

1st member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Honorable Member has made a proposal to strike out these three lines, but what has he proposed to take the place of that? Every tax law has at the end a provision for collecting the tax. The Horse, Boat and Carriage Tax has a provision. The Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District has said there is nothing in the Code for collecting taxes. It seems to me that this ordinance must have such a provision.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) would like to hear the last speaker read the provision he speaks of in the Horse, Boat and Carriage tax law.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter): I am speaking from memory. I am not objecting to your amendment. The proposal you are objecting to is very drastic, but something should be proposed to take the place of it.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town is correct. The Code provides that anybody can sue or be sued for a debt. The Government is a legal entity and can sue. I know that the Boat, Horse and Carriage Tax has a provision. There should be a means for collecting the tax.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Honorable Member is a Lawyer and is supposed to know better, therefore I bow to his knowledge. I will now introduce this amendment. The Member read his amendment which is follows:

AMENDMENT

["In default of the tax not being paid it shall be collected in the same manner as provided in the Horse, Carriage and Boat Tax Ordinance).

D. C. CANEGATA,

2nd Member for Christiansted Town,

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Horse, Boat and Carriage Tax is fifteen months behind time; if you wish to have your road repaired you should provide means for raising taxes and not depend on this tax. It must be borne in mind that we are looking for the man who is not willing to pay his tax.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As Chairman of the Municipal Committee I had forwarded to me recently a statement of the revenues of the Municipality; the Horse, Boat and Carriage Tax is not down on that statement. This is one of the taxes due the Municipality up to June 30.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As I understand it the Road Tax is paid in advance. If a man is not using his car because he feels he is unable to pay his tax I fail to see how Government

can compel him to pay or take and sell his car, hence I do not see the need of the paragraph which the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town desires to have stricken. I think that's the solution of the question.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Any one who can afford to buy a car can afford to pay \$20 tax.

The Chairman read the amendment proposed by 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) and put same to the vote.

3 Members voted for; none against.

To be continued.

EDITORIAL.

With reference to the valued contribution by R. H. Amphlett Leader which appeared in yesterday's issue, a subscriber has sent us a spicy editorial note from the Pathfinder of October 21, 1922, on the subject of truth value to which Mr. Leader attaches broad importance in the human equation of life. Between the two opinions our readers will find good material for thought and resolutions for the coming year. The Pathfinder article follows:

"Pennsylvania university is setting an example by starting a course in truth-telling and it is expected that the idea will be adopted in all the schools. Truth is mighty, but it is too precious to be cast before swine. Think what a terrible world this would be if people were compelled to tell 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.' In the first place in order to tell 'the whole truth', everybody would have to keep talking all at once 24 hours a day. Think what a revolt there would be if women were forced to proclaim their age to all the world on a tag attached to their person like an auto license; or if they were forbidden to camouflage their true complexion by the use of paint and powder or if a man who claimed to have 'the best wife in the world' had to be taken into court and made to prove it; or if all the children had to be told that there was no such thing as Santa Claus; or if all the fiction had to be taken from our libraries and burned, and the publication of any more prohibited; or if your neighbour had to tell you how rotten you look, instead of cheering you up with a compliment; or if we were forbidden to state how far it is to the moon in round numbers, because we don't know the precise distance; or if we had to stop calling October by that name, because it is really the 10th month, and not the eighth as the name implies—or finally if the politicians had to be checked up each night on all the statements they had made during the day. No, it wouldn't work at all; civilization couldn't go that way. Of course in essential matters we should tell the truth, but we should also

remember that great harm can be done by telling the truth when it is not called for. Human nature is imperfect and it lives largely on illusions. Silence often is golden, when "free speech" would be but dress indeed."

Our next issue will be January 2, 1923. We take the opportunity here of wishing all our readers and subscribers, our advertisers and all others who have contributed toward our existence in the closing year, A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR which it is our hope will be a successful one for the island's interests, generally and individually, industrially and commercially.

LOCAL.

We have been informed that the Industrial Brass Band will play on the wharf tomorrow evening.

The Raporel s. s. Bolivar arrived at this port this morning and after discharging her cargo will proceed to the southern islands by noon. Mails close 10 a.m.

Correspondence

Christiansted St. Croix, V. I.
December 29, 1922.

To the Editor of the St. Croix Avis.
Sir.

Please allow me space in your columns to wish a Happy New Year to the Members of the Colonial Council, Government Officials, the voters of this Town and Suburbs who re-elected me to the Council in 1921 with 149 votes, the highest number of votes ever obtained by a Council Member in St. Croix, to you and to your staff and to my many friends abroad.

W. S. ABRAMSON.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27th.—H. M. C. S. "Patriot" which is to spend the winter in the South, left here at midnight for Bermuda. She will not return to Halifax until some time in the Spring.

Wellington, N. Z., Dec. 27th.—The earthquake of Christmas afternoon was confined to the upper and middle portions of the South Island. The shock was especially severe in North Canterbury.

London, Dec. 27th.—A Reuter despatch from Lausanne says: There is a serious danger of the Near East conference becoming abortive if the Turks persist in their present methods.

London, Dec. 26th.—Physicians report that Prince George is making good progress after his operation for appendicitis.