

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

The next building to the left is the site of the Reform Dutch Church of years ago. Many of the early settlers were from the Dutch Island of St. Eustatia and were mostly descendants of the French Huguenots who had escaped from France at the revocation of the edit of Nantes in 1685 and thus became Dutchmen though of French origin. Imbued no doubt with the spirit of Dutch activity for trade as their adopted native country was the first to prosecute mercantile adventures in the Western Hemisphere.

The automobiles are packed on the wharf, a figure of speech that encompasses that large square we see as we enter it from King's Street a few yards from Government House. This large space was in days gone by and really is to lay a centre of life in the town. During the days when sugar was king came the merchants each morning before going to their business places to learn the news of the day, to learn of the arrival of vessels and of their cargoes and as well of the passengers who had entered the port. As they assembled together in groups and then intimately in knots of four and five for Christians ed in those days supported a considerable mercantile class; while in the afternoon after the business places had closed at 4 o'clock and before proceeding to their home for dinner at five o'clock they made another circuit of the square. Here the flower girls assembled offering the gentlemen their "nose rays" for sale furnished from flowers grown in small gardens in town by families in greatly reduced circumstances. A delicate way of soliciting charity as the gentlemen bought liberally, one to help Miss Mary and the other to help Miss Christophena though of course the good souls offering the flowers through their little servants did so feeling that they were but mechanizing already a disgrace while the prosperous merchants happily parted with their stivers to render the assistance so sorely needed by the remainder of bygone families of influences.

At the period of which we speak as we enter the square we have on our left the large building with an adjoining run of rooms to the north this was the "English Tavern" and the buildings as they stand today bear evidence of the comfort the storm-tossed travellers received as he stepped from the boat into its hospitable refuge where good cheer was the pleasure of its landlord to dispense as compared with the "ordinaries" of the Mainland at that time.

Standing at the foot of King's Street from which we have just emerged and as we proceed into the square the view opens up the harbor. Straight before us and across is the old Fort, such a unique example of architecture of the bygone centuries unmolested and unaltered by the hands of this swift century; to the right is the United States Post Office a modern building of the middle of the last century and south of it the steeple which was previous to 1830 the Danish Lutheran Church but now surrounded by buildings which have become the Municipal Hospital so efficiently conducted by the Navy Doctors in charge with the assistance of Navy Nurses and the native personnel they have instructed and built up with the institution. In the steeple is the "Big Ben" of the island where its ancient joints have worked faithfully for man for so many years even if it requires an occasional cleaning and oiling of its weary joints as it wabbles on upon its tiresome journey. To the left in the harbor is a small island called the "Quay" and here for many years aback has been stationed the Pilot for the port and from the upper story of his residence a clear view of the sea for many miles can be seen to the North East and West. The lookout ever watchful for approaching vessels, as in the days before the telegraph almost each day brought some news unheralded from without, good news or perchance the enemy. And at the water side was the weighing house now the United States Custom House, the custom house of the olden days was the building upon the right now occupied by the West India & Panama Cable Office. This station being a relaying terminal employing quite a number of clerks, as the messages from the other islands arrive in its office and are in turn transmitted north, west and south. The view of the town is indeed picturesque as it nestles at the foot of a range of hills several hundred feet high while the view from the park toward the harbor is equal as picturesque with the interesting island as the centre of the picture and with its placid harbor protected by a God-given reef which protects the "basin" from the rollers lashing against this barrier when northerly gales appear.

(To be continued.)

THE Lenten services in the Lutheran churches:

Tuesday evening at Frederiksted.
Wednesday evening at King's Hill.
Thursday evening at Christiansted.
A welcome to the services.

J. P. CHRISTENSEN.

DISEASES DANGEROUS TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

During the month of February, 1924, the following diseases of interest to the public have been reported in the Virgin Islands:

In Saint Croix.

Filariasis 11
Hookworm Disease..... 1

In St. Thomas.—St. John.

Dengue..... 1
Fishpoisoning..... 1
Tuberculosis, chronic pulmonary... 5
Dysentery, unclassified..... 2

H. M. STENHOUSE, M. D.
Chief Sanitation Officer,
Municipality of St. Croix.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Item 3.

Colonial Council Bill No. 13.
Fourth Council, First Session.
2nd Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 13, draft of an additional money bill to the budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, introduced by Government providing for Frs. 10,000, to the Public Works Department for the purpose of repairing the small boat wharf in Frederiksted.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: This matter is before the House on 2nd discussion.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Municipal Committee after an inspection of the wharf in question, decided that as it had been so well repaired it could remain as it is at present, until we were in a better financial condition to build a new wharf. They also decided to recommend, that as an appropriation had already been made for the repair of the large wharf, over which merchandise is constantly passing, and which looked very shaky should be repaired as soon as possible.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. It is true that the freight wharf in Frederiksted is in a very precarious condi-