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St. Thomas News.

NEW FINANCIAL AIDE TO GOVERNOR OMAN

We had the pleasure yesterday morning of meeting Lieut. Commander John Gaffney, who arrived here last Saturday evening by the U. S. S. "Henderson," in the capacity of Senior Financial Aide to his Excellency Governor Oman.

What made the meeting more interesting to us, was the knowledge that the name of the Lieutenant Commander has been mooted in certain high circles as to the probable successor to the present Governor, whose term of office will shortly expire.

This, we were made to understand however, is not so. Lieut. Commander Gaffney, who is at present at Dr. Raine's is of a very pleasing and prepossessing exterior, and of winning personality, qualities that will go far to win him friends here. We trust that his stay amongst us will be pleasant, and his intercourse one of cordiality.

While on this subject, having touched upon the expected retirement of our good and popular Governor, in the near future, it may not be amiss to state that in "certain" official quarters at Washington, there is a strong tendency pending Governor Oman's retirement to, in the face of not being able to condescend to the wishes of a certain class in these islands to grant civil Government, to place these islands under the jurisdiction of Porto Rico. From such a calamity we at once cry: "Good Lord, deliver us!" Such a thing must never be allowed to occur. In fact, such a thing could never be. Different in

race, language and national characteristics, such a change could only work untold hardships and difficulties upon the inhabitants of these islands, who are fundamentally different in every respect to our western neighbors.

Of course, the cry for civil government will ever and anon be the slogan among some of our people; but again we repeat, and will do so whenever we deem it necessary so to do, that Civil Government will not be commensurate with our conditions at present. It is all very well and good to cry; "We want a civil form of government," but there are many things that need grave consideration as rectification ere we can have such a form of Government. We, on behalf of the majority of the people, at least in St. Thomas, sincerely trust that the authorities at Washington will consider the matter long and well, before making any such radical change in the present form of government.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Feb. 4th.*

THE PROPOSED TAKING OVER OF THE TELEPHONE SERVICE BY THE GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED IN COUNCIL.

At the meeting of the Colonial Council held yesterday afternoon, the question of Government taking over the Telephone system was introduced and discussed, the matter passing the 1st and 2nd discussions.

There was some adverse criticism of the Bill, the Chairman, however, from the desk, affirming that in such a small community like this, he did not see the necessity for telephonic service even adding how a friend had some time previously remarked on the necessity of even having electric lights installed here.

Owing to the innumerable complaints from all sides relative to the indifferent service performed by the present Company, and in view of its inability to get private individuals to take over the concern, Government feels itself bound to take the matter over, of course with the consent of the Council. Among other hinted improvements criticized was that of "an all night service"—on the most puerile grounds. To assist Government in giving the necessary explanations the services of Lieutenant Pettigrew of the Public Works Department were called into requisition.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Feb. 5th.*

FIRST GRADUATION FROM THE NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL.

On Friday evening, the 4th instant, at 8 15 o'clock, at the new Apollo, the Graduation Exercises in connection with the presentation of diplomas to the pupil nurses graduating, came off as announced.

To enliven the occasion, there was a short but appropriate program rendered.

For the occasion too, tickets were taken to safe-guard the seating capacity of the building, as well as to prevent any untoward rustling or rush. Supplied with tickets by those graduating, as well as by application to those having the exercises in hand, a large and eager crowd from a very early hour, had congregated outside the Theatre, so that when the time for the commencement of the exercise arrived, every available seat in the auditorium was practically filled. Even in the boxes, which seats were controlled by "lettered" tickets, few vacant seats could be found, so great was the interest in the event, a thing unprecedented and unknown in the annals of the island's history.

Present were Governor and Mrs. Oman, accompanied by Dr. Mink, Director of the Department of Health, the members of the Colonial Council, the ministers of the various denominations, the teachers of the Government and other schools, and prominent merchants and other townfolk.

Seated on the platform from right to left, were Drs. Nolan, Davis, and Lane, the last of whom was the chief mover in the whole affair. Then came the Revs. Griffiths (All Saints') and Leslie (Nisky) the American nurses and the graduates.

In the centre of the stage stood a centrepiece ornamented with a lovely bouquet of roses.

The exercises begun, the first piece on the program was an overture by the Navy Band. This was followed by the Invocation by the Rev. Fr. Griffiths. Then followed the introductory remarks by Dr. Lane, Chief Municipal Physician, who in a clear and concise manner made some very interesting remarks relative to the work done in the Hospital which he thought was as good as many he knew in the United States. Touching upon the pupils so soon to graduate, he expressed how he knew the work to be a disagreeable one at times, how no girl ought to enter into the

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