

for our great republic. And as these thoughts flittered through my brain I was ushered into the presence of the President of the United States by his Secretary Mr. Christian, and was then, for the first time, under that kindly and magnetic smile. We talked—He talked and asked questions of the Virgin Islands and in which he expressed a lively interest. He said and he desired not to take it as a message that the Administration did take and desired to take a lively interest in our well being; that they desired to do all possible in Washington to further our interests, to add to and increase our prosperity.

At times it was difficult to decide as there arises such conflicting reports, but we could rest assured that all they did or tried to do was with a sense of keen interest in our progress and welfare.

He sent to the St. Croix Council his felicitations and desired to express his thanks for the progress we had made in adopting laws for the Americanization of our island. Such a procedure increased confidence in our intentions and added weight to their representations to Congress for Federal support toward our economic advancement.

I also talked with some Congressmen and Senators and Administration Officials who in one capacity or another take an interest in our affairs. The question of the frequent long droughts was discussed and the great necessity of obtaining water first for the inhabitants and for the animals of the Island and eventually the greater boon of water for irrigation. The opinion was expressed that if a scheme could be advocated as entirely feasible Congress would undoubtedly guarantee bonds issued by the Island for the purpose of such construction.

And finally I have to state that the day before I left Washington the Naval Committee of the House met and by request of Judge Towner, the Chairman of the Insular Affairs Committee, approved of the Federal appropriations for the Virgin Islands, the same as in last year's budget.

It is the desire of the United States to see the territory for which they paid twenty-five million dollars progress, from the President down. I hope that my visit will be of some use to our dear Island. If any other member of the Council goes to the mainland I wish he would go and see our folks in Washington. Each one of such visits stirs up interest in our affairs and each such visit becomes a voice and messenger from St. Croix. There may be conflicting opinions as to what may be, what are or what are not a panacea for our ills and tribulations, but on the whole we are generally about right in the main questions.

I can assure you we have many good friends in Washington, but in the every day turmoil of business we cannot expect them to be remembering us; it is for this reason that such visits each time awake

interest, and each time something is accomplished. I thank you.

To be continued.

LOCAL

A Christmas program will be rendered to all the school children of Christiansted on the King's Wharf on Saturday afternoon, December 23rd at 2.00 o'clock. The children from St. Mary's School, the Public Grammar School, The Christiansted Graded Grammar School, Mrs. Lauder's School and the High School will attend. The following program has been arranged:

Invocation by Rev. Allen.

Song "Silent Night, Holy Night".

Greetings from the Junior Red Cross of the U. S. A. by Miss Gillette.

Song "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing".

Address by Revd. Anton E. Jensen.

Song "A Little Town of Bethlehem".

Address by Hon. Robt. W. Skeoch.

Song "While Shepherds Watched Their Flock by Night".

Address by Despatching Secretary Lieut. C. E. Rappolee.

Star Spangled Banner.

Benediction by Rev. Anton E. Jensen.

Distribution of Gifts from the Junior Red Cross.

Music by the Native Brass Band.

All parents and the public in general are invited to be present.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's issue, first local item, 10th line should read: Mr. Berg has *proved* instead of "received".

3rd item re drowning, forth line should read: the *first named being* lost, instead of "the first name lost."

Frederiksted St. Croix, V. I. U.

December 21st, 1922.S.

The British S. S. "Guiana" arrived this morning at 5.30 o'clock from Windward Islands with the following passengers:

From Antigua—Master Knud Olsen

From Barbados—Mr. Charles Mitchell.

She sailed for New York with the following:

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Busch and infant, Rev. W. E. Shannessy, Mrs. Eudora Plaskett and six children, Mr. Joseph E. Daniel, and Mr. Alexander Hector.

For St. Thomas—Mrs. Mary Adams and child, Miss Daisy Sewer and Mrs. Agnete Mc.Kay and infant.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION

Sault, Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 18th.—Four persons lost their lives when the tug Reliance was wrecked in a storm on Northern Lake Superior last Wednesday. A wireless message from the tug Gray, which with the Favourite went to the rescue of the 27 persons aboard the Reliance, said all has been accounted for

except the four who were swept from the deck as efforts were being made to launch lifeboats in the high seas.

London Dec. 18th.—Stanley Baldwin had a long audience with the King at Buckingham Palace today, prior to sailing for New York aboard the Majestic on December 27th. The Chancellor will be accompanied on his mission, which relates to the British debt to the United States, by his wife and daughter. There is no diminution of interest here in the possibility of the United States taking a more active part in European economic affairs and the coincidence of Mr. Baldwin and the United States Ambassador being in Washington at the same time. But today the press asserts the speculation as to the U. S. participation in the reparations question and the possibility of a loan to Germany has travelled far in advance of the facts.

Melbourne, Dec. 18th.—The count so far has revealed that labour made a strong bid for the 18 seats in the Senate which were voted in Saturday's general elections. Reports indicate that labour polled almost a solid vote. The count is still far from complete but the party has undoubtedly gained senatorial seats. Latest returns respecting the vote for the House of Representatives show that the Nationalists chance of recovery from apparent defeat is almost hopeless. It is now considered that the Government party will not number more than 28 in the new house, and therefore if Mr. Hughes is to continue as Premier with a workable following he will have to effect a fusion with some of the anti-labour forces.

Washington, Dec. 18th.—The naval appropriation bill carrying a request that the President negotiate with foreign powers relative to limiting construction of war-craft under 10,000 tons, was passed late today by the House of Representatives. The bill carried a total of 325,000,000 and provides for an enlisted naval force of 86,000, the same as fixed last year. There was a flurry of talk over the provisions under which the President is asked to negotiate with Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy, but in the end an effort to change the language was dropped in the face of overwhelming opposition.

Turin, Dec. 19th.—Renewed conflicts between the Fascisti and the Communists here have resulted in the killing of ten persons, including two of the Facisti.

London, Dec. 19th.—Prince George was successfully operated upon for appendicitis today. The operation was performed at the King Edward VII hospital for officers.

Peking, Dec. 19th.—General Chang Shao Iseng, the military leader, has been appointed Premier, with the approval of Parliament. His selection, which was supported by General Tsaokum, is believed to indicate the intention of the military party to resume control of China.