

# United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

As we stepped into King's Street we view directly opposite from the entrance gate to the Government House a building the lower story of which is occupied as a general store selling principally hardware and estate supplies very much as it did 150 years ago, for it is a succession of proprietorship from those days when the business belonged to and was conducted by Nicholas Cruger a progenitor in after years of a prominent New York family.

The upper floor is occupied by the daughters of the late John T. Quin who are mothers now to all the arriving American Officials assigned to duty in this island and where they receive real home welcome.

The late Mr. Quin deserves much credit from the inhabitants of this island for the scientific work he carried on during his life residence here; in predicting weather conditions in which he was in close association with the United States Weather Bureau and as well for the work he did as a Botanist and Geologist of the island and of which he wrote so entertainingly.

Into Mr. Cruger's business as a tender youth, but with the brains of a mature man, stepped Hamilton from the residence of his uncle next door to serve his apprenticeship as was the custom of those days. Here Hamilton lived with his aunt after the death of his mother and it was there that he wrote that immortal description of the hurricane he experienced on the 31 of August 1772, the vividness of which called forth much praise that it cast the die that sent him hurrying forward to King's College at New York and which very soon after brought him into the maelstrom of the rising revolution before he had finished the requisite time to receive a diploma from the college of graduation. He had long been interested in merchantile life and allowed no chance to pass to discuss with his uncle as to the business of the day and possibility of markets, for St. Croix was a mart for some of the distant colonies upon the Spanish Main. The close connection of St. Croix with the States in a merchantile sense was already evident in those days and as time passed on the Yankee merchants became the principal factors of the business life of the island as dealing in States supply. The ships of trade arriving from the North with cargoes of cornmeal from Wilmington, Delaware with source of supply which was the staple supply of the laborers. From Boston came the pickled herrings also so necessary in the diet and from New Haven came the alewives for the same purpose and wood-hoops so necessary for the hogsheads for the sugar, and from New York flour and heavy provisions while the staves for the construction of the hogsheads came from Norfolk Va., and each vessel carrying with it the necessary keg of gold as part payment for the return cargoes of sugar, molasses and rum as the value of the outward cargoes did not amount to more than one half of the valuable cargo they took in return. From Copenhagen came the nicities of life in the tropics for the aristocrats on the island and as well for the inhabitants of all classes. The famous old Danish Captains arrived each year with their vessels toward the middle of November anchoring and carrying on shop from on board in disposing of their merchandise wholesale and retail which process continued until the crop begun, when loading the return cargo of suzar they manage to set sail for home in late March or early April arriving in Copenhagen in time to dispose of their cargoes and reload for the next year's venture to the West Indies.

The building to the left is a lower story or ground floor of the residence of Mr. Mitchell thus converted into a merchantile building during the early years of the seventies of the last century, when the upper story of timber became so weakened from age it was removed for the new use of the premises. The last occupant of the old home at the time being Miss Mitchell and Miss Woodhouse the descendants of the family so closely related to Hamilton.

(To be continued.)

## LOCAL

The s. s. Bogota of the Colombian Steamship Co. Inc. called at this port on Saturday last, discharged general cargo and ten bags mail, and sailed again for other West Indian ports at 6 o'clock yesterday morning. This is the Bogota's

first trip to Christiansted; she is a boat of similar style and size of the others of the Line which call here regularly.

A "deluge" of summer season's catalogs of the National Cloak and Suit Co. came in by the Saturday night mail. Local dealers don't appreciate this medium

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of trade which sets up such a competition for them. However, there is nothing to be done about it; the mail-order business is an ever extending means of shopping which also continental retailers have to contend with, and up to now all efforts to stamp it out, such as buying up of catalogs in order to destroy them, etc., have failed to accomplish the desired end.

The first public concert for this month by the municipal bands was given on the wharf by the Native Brass Band last night.

The s. s. "Guiana" bound for New York sailed from Frederiksted this morning. A supplementary letter mail for the States by this boat was closed here at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think the Council should vote for or against the bill, as members are inclined to do.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. To make clear what I had in mind I wish to substitute the word "opportunity" for "privilege."

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) moved that 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) give his reason for refusing to vote.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in reply to the last speaker said,—My reason is definite. According to Parliamentary Rules a strictly negative amendment is not in order.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg): This amendment is very much like a premature veto.