

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., MONDAY, 15TH MARCH 1920.

No. 60.

IT'S A ROTTEN SHAME.

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GRAND "SOUVENIR" CONCERT BY THE COMBINED BANDS, GIVEN IN FAREWELL TO MRS. WILLIAM RUSSELL WHITE.

As announced in recent issues of our paper, the grand "souvenir" concert by the three Navy bands at present with us, under the excellent leadership of Bandmaster Adams, U. S. N., and upon the eve of the departure of Mrs. William Russell White, a staunch friend and supporter of the bands, for her home in the States, came off last evening in the Emancipation Garden, and from beginning to end, was a perfect success. Though acquainted with the careful selection as well as excellent rendition of the pieces by the bands under the guidance of the young conductor, yet, we must confess that we were not quite prepared for the excellence of the rendition given the public last evening.

The bandmen seemed entirely to know that the best was expected of them; hence, there seemed at certain stages of the concert, a certain spirit of rivalry,—a desire to excel—among "the boys," a sentiment that gave wonderful results.

For the occasion, electric lights strung upon wires, as well as chairs and benches for the accommodation of those invited, among whom were officials, merchants, members of the Colonial Council, and others, had been placed under the trees, facing north of the bandstand. For the occasion, too programmes had been prepared and printed,

which were distributed to the visitors on their arrival. Scheduled for 8.30 o'clock, and the bandmen all in their places, the concert, however, did not begin until 8.40. Opening with the march "Virgin Islands" which met with merited applause, the other various selections followed.

At 9 o'clock, the presentation of a most beautiful and magnificent bouquet, subscribed to by the members of the bands, and tied with ribbons representing "Old Glory", was made to Mrs. White, Bandmaster Adams being the "master of ceremonies." The concert continuing, the public was next treated to "Till we meet again," which was encored. This musical composition, interwoven as it is with a song, apart from being appropriate to the occasion, was well rendered, the voices, especially the tenors and baritones blending harmoniously with the musical accompaniment. There seemed to be one thing lacking, however. On every side was heard the query: "Where is the Governor? He can't be coming. Oh! why is he not yet come?" But he was coming, however. At 9.15 p.m. he, with Mrs. Oman, and accompanied by the members of his suite arrived, entering the garden from the lower northern gates. Needless to say, his arrival was the occasion for an ovation, all classes vying in paying him the respect due to his position and popularity; while the bandmen seemed to awaken to newer efforts, now it was known that their Chief was present. The second part of the program comprising the march "Stars and Stripes", the overture "William Tell" and other select pieces was then proceeded with, and executed with the usual éclat and brilliancy; but it was left for the Piccolo Solo "Song of the Nightingale" by the young bandmaster, and accompanied by the full band, to elicit the applause of the evening. It was, indeed a masterful rendition. But we are all acquainted with Mr. Adams' ability and proficiency in that line. With the playing of the National Anthem, this excellent concert was brought to an end, and the vast crowds began to disperse.

Leaving the bandstand, the boys formed into line, and went off on a "hike" up town, thence down again, and to

their headquarters, followed by a vast concourse. Throughout, perfect order and harmony prevailed. Again, on behalf of the public we beg to thank Mr. Adams and his men for the beautiful treat afforded; and apart from wishing them every success in their vocation, trust that it will yet be many years, ere we are deprived of the fine concert's rendered by them.—St. Thomas Mail Notes, March 10th.

Lately, the appearance of the surroundings in the vicinity of the King's Wharf have been greatly improved by the erection of a dwelling over the American Soda Fountain. This domicile, built in the Oriental plan, with wide open portals through which the breezes pass freely, is approximately 60 feet long, by 38 ft. wide, with standing partitions measuring about 12 to 14 ft. in height, and is divided into two sections, the northern one being used as sleeping apartments, while the one facing south is used as dining-room, and dance-hall. Here, the tables capable of seating three with comfort, are placed alongside the partitions, into the uprights of which are fitted electric bulbs, shaded in green.

To reach this building from below, we pass up three short flights of steps, eventually reaching the upper-most landing. At the south end side is another flight of stairs that take you down into the kitchen and yard. No pains nor expense have been spared to make the place comfortable; the cost of the building being about \$60,000. We congratulate the energetic manager of the Soda Fountain upon the successful realization of his scheme, and wish him all success in his added enterprise.

Much credit is also due to Mr. McGrath of Frenchman's Bay, who designed and superintended the erection of the structure.—St. Thomas Mail Notes, March 12th.

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G. A FLEMING.