

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 1920.

No. 237.

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Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

The henna plant (*Lawsonia inermis*) which is commonly grown as a garden shrub in the West Indies because of the fragrance of its flowers, is widely cultivated in the countries of Northern Africa, according to note in *L'Agronomie Coloniale*, March-April 1920, for the sake of its leaves, which are largely exported to France for the extraction of a dye chiefly used in the preparation of hair dyes in Paris. The inferior qualities of leaves are also utilized for tanning purposes.—*Agricultural News*.

According to a note in the *Philippine Agricultural Review*, 1920, the taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) known in the West Indies as tannia, eddoe, dasheen—was formerly the staple food of the Hawaiians, and it is still an important food plant in Hawaii, where no less than 200 varieties are cultivated. Considering the value of this crop it is interesting to know that experiments have begun in Honolulu on the breeding of new taro varieties, and there are now under observation quite a number of seedlings. So far as is known, this is the first attempt on record in the breeding of taro.—*Ibid*.

In the Caicos Islands a few men understand and practice a simple method of smoking fish. The fish is prepared as for dry salting, but only the surface moisture is dried off; the fish is then hung at the almost closed top of a smoke box, about 4 feet by 4 feet square, and 6 feet high, for several days in a dense smoke produced from smouldering palm stems. Only sufficient air is admitted at the ground level to keep the smoul-

dering wood alive. The flavour of the fish is said to be greatly improved and it will keep for a few weeks. (The *Nassau Guardian*.—*Ibid*.)

The *Times* Jamaica correspondent in the issue of July 20 1920, says that June witnessed a serious struggle between the four companies engaged in the banana trade in Jamaica. It was the biggest banana war the island has ever seen, and it was responsible for as much as 11s. 6d. a bunch being paid in the open market, while it is said that buying agents of some American concerns went to the length of paying the cost of transport to the shipping points—a very unusual practice. At the beginning of the fourth week of June the struggle began to abate. The price settled down in some parts of the island to from 5s. to 7s. a bunch.—*Ibid*.

The Government Sugar Experiment Station on the Demerara East Coast was opened on June 19, by His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana. After the ceremony, the Hon. J. B. Harrison, C. M. G. Director of Agriculture and Science, said that the occasion marked a point in the history of the colony which should be one of the greatest importance. It was one in which the planters of the colony had undertaken to support a very large Experiment Station for the purpose of improving their produce, and to study better methods of cultivation. Up to the present the greater part of the work of producing new and better canes had been done on a small field at the top of the Botanic Gardens. Of the present area in the colony under sugarcane cultivation, 80 per cent, was planted in canes raised in that little field.—(The *Demerara Argosy*.—*Ibid*.)

LOST down Queen's Cross Street to Lutheran Church on Sunday the 3rd inst., a CLOVER GOLD PIN. Finder will be rewarded on leaving same at this office.

For good appetite and
good digestion use
Dr. Ross' Life Pills.

Readers, No 20-17.

ORDER OF THE DAY

for the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council for St. Croix, MONDAY, October 18, 1920, at one o'clock p. m.

1. Production of Copies of minutes of the Municipal Committee for the quarters ending June and September a. c.
2. Colonial Council Bill No. 49. Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 49, Resolution introduced by Government, authorizing the sale by auction, for the highest bid in each case, of Lot No. 15 East Street and Lot No. 36 Fisher Street in the town of Christiansted.
3. Colonial Council Bill No. 50. Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 50, Draft of Additional Money Bill to the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, introduced by Government, authorizing the payment of Frcs. 60,000.00 from funds in the Municipal Treasury, not otherwise obligated, to the Telephone Fund for the purpose of effecting repairs and new installations.
4. Colonial Council Bill No. 48. Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 48, Draft of Additional Money Bill, to the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, introduced by 4th Appointed Member (Blackwood), Grants to Native and Industrial Brass Bands of Christiansted and Century Brass Band of Frederiksted.
5. Election of two men to serve with the Collector of Customs and his Deputies in fixing the export values of cotton, rum and molasses.
6. Election of a Jury Commissioner pursuant to Title V, Chapter 12, Section 4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to join the Jury Commission.
7. Discussion on Colonial Council Committee's Report on the Report of the Congressional Commission.

Colonial Council Office. St. Croix, October 12, 1920.

F. CULTELL,
Vice-Chairman.