

ORDER OF THE DAY

for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council for St. Croix, MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1924, at ONE O'CLOCK P. M.

(Convened by request of Government)

1. Colonial Council Bill No. 15.

Introduction of and discussion on draft of an ordinance introduced by Government authorizing the sale of a piece of property located in Old Hospital Ground, and authorizing the purchase of a piece of property located in Estate "Recovery Hill."

Colonial Council Office, St. Croix, January 18, 1924.

ROBT. L. MERWIN,
Chairman.

LOCAL

The s. s. "Bolivar" sailed from New York on Monday evening, having 56 tons of cargo for Christiansted and 15 tons for Frederiksted.

So-called "citizenship day" yesterday, was gratefully employed in restoring lost vigor for the continuation of the "battle of life" which would be discouraging enough if we did not once in a while have some pause wherein to take fresh heart and start. The day was one of charming weather, bright sunshine accompanied with fresh breezes throughout. So far the only sport reported are goat races at Hojer Danske in the morning. In the evening there were private dances, etc.

The funeral of Mr. William L. Penthen yesterday afternoon was one of the largest assemblage of people of all classes from all parts of the island, seen here in many years if ever before. This in itself testified to the esteem in which the deceased was held and the goodwill he enjoyed in the community where he was born and spent practically all his years. The Native Brass Band was in attendance.

Thus was laid away one of St. Croix sons of whom this island may truly be proud, and which it will certainly miss and be all the poorer for losing, a MAN, one of whom it would be a task to find the next but who had a good word to say of him, or who had either seen or enjoyed his hospitality, his genial society, his liberality to those in all walks of human existence, one who was a living example of the unassuming, the conscientious, the essence of unselfishness in mere man. The name of W. L. Penthen will survive in St. Croix.

The following is an extract from the

Army and Navy Register of January 5, 1924.

"A surprisingly large number of newspaper publishers and editors of the country have accepted invitations extended by Secretary Denby to visit the Fleet while it is in Southern waters. They will leave Charleston, S. C. on the transport Henderson February 10. To date the department has received 79 acceptances and 63 declinations. Some 150 publishers and editors still are to be heard from. Of the editors and publishers who have accepted the invitations, five are directors of the Associated Press. A great many come from the middle west. Twelve are the directing heads of newspapers in Illinois, 4 in Iowa, 4 in Texas, 3 in Oklahoma, 2 in North Dakota, 1 in South Dakota, 2 in Wisconsin, 3 in Minnesota, 5 in Ohio, and 7 in Michigan."

Virgin Islands Commission Named.

Six Members Appointed to Investigate Alleged Bad Conditions There.

By International News Service.

Six prominent American negroes have been selected by Secretary of Labor James J. Davis to constitute an official Government commission to investigate economic conditions in the Virgin Islands, it was announced here today.

It is believed to be the first time in the history of the United States that an all-negro governmental commission has been sent to one of the American possessions.

Robert Church, Chairman.

The delegation will consist of Robert Church, of Memphis, as chairman; Cornelius Richardson, of Richmond, Ind., as vice chairman; George H. Woodson, of Des Moines, secretary; Jefferson H. Coage, of Delaware; Prof. Charles E. Mitchell of the Institute of West Virginia, and W. H. C. Brown, an investment banker of Norfolk and Newport News.

The commission will leave the United States next week and plans to make an extensive survey of conditions in the Islands, which are said to be deplorable. Actual starvation is said to be threatening some of the natives, following the virtual demolition of the bay-rum industry by American prohibition. The production and export of bay rum has always been the principal industry of the Islands.

Island's Population.

Most of the population of the islands are negroes, or negro extraction. Latest census figures reported population consisting of approximately 17,000 negroes, 5,000 mixed, 400 Japanese, Chinese and Orientals, and only 1,900 whites.

The commission will study labor and living conditions, employment, immigration and emigration, farming etc., with particular reference to the possibility of

establishing industries there to offset the loss of the bay rum industry.

It is probable that six to eight weeks will be consumed in the investigation. A report will be made to Secretary Davis who in turn will make it the basis for recommendations to Congress.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Jan. 13th.—In the short period now intervening before the expected battle in the new House of Commons, the notable feature of the situation observable is the persistence of the agitation to prevent labour forming a Government or, failing that, to make sure that such a Government, once it is formed, shall have the shortest possible life. The latest effort in this direction has been to seize upon pending industrial disputes to insure justifiable grounds for retaining the present Government in power. The argument being employed is that in the presence of such a disturbing factor as a big railway strike, a new labour administration might find its hand forced by the extremists section of the Labour Party, to the injury of the public interests and that therefore safety lies in the retention of the Baldwin Administration. This argument clearly is addressed to the Liberal Party, which, with the Conservative, would have the power to overthrow a Labour Government. It is impossible to say how far the argument appeals to the Liberal rank and file, but as far as Mr. Asquith and the other responsible Liberal leaders are concerned, it is believed there has been no change in their views on the situation and that the fall of the Baldwin Ministry will come quickly, perhaps next Thursday, the date already predicted for its downfall. Without doubt big labour disputes would embarrass a new Labour Government, but thus far Mr. MacDonald, who would be the new Premier, is currently reported as having no intention to give representation to the extremists in his cabinet, if it is framed. He is said to be showing no timidity in this respect and there are predictions that his indifference to the influence of the extremists of his party will bring about his downfall. The actual situation still seems to be governed by Mr. Asquith's declaration that a Labour Government in England could not arrive under more favourable circumstances. Mr. Asquith is said to have meant by this, that having two strong parties in nominal opposition in the House, a Labour Government could not possibly risk proposing extremists measures.

London, Jan. 13th.—Colonel Wedgwood, who cabinet members and Liberal papers today declare will probably be Secretary for India, in the event of Labour forming a Ministry, speaking at the Universal Labour Federation Conference last night, said the Labour