

deserves some attention. I shall not detain you longer as there are others to follow, but in conclusion let me say that I have a thorough belief in the wisdom and righteousness of as full a policy of civil government as is commensurate with every measure of confidence and responsibility that may be placed in any people, and I believe also in the virtue of patience and the logic of events to bring us to the day of its final accomplishment. I therefore beg to introduce to you, sir, the resolution which is now before you.

6th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Corneiro*) in introducing the resolution for the Colonial Council of St. Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members of the Colonial Council of St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John. The Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Croix has spoken very clearly. His remarks leave whatever I may say feeble and hardly worthy of your attention.

As the Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Croix has said I came over to consult with him as to what he thinks of Senate Bill No. 2786. It is natural for every human being, even beasts, to crave for something good. The people of every community crave for the day when they shall rule themselves. Little children learn how to be out of the tutelage of their parents. But there is something rather suspicious, and that is, the whole procedure and the introduction of the bill. We find it very strange that a bill intended to be beneficial to the people of the Virgin Islands and presented with such good intentions should be conducted along the lines of utmost secrecy, and such determined efforts are being made to prevent anybody from these islands to be heard upon it. These are the questions that are exercising the thoughts of every member of the Colonial Council of St. Thomas.

It was argued by some that we (the Colonial Council) do not represent everybody. Let us argue that we represent ourselves only, that does not mean that we should not be heard. I ask you to consider these questions for a moment. Why should there be such secrecy? Why should not any one from these islands be given an opportunity to be heard on such a vital matter as the bill in question? While the bill contains beautiful provisions, such as citizenship, is the object not to get citizenship for those Virgin Islanders in the north so that they can use it with terrible effect in voting for the Democrats or Republicans?

I don't wish to take up too much of your time as there are others more capable of explaining the situation than I, but look at the bill and you will see that it is hastily drawn up. I ask you to consider the points that I have adduced and if I am wrong I am open for correction.

It appears to me that there is a cat in the bag to be let out. No one will come forward and admit that he is re-

sponsible for the introduction of the bill. I believe we have a perfect right to be heard even though it is claimed that we do not represent everybody, particularly if the bill is supposed to be introduced with sincere intentions. I ask you again to consider the remarks I have made on the subject and I thank you for listening to me.

The *Chairman* remarked: Before proceeding it is my duty to take the vote as to whether the resolution should be subject to one, two or three discussions; as there is no provision made for that in the Rules of Business it is necessary to ask this question each time.

2nd Appointed Member (*Noll*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I take this opportunity to express myself that one discussion is ample and I move that there be one discussion on the resolution.

It was put to the vote and unanimously carried that the resolution be adopted at one discussion.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Before we begin to discuss this resolution there ought to be on the record an organization of the two legislative bodies into one.

5th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Thiele*) in reply to the last speaker said, — My opinion and the opinion of the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and St. John is that we are not here to pass any law, but to express an opinion. The question might arise as to whether the two Councils might get together to make laws, but we are not making decisions to be guided by in the future.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): I thank the 5th Elected Member for St. Thomas for the information given. If what he says is correct then we are not discussing the resolution formally. This meeting is merely a caucus meeting like one we had a few days ago.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): I agree with that. We should organize and elect a Chairman.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (*Andersen*) drew attention to Paragraph 42 of the Colonial Law.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I wish to ask by whom this resolution will be signed, whether by two gentlemen or by the two Chairmen and the two Secretaries as was done when the last memorial was introduced and passed.

5th Elected Member (*Thiele*): Mr. Chairman. With regard to the Paragraph referred to by the Honorable 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District I can frankly say that we have no authority under the Colonial Law to call a joint meeting of the Colonial Councils to express our views as has been done today.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): When we do that we are not acting for the people. This is a very

important matter and we should get it straightened out before proceeding further.

5th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Thiele*): There is nothing in the Colonial Law to prevent us from expressing our views as Colonial Councils.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): I would like the Honorable Member to explain if we are acting for the people in a legislative capacity.

5th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Thiele*): I wish to draw the attention of the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town to Paragraph 43 of the Colonial Law. The speaker read the Paragraph and said, — This Section gives us the right to make such petitions or representations and there is nothing in that Paragraph to prevent us from coming together as we have done.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Is this a meeting of the Colonial Council of St. Croix and a meeting of the Colonial Council of St. Thomas under the same roof or a joint meeting of both Councils. There is nothing to prevent us meeting and putting through a resolution, but if we meet in joint session we must organize.

5th Elected Member for St. Thomas (*Thiele*): I quite agree with the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town, I see his point.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL

The U. S. S. Grebe arrived here yesterday and is expected to return to St. Thomas this afternoon.

Relying on the customary courtesy of the Capt. of the Grebe it is advised that a mail for St. Thomas will be closed for forwarding by her this afternoon.

Mail sloop Mizpah arrived at Frederiksted this morning. The mail for Christiansted will be transported overland by noon according to information from the post office.

In this issue there will be found an interesting technical letter from the Assistant Public Works Officer relative to the operation of the well drilling machine and its work at Estate Boetzberg where the first well has been dug and to which reference was made in the last Saturday issue of this paper. It is learned that years ago when the east-end estates were being cleared by Plantageselskabet Dansk Vestindien, such a machine was employed in the digging of a well in the neighbourhood of estate Lowry Hill, but the bit broke at a depth of 150 feet and work was discontinued. Thus it would be correct to claim the Boetzberg experiment as the first successful one. We thank Lieut. Gebhard for the courtesy in sending us the report.