

LOCAL

The s. s. Bolivar is understood to have sustained some accident to her propeller in consequence of which she is unable to proceed to destination and will be towed to St. Thomas for repair. Her cargo for this town will be discharged in Frederiksted.

The s. s. Parima arrived at Frederiksted last night bringing 22 bags mail for Christiansted. She sailed some time later taking the mails for the islands previously made up for the Bolivar.

Mr. Eugen Brady of Est. Spring Garden was accidentally shot this morning by James Foroes, resident of the same Estate. Mr. Brady was taken to the Municipal Hospital, where he is being attended to.—*The West End News, Jan. 25rd.*

PROTESTANT GROWTH.

The Evangelical Union of Porto Rico has just celebrated at Ponce the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the protestant work on the island. The celebration took the form of special meetings and a pageant depicting the progress made during the past quarter of a century. For this occasion the following figures were gathered representing the present status of the evangelical work in Porto Rico:

Ministers 167, Unordained workers 115, Preaching points 488, Organized churches 199, Active members 12,377, Sunday schools 373, Sunday School members 24,717, Societies 129, Y. P. S. members 6,150, Church buildings 179, Other buildings 74.

Money collected during 1923 \$55,221. Value of property owned by different Missions \$1,798,699.

These figures are based on the information supplied by the Churches in the Evangelical Union and do not include the statistics of the Episcopal, Lutheran and Christian Alliance Churches.

The estimate accepted by the workers on the field is that the protestant constituency of Porto Rico is twenty per cent of the population.—*Porto Rico Progress, 12th Jan*

VIEQUES AREA AS A NAVAL BASE.

The Marines have taken Culebra. That is the first step to the Winter Naval maneuvers which for the first time in many years, if not in our history, this year are centering around Culebra with what the Navy calls the Vieques Area as a concentration place.

That so many ships and men will be so close to us and that many of them will visit the city and island is both interesting and important, but of much greater significance is the fact that the

United States Navy is to be concentrated in the Vieques Area not so much for this year's war game but as part of a plan to test this Area as a place of defense for the entire eastern coast of the United States, the Caribbean and as far South as the Canal. Properly speaking the Vieques Area includes the waters between Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with Culebra proper as the center of base.

There are naval authorities who see possibilities for using this Area as a naval concentration point for a naval force that would have almost complete command of the entire eastern coast of the United States as well as the eastern end of the Canal Zone. So far their ideas have been developed chiefly on paper but the actual operations of the next few months should go a long way toward proving or disproving the actual value of the Area as a naval base.

At the present time the United States has a naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba. Whether this is adequate or whether it is a proper place for further development are questions to be determined in part at least by this Winter's maneuvers. Should Vieques be determined upon as the logical concentration point for the naval defense of the long stretch of coast line from the Canal northward it will be of particular significance for Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands and over a period of years would mean the development of one of the largest naval bases in the world.—*Ibid.*

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Jan. 21st.—Passengers who left last night on long distance journeys were warned by the railway officials that they might not reach their destinations and most of the companies issued posters announcing a curtailment of the services and that goods and merchandise could only be handled at the sender's risk. Among the first effects of the strike in London was the stoppage of the usual midnight trains to Scotland, North Wales and other points and consequent inability to despatch early editions of the London morning papers by rail. The newspapers managers had made the best preparations possible beforehand to meet this contingency and the streets around London's newspaper row were lined with fleets of motors of all kinds hired to carry papers into the country districts.

London, Jan. 21st.—Word that the Franco-Belgian Railway administration had issued orders prohibiting traffic between the British and other Allied zones in the Rhineland, was received here with astonishment. The action is said to be tantamount to a blockade of the Cologne area and there is resentful comment in some quarters, which says that if the order is made effective a very serious

situation among the Allies will come about. These critics interpret the reported order as designed to frighten away the British from Cologne, thus removing the last obstacle to the establishment of an autonomous Rhineland. No official statement has yet been forthcoming but it is understood the Government has already instructed Lord Crewe to press France for an explanation.

New York, Jan. 21st.—British exchange broke sharply today as the result of the railwaymen's strike, demand bills dropping 2½ points to 4.21 1/8, the lowest since 1922. The European exchanges yielded in sympathy, francs dropping 1½ points to 4.44½, and Belgian francs dropping 9½ to 4.03½.

Athens, Jan. 21st.—The Italian Charge d'Affairs here notified the Foreign Minister on Saturday that Italy had decided to resume diplomatic relations with Greece.

Athens, Jan. 21st.—The Cabinet, according to the Athens papers, has decided to report to the National Assembly recommendations virtually favouring a Republic. The Cabinet, it is asserted, is opposed to a Monarchical regime, which it holds is the cause of all the evils in the country. The recommendations, the papers say, will be presented on Wednesday. M. V-nizelos announced his intention of casting his vote for a Republic at the coming referendum.

London, Jan. 21st.—A statement issued early this morning at the headquarters of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, which last midnight called a strike on the railways of Great Britain, said the men were coming out solidly and standing together splendidly. Press telegrams arriving through the small hours of the day suggested that the assertion was likely to prove not far from the truth. Some reports told of union members who were willing to continue work. Apparently some traffic was moved after midnight, but in the main it seemed the strike called would be obeyed by a great majority of the organizations, 59,000 members. Attempts by the railway companies to run trains on restricted schedules are being watched anxiously by the public. The success of a limited service depends in the first instance on the loyalty of those locomotive men who belong to the National Union of Railwaymen, among whose 320,000 members, it is said, are about 20,000 or 30,000 enginemen. Neither this union nor the railway clerks organization supporting the strike. If the locomotive men belonging to the National Union obey the instructions of J. H. Thomas and other leaders to ignore the strike some districts of England Scotland and Wales will not fare altogether too badly. However there were signs today that many engineers and firemen in the National Union of railwaymen would cooperate with their striking fel-