

change can be made, but I am competent to say that all of the officials listed in the bill will have to look for some more work if they want something to do. If we take into consideration the number of cases we are having you will find that there is not sufficient work for all these officials. From my experience, that is about thirty years in this island, I am not prepared to state the percentage, but I don't think I am far off, of all the cases put together will not be more than seventy-five to ninety-five, and nearly all go to the Police Court, and are cases involving only five to ten dollars. Let us go to the Town Court and take the cases that involve over one hundred and twenty-five dollars and you will not find more than ten or twelve; as to criminal cases the greater percentage of those requiring more than six months imprisonment are not more than ten or twenty of them in any year. According to the proposals in these new laws, St. Thomas is to be taken into consideration, I don't know anything about St. Thomas, but I take it for granted it is not quite as many as here. It is proposed to have a Judge at a salary of four thousand eight hundred dollars per annum, a clerk at three thousand dollars per annum and when the Attorney General's salary is added will make an amount of about twenty thousand dollars and which will be about one dollar per capita of the inhabitants, and when you add the salaries of stenographers and other clerks it will amount to much more than this amount. I do not think the United States will put up that much money for the Judiciary Department.

We should be thankful for what the Federal Government is doing for us, but I consider that we have many other things to be done, and if we are economical in the various departments it would be more for the benefit of the island and man to man. I think it would be more economical if we keep to our arrangement and have a judge for each island; by this arrangement we will have better, quicker, and more expedient service.

Judge Noll says that according to American principles a judge cannot sit on police cases; I cannot see why he couldn't pass judgment on a police case as well as a bigger case; I do not see why we cannot have a police judge for both towns, he can be called by telephone and be on the spot in an hour. There comes the question—These police judges are to act as lawyers, I ask if a judge performs his duties under the influence of the Government, as an official, if there would not be some question of partism? He cannot be impartial; he has twenty-one hundred dollars per annum and that alone is sufficient to keep him. I ask, gentlemen, not for myself, because the balance of my years are few, and my course as a lawyer will soon terminate, but thank God I can stand the loss. (Applause from the Lobby).

The Chairman rang the bell for order and asked the audience not to applaud

as it was against the rules.

From a spectator in the Lobby: Isn't the custom changed?

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairmann. In answer to the last speaker I want to state as Chairman of this Council's Committee I have never made a statement that the ordinance now before the Council could not be changed. I stated that the ordinances was not susceptible to change, but if any amendment is to be made it could be offered when it is placed before the Council and under second discussion.

As to the expenses, there exists today one judge; two years ago you had two judges at a salary of \$2,200 dollars each per year; two Assistant Policemasters at \$1,500 each per year; in lieu of the Assistant Policemasters we have two clerks, one drawing forty dollars and the other twenty dollars per month. It is said that the personnel proposed is going to increase the expenses, I wish any member who feels that way to go back to the budget for 1916.

It is true that the Superior Judge should not try police cases; I am arguing justice and liberty. Any man who comes before the court should have the light of justice around him. Under the procedure which is now offered to you if the defendant is not satisfied he can go to the higher court and have a trial by jury; that is what the people say they voted for the American Flag for—Liberty. (Applause from the Lobby). It offers to the humblest man an opportunity to go before the jury if he feels that the police judge has not acted fairly.

When the annual budget comes before you, you will see that we are not asking for too much. It is all very well for Congress to say that you have appeal to the third District Court of Philadelphia, but you have no one in Philadelphia to stand before the Court and argue your rights.

As regards the police courts, we are offering you men who are learned in law to try police cases, and any individual can go before the upper court if he is not satisfied; and again, if he feels that he cannot trust the judge, he can call for a jury of his own peers.

Take the Honorable Member's statement that one judge can act for both towns, I would agree if it would be expedient, but I don't deem it wise for the Council to pass a law asking for one judge. If the Governor feels that the traveling expenses would be more than what it would cost to employ a man then let the Governor make a double appointment.

As Chairman of the Committee on these code of laws I say these laws are subject to change, and if any man can offer any change which is better than the one which is offered to you I shall be only too willing to accept and vote for it.

[To be continued].

CORRECTIONS

In Mr. Bough's letter in yesterday's issue please read "my countrymen and friends" instead of "country friends."

In Mr. Larsen's article on the postal service in Thursday's issue please read fourth page, third to last paragraph, 17th. and 18th. lines "as it is a physical impossibility" instead of as it would be.

There is no milk in town this morning except what can be obtained from estates not connected or influenced by the Dairy. The aim to raise the price of milk to 15 or 17 cents a quart being defeated at the last meeting of the Food Commission is the reason for the closing down of the Dairy it is stated.

The committee appointed by popular vote to effect amendments in the new code of laws feels that the Council should decline to pass the laws until a permanent act defining the status of the people is made by Congress.

The S. S. Korona arrived at this port this morning and has begun to load sugar from the St. Croix Sugar Factory.

The schooner Creole is also here with mails from St. Thomas.

The Virginia has not reached Frederiksted as far as can be learnt.

Personal Open Letter To Mr. Thomas Ramsay

Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I.,
April 30, 1920.

Sir:—

In the minutes of the Colonial Council's proceedings published in today's issue of the St. Croix Avis, I note with some surprise your reference made in the Council's discussion of the telephone question on Monday last that you "believed the manager of the telephone a good man but as he has had no technical training, etc.," I have no desire to resent your statement except that I consider it an assumption unwarranted by your meagre knowledge of me and my pursuits in the past. Not having known of your existence and, I doubt very much, you of mine prior to my coming here but a little more than a year ago since when we have promiscuously met, I can venture to say, but three or four times in which no opportunity was afforded you to become acquainted with my qualifications, I consider your statement unguarded and exemplary of the same sort of recklessness which, I daresay, prompted you to say you would pay \$10 a month for your telephone, as I know more of Tom Ramsay in the latter respect than he knows of me in the other.

Yours truly
H. BERG.