

St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., FRIDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 1920.

No. 46.

THE ST. CROIX AVIS

is printed and published daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted) by G. Johansen at the Avis Office.

TERMS---50 cents monthly in advance,
2 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter May 26th 1917 at the Post Office at Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of the U. S. A., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

ON MONDAY, February 9, 1920, at 9 o'clock a. m., the Colonial Council convened in extraordinary session for the purpose of meeting a Congressional Commission from the United States.

The following members were present: The Chairman (Robt. L. Merwin), F. Coulter, D. C. Canegata, D. Noll, K. Henderson, A. J. Blackwood, F. Lunney, W. S. Abramson, F. Andersen, W. L. Penheny, A. E. Stakemann, W. H. MacKay, Robt. W. Skeoch, Thos. Ramsey, M. M. Skeoch, G. Nordby and G. B. Fleming.

3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong) absent from the island.

The Congressional Commission consisted of the following gentlemen:

Senators:

William S. Kenyon
Walter E. Edge, and
Edward J. Gay.

Congressmen:

Horace M. Towner
Finie Garret, and
Phillip Campbell.

Despatching Secretary Commander Frederick Colby attended the meeting.

After prayers had been said by the Chaplain, the Chairman in opening the meeting said:

Honorable Members the Congressional Commission meets us this morning for the purpose of receiving the members of

the Council, and any and all inhabitants of St. Croix who wish to make complaints, express their desires or aspirations for the future welfare and benefit of these Virgin Islands. The Colonial Council is now in session and immediately after this meeting is closed the Commission will take up their duties of questioning and hearing statements of any citizens. I have pleasure in announcing to the Council that Mr. William Pierson Hamilton of New York, a great great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton, has presented to St. Croix an oil portrait of his great, great grandfather, and Governor Oman has placed the portrait into my hands to be hung in the hall of our Island Legislature here in Government House:

For the ceremony today of this presentation Miss Addie Blackwood has kindly consented to unveil the portrait.

The Chairman then requested Miss Blackwood to unveil the portrait.

Continuing the Chairman addressed the meeting saying: I propose that letters of thanks from this Council upon behalf of the inhabitants of St. Croix be addressed to Mr. Hamilton in honor of this very acceptable present to the Island and to Mrs. Osborn of New York for the interest she has shown and assistance she has given in procuring for us such a magnificent gift, and as a vote of thanks I ask Honorable Members to arise from their seats in expressing their thanks.

The members arose as a body.

The Chairman then requested Judge Towner to make an address.

Judge Towner from the rostrum addressed the Council and audience:

ADDRESS BY JUDGE HORACE M. TOWNER, CONGRESSMAN, AT THE UNVEILING OF THE PICTURE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON IN THE COUNCIL HALL IN CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Colonial Council of St. Croix and, you, citizens. This is indeed a very great and unexpected pleasure to the members of the Commission. I do not know whether this is a portrait of the original picture of Alexander Hamilton which has been sent to you, I only remember an account of the painting and the circumstances of the painting of the portrait.

When a very young man he entered the revolutionary war as a soldier and sought distinction as a military officer; so quickly did he impress himself and so strong was his personality and the attraction of his character that he soon be-

came the ideal of the officers with whom he was associated; so much was this, that his associate officers, being all poor men not able to afford a portrait of Alexander Hamilton, put together the funds they had and secured the painting of Alexander Hamilton and I hope this is a copy of the original. The arrangement was, that each of the officers should keep the portrait for two months so each could have the opportunity of having this portrait.

I am very proud as an American citizen, not only of the fame of Alexander Hamilton, but of the mighty impression which he made on the Statesmen and the Constitutional Governments of the world and the nation. He was called by some of the greatest English Jurists one of the greatest men of his time; they claimed him as an English because he was born in an English Colony; of course, we claim him as a distinguished American because he came to us early.

Alexander Hamilton possessed the most formidable character that has been known on the Continent; here in this town his character was moulded, here he received the impressions of all that is mighty, here he learned his mathematics, his Greek, his Shakespeare, here was born the ambition of Alexander Hamilton. You remember the remarkable letter in which he said: (words lost by applause in the Lobby)—You have the proud distinction of having sent to the United States the man that rendered the service that made our nation what it is today; one which I know will grow for years and perhaps ages. The great deed of this man will be taught to your children for generations to come. I cannot take time to speak too much of Alexander Hamilton today.

Young as he was he became one of the greatest officers under Washington and was known as one of the greatest military tacticians, and so Washington called him very early into his own family. He was the secretary and adviser of Washington throughout the war.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the years which we who are lawyers cherish was accomplished by Alexander Hamilton, he commenced the study of law in New York City and completed his education as a lawyer in four months and became leader of the New York Bar; following that came his great work of framing the Constitution of the United States. Suffice it to say that four

[Continued on 2nd page.]