

NOTICE

ATENTION is called to paragraph four of the pamphlet containing "INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE TELEPHONE", i. e. "Subscription is to be paid for monthly in advance. If the subscription fee is not duly paid within 2 days after it has become due, the Manager is entitled to sever the connection and remove the telephone, while the subscriber is liable to pay the subscription till the end of that quarter to which lawful notice could have taken place". According to above regulations, instructions have been issued to the Foremen to disconnect, on the 9th day of each month, the lines of all delinquent subscribers.

MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.
H. BERG,
Mgr.

St. Croix, March 22, 1920.

EDITORIAL.

In this issue there will be found a communication from one of the leading fishermen at this end, Mr. Philip Tutein, a respectable and hardworking man who has followed his profession for a number of years and whose opinion on matters pertaining to the fish industry is based upon considerable experience. Mr. Tutein takes exception to editorial and contributed comment in this paper on the condition of the fish market where the prices of raw fish have soared beyond all reasonable proportion and have naturally called forth criticism just as has been advanced where occasion called for it in other lines of foodstuffs. As a matter of fact when this paper referred editorially to the high prices of fish it was not contemplated to offend any particular fisherman or class of fishermen, and men of Mr. Tutein's type were not thought of when commenting upon the ruthless profiteering which goes on and is still going on in the retail fish-market. If all the fishermen and those dealing in that particular line were like Mr. Tutein it would probably have been unnecessary to write our article of the 16th instant and the public would not be dissatisfied.

Everybody knows and agrees that the cost of materials for all purposes has advanced considerably and where such materials are used in manufacture, or in the running of any business or industry, the products have gone up proportionately; we say proportionately because that is what it ought to be, but in nineteen cases out of twenty goods have gone up 50, 60, in some instances, 100 to 200 per cent in excess of the increased cost of production. This is what people are kicking against, and they have a right

to kick and kick hard if necessary to get things on a fair and proper basis. It may be quite true as Mr. Tutein contends that the price of fish can not be what it was formerly. But then Mr. Tutein does not go around selling fish himself, nor is he in a position to say what those who do so charge and to what extent they "freeze" the public. When it was instanced in this paper that twenty cents was asked for two tiny "gizzard doctor" we know what we are talking about, and the information on this score reached us from good authority, like in most cases where we have found it expedient to take up public matters of this nature. Naturally the editors of papers do not have to go in the fish market or for that matter in any market at all to get first hand information about prices and conditions which will elicit no complaint from the public unless they work a hardship in their application. It is a positive fact that the fish sold nowadays is so much more expensive than in the recent past as to admit of no room for comparison. It is a general matter of comment and on more than one occasion convincing evidence of the injustice to which the public is subject has been submitted to us, not to speak of numerous requests to treat the matter in public print. It would appear that the loudest denunciation is against the small fishers who angle or set out pots in the harbor, a business which does not come under the heading of the larger scale of fishing to which Mr. Tutein confines his argument. These small dealers, whether directly or indirectly, barter fish about the town at unheard of prices, a mere fish head often costing 20 cents. At all events we can see no harm in suggesting action to suppress profiteering and imposition wherever found, and it seems to us equitable to propose that the Food Commission regulate the price of raw fish in justice alike to seller and consumer, as the way to end disputes and eliminate unjust criticism of the prices of fish, if the same be above criticism as our correspondent intimates. It will be noted that Mr. Tutein has essayed no comparison between the past and present prices of fish, although he furnishes the figures on the expense side. If known, these would be interesting and should prove the most effective manner in refuting the charges, if charges there be, and of substantiating the correctness of his position. We are sorry Mr. Tutein takes offense at our editorial (we can hardly be responsible for what correspondents have written), and would like to assure him that the aim of this paper is to urge cooperation among dealers and buyers of all classes and in all lines in order to relieve if possible the tremendous strain under which the poorer people and even the so-called middle classes are laboring. The proposition to sell fish by weight is

in our opinion the most equitable and rational arrangement that ought to redound to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned, and it is hoped that when the Food Commission devotes attention to these vexing questions, it will use our suggestion as a basic ground in ferreting out the trouble.

Local.

It is learned that the Food Commission will hold a meeting tomorrow morning to adjust the prices of raw fish and sugar. The commission is understood to be fully alive to the sufferings of the community owing to need for action in this matter, and speedy relief is looked for.

The theatre was as usual the place where pleasure seekers spent two hours of solid healthy entertainment last night following that captivating serial "The Lure of the Circus" which is gaining in attractiveness at each entertainment and has now grown quite as popular as any of its forerunners. The two reel comedy which wound up the show took the sleep out of all eyes and sent the audience away in a merry mood.

We have been asked to say that the time limit within which bids for furnishing quarters for post office purposes in this town will be received, has been extended to the 30th proximo. Parties having premises to lease can get all particulars from the postmaster who is also in a position to advise prospective bidders of the estimated cost of equipment and other matters in connection with a proper understanding of the requirements.

The town clock has been received, we are told, and will be installed shortly by an electrician from St. Thomas.

Editor "St. Croix Avis",

Dear Sir:-

Allow me space in your valued paper to explain to the community in general the conditions of the fishery in this island, as I can speak with the authority of thirty-four years of experience. It's not with the intention of rendering any satisfaction to that most impertinent and contemptible of all idiots calling himself Old Cook, who most probably is ashamed of his own name or position. I am proud of my name and position as a fisherman, as there is no disgrace attached to my name or calling. I want to tell the public why fish cannot be sold as formerly. Because the industry is practically dead for the want of hands to work, as well the advanced prices of the materials for the work. Formerly there were thirteen large boats working at