repeatedly that success is not getting what you want as much as it is what you want other people to get. The main fact is to see that those who are served get what they want and need and with this goal in mind success waits upon the giver also.—*Ibid*.

OPTICAL AID.

YOUR prescription filled same day as received, repairs dispatched by return of mails.

F. M. CORNEIRO
St. Thomas, U. S. V. I.