

OPTICAL AID.

YOUR prescription filled same day as received, repairs dispatched by return of mails.

F. M. CORNEIRO.
St. Thomas, U. S. V. I.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a small book entitled "The Country we Forgot" by Daniel Henderson, a representative of McClure's Magazine, who visited these islands for the purpose of obtaining advance information in connection with the expected visit of the Congressional Committee recently spoken of. The pamphlet is interesting and so far as noted, accurate in its data etc.

The Native Brass Band regaled the town with music at daybreak yesterday morning, serenading the Dispatching Secretary and afterwards marching through the streets.

The Dreadnought Football Club won the match played yesterday afternoon on the Holger Dankse Ground against the Athletic team.

The Creole sailed for St. Thomas at eight o'clock this morning with mails and passengers.

1½ lines of rain was measured at the Fort yesterday morning and 2 lines this morning.

In keeping with an old custom, Mr. R. H. Amphlett Leader has kindly contributed a New Year article in the form of what may be termed a lay-sermon. The same will be found elsewhere in this issue.

British 4 masted schooner Harry A. McLennan, 643 tons, Capt. Wm. Chapman, arrived here Dec. 31st. last with coal for the St. Croix Sugar Factory.

YOU ARE NOT TOO OLD TO LEARN.

(A NEW YEAR LESSON)

By R. H. Amphlett Leader.

I overheard part of a conversation the other day between two men. One of the principals is, from all appearances, in his fifties. the other in the hey-day of his youth.

"Men my age cannot learn that," said the older of the two.

"Perhaps not," replied his companion, "but it is a far better system than the one now in general use, it is more effective."

"That was the rejoinder, 'I should like to see your friend, young men like yourself, learn that. I am too old.'"

I heard no more. The men passed on. What was the subject matter I do not know; but I am certain that it was not gymnastics for there is no system of gymnastics in general use in St. Croix, and even gymnastics could be learned in the fifties.

What I heard worried me. I felt like running after the good gentlemen and explaining to them that they were mistaken. I had a desire to cry out in protest against this bogey that is so clothed as to appear rather presentable at first blush. I wanted to say: "Excuse me; gentlemen. I overheard your remarks and would like to tell you that while it is true that we all get older physically day by day, some of us grow older mentally hour by hour." But I did not say anything.

Are you too old to learn? Andrew Jackson, seventeenth president of the United States was not too old for he learned to read and write after he was married—his wife taught him. M. Fermin of Hayti wrote books which were acclaimed classic shortly after they were published when he was an old man.

Wireless experts tell us that to shut out all conflicting currents—to make their instruments immune to everything except what vibrate with the message which they want to send or receive is one of the problems of wireless telegraphy. This "too old to learn" theory is a conflicting current. Get your mind immuned to it—SHUT IT OUT. Another conflicting current is the "too young to learn" theory but that is not within the purview of this article.

You are never too old to learn. Handel was nearly fifty before he published the first of those musical compositions which have made him famous. Cato learned Greek after he was seventy, and Cowper was advanced in years before he wrote a line. I know a man who keeps abreast with the times, is not too old to learn something new, and is a young man in his fifty-seventh year.

When a man or woman gets to the TOO-OLD-TO-LEARN-STATION, his or her usefulness in life may well be questioned. True, certain afflictions may render us useless even in youth; and the vigour and energy of juvenility should not be expected in advanced years, still, "too old to learn" is only another bugbear of the human mind.

HERE IS A NEW YEAR LESSON FOR THOSE WHO WANT IT: Just remember that there is ONLY ONE TIME when you are too old to learn and that is when people [usually dressed in their best clothes] are walking slowly, two by two, behind you and whispering what a good, or bad person you were.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

St. Thomas, Dec. 30th.—Communication with Jamaica and all points be-

yond interrupted by our own lines. Traffic must be routed and charged via French Company, Porto Rico.

Paris, Dec. 27th.—The Supreme Council went into session this morning under the Presidency of Premier Clemenceau, and received information as to the results of the first meeting between German and Allied military experts regarding arrangements for execution of the Treaty of Versailles. It appeared on the first exchange of views that the railway material offered by the Germans for the transportation of Allied troops to districts which are to be held, was considered insufficient by the Allied representatives. The Council also considered the nature of the reply to the Swiss memorandum concerning the entry of Switzerland into the League of Nations. The Council will reply to the Swiss suggestion that its entry into the League be subject to certain conditions.

London, Dec. 27th.—Frederick William, Ex-German Crown Prince, will be included in the list of persons whose surrender for trial is demanded by the French, according to an official report of a recent meeting between British law officials and Mr. Ignace, French Under Secretary for Military Justice. The Ex-Crown Prince, it is said, will be charged with criminal offences, including looting and robbery with violence committed in France. There appears to have been no further decision reached at the Conference with regard to the case of former Emperor William. A full list of those whose surrender will be demanded has been completed, it was stated, and the steps which are to be taken to ensure their surrender, have been decided upon. One or two questions still outstanding, will be submitted to Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau when they meet in Paris next month.

Rheims, Dec. 27th.—Lady Rithian's wine cellars beneath the cities of Rheims and Epernay, are being rapidly put in order by the big champagne firms of the two cities. These cellars which would form a subterranean gallery sixty miles in length, holds hundreds of millions of bottles of precious vintages and notwithstanding the fact that this region was, for four years under fire from German or Allied guns, they suffered comparatively little damage. Losses incurred by the wine industry while they will place a heavy burden of firms for a while, will be recouped in a short time, according to statements made to the Associated Press correspondent who is visiting the former battle zone under special permission from the Government.

Madrid, Dec. 27th.—Madrid is experiencing an epidemic of typhus fever. The civil hospital is full of cases and a camp has been established on the grounds of the San Juan Hospital.

Paris, December 27th.—[Havas]. Marshal Foch has informed the Republic Committee of Finisterre that he will decline the offer of a candidacy to the Sen-