

these roads need improving, some of them in width and drainage and all of them in minimum cost, as plenty good materials can be had on the island for practically the cost of handling it.

I favor the importation of a steam road roller and a stone crusher for account of the municipality, to be placed in the care and under the control of the Public Works Department, and by that department be used to put the highways in use in the island in proper condition for automobile or auto truck traffic. The ordinary annual repairs to be done by the estates, small farmers and squatters, as the last two named are making more of the roads each year and ought to contribute to their upkeep. The improvements to the highways by the Public Works Department should be done at public expense, and a sufficient appropriation should be made to accomplish the work, determined by a careful estimate to the Public Works Department for same.

I consider that this bill favors class legislation, in favor of the few and to the detriment of the many, and is therefore in my opinion unfair. It is also my opinion that if a careful and conscientious estimate were made it would reveal the fact that it would not take any more, if as much money, to put every road in the island in first class condition than is proposed in the present ordinance.

The member then read paragraphs of the Road Ordinance and said,—Some of the roads are according to dimensions and some are not. Some of the roads on the northside, for instance, Creque Road is so narrow in some parts that two automobiles cannot pass each other. When the ten thousand dollars was appropriated for repairing the roads after the hurricane in 1916, I pleaded with the Road Commission to have that particular road made wider so that when we come to build it, it would be much easier; no attention was paid to my advice, and the consequence was, much money used without good results. I consider it unfair to vote this amount to build a concrete road and throw the burden on the tax-payers, and we on the other side to have our taxes increased; I don't call that fairplay. I wish the tax-payers would feel the same and support the sentiment that it is unfair. Why should we vote for a center line alone and let the other roads go to the dogs? To vote such a measure as is laid before us today would be nothing less than class legislation. I ask you to consider the matter gentlemen. I am here to protect my constituents and myself. We have very firm soil on which macadam could be put and rolled and we will have as good roads as could be found elsewhere.

In my opinion, we probably will never see a good crop as we had last year. Today we are in such a position that we cannot command labor on the northside under any condition we are refused the right to use our Immigration Fund,

for what purpose, I do not know. We have imported farm implements, have used them, and are still using them, but we cannot accomplish much without hard labor. There is not a state in the United States that is not using imported labor. In Hawaii they are using imported labor. I see no reason why we should not be allowed the same privilege here.

(To be continued.)

EDITORIAL.

Mr. F. Christensen, Bethlehem, distributor for the Sonora Phonograph, has left with us a limited supply of the song "Sonora", words and music, for free distribution. Interested parties desiring a copy may apply at this office.

LOCAL.

Car owners here are on their mettle since the introduction in the Colonial Council of a bill to provide for an improved centre-line road the cost of which is to be partially recovered by increase of taxation on vehicles. The Council proposes a tax on automobiles according to weight or motor-power, approximating at least \$20 a year for the small touring cars. At present these vehicles pay the old rate for double carriages, \$4 a year. It is agreed outside the council that \$20 a year is excessive when it is taken into consideration that but one of the public roads is being modernized while pleasure cars probably use it but little. We shall return to this subject editorially.

The s. s. "Elmac" sailed from New York on the 28th inst., having 85 tons of cargo for Christiansted and 65 tons for Frederiksted.

The next steamer leaving New York will be the s. s. "Tupper" on or about the 15th of April.

The s. s. "Guiana" arrived at Frederiksted this morning and was to leave at 8 a. m. for New York via St. Thomas.

Frederiksted, March 29th.

The Latvian 3 masted schooner, "Martha", Capt. Satorsky, arrived here at 12.40 p. m. on Sunday from Tremdag with 560 tons of asphalt for Hull, England. She came here on account of two sick sailors of which one was taken to the hospital.

Correspondence

CORRUPT RELIGION.

Is the present day religion conducive to Peace and Goodwill among men, or is it degenerate and a hindrance to the furthering of God's Kingdom on earth?

This question strongly confronts the world today, and at present in England especially, controversy prevails among the Bishops of the Episcopal Church, as to the form of worship to be maintained;

whether it shall be selfish or harmonical with other christian religions. Of course quite naturally, men differ in opinion; wolves still exist in sheep's clothing; and many are they who presume to be exemplary, but in fact are more narrow-minded than those whom they endeavour to proselytize. Not only in England is this corruption paramount, but also to little St. Croix does this state of putrefaction extend. Members of the Episcopal church here differ widely in their opinion regarding pompous display and extravagance in the various ceremonies now new to them; and not only does dissension exist among themselves, but has been constantly spreading out through the influence of their priest to other sects to whom they are now prejudiced. Christians they call themselves, what blasphemy to the Holy Name of Christ. Many days have not elapsed since an occurrence of note has been enacted between priest and disciple of the church upon which my illustrations are based.

It so happened that a member of this church had been asked to blend her voice with others in praising God (to whom her thanks are due for this special talent) at a service that occurs once yearly in the Moravian Church; information was carried to her priest by one of his cabinet members who, leave the things (domestic and family affairs) undone that they ought to do, and do things (sow malice) that they ought not to do; he thereupon threatened to read her out before the congregation, thereby denying her all rights and privileges in the church.

What an example to the would-be christian; what added doubt to the heathen; what strength to the atheist; what dishonour to the service of God.

To the honest, broadminded individual I leave for decision the question at the primal part of this article to the prejudice, narrow-minded believers of "The Only True Church"; I add the following ones: Why do you encourage and allow members of religions other than your own to join in services of your church and accept contributions from their hands at the collection? Why do you not confine your requests for help to your own religionists, but solicit monetary aid from the public in general for soirees etc.? Why do you satisfactorily approve the verbal instrumental aid rendered at your entertainments both in church and school room, when you do not unto other men, "as you are happy to have them do unto you"? In conclusion let me pertinaciously quoth,—There is no "True Church" made with hands: God accepts the worship of the penitent in church or privy; and "Wherever two or three are gathered together" in His name He has promised to be in the midst, and His word never passes away void. Until such a time as the Episcopal or any prejudiced religion preaches these things, thereby showing forth true christian charity, that religion is corrupt.

AN OBSERVER.