

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., TUESDAY, 27TH JANUARY 1920.

No. 21.

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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.

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

In Barbados under the auspices of the Local Department of Agriculture, peasants' shows have been held from time to time in different parts of the island. This year, at Blowers estate in the parish of St. James, on December 3, possibly in some respects the most successful of these shows took place. The exhibits of fruit and vegetables, both from the gardens of elementary schools and from the holdings of the peasants, were very satisfactory. The products were well grown and well selected. After the distribution of the prizes by His Excellency the Governor, Mr. J. R. Bovell, Director of Agriculture, in a speech to the peasants, teachers, and children who had sent exhibits, uttered well deserved words of commendation on the progress they had made. Very noticeable improvement was shown in the products exhibited from elementary school gardens. Again this year prizes were offered for boys of elementary schools for work in digging cane holes, forking land, etc., and some really good work was performed. For the first time similar prizes were offered to girls of elementary schools, and they too did very creditable work. Another interesting feature of the show was an exhibition of collections of insects, made by pupils of elementary schools, which were neatly and intelligently arranged. It is to be regretted, however, that the number of exhibits of live stock, large and small, was not as large as might have been expected, though the individual specimens were good.

These local exhibitions must tend to the general improvement of agriculture, and the stimulation of interest

in their work among the labouring class. —*Agricultural News.*

FISH-SKIN LEATHER.

The Bureau of Fisheries of the United States reports that excellent progress in the tanning of fish leather has been recorded, and that a number of the difficulties that had retarded the development of the industry had been overcome by the tanners.

Science, October 24, 1919, states that one company which is tanning fish skins has established a station in North Carolina and another in Florida for the purpose of capturing sharks and porpoises, and is meeting with success in its fishery for sharks. It is understood that the number of stations will be increased as rapidly as possible. Another company, which has recently acquired a site for a tannery in Washington, also plans to tan the hides of sharks, beluga, etc.

Samples of such leather recently submitted show the leather to be soft and pliable, and it appears to have ample strength for many uses.

The nets which the Bureau of Fisheries developed for the capture of sharks are proving successful, and are being adopted for the shark fishery. At the fishery stations the oil is extracted from the shark livers, and the flesh is converted into fertilizer, so that nothing is wasted. —*Ibid.*

RUBBER CULTIVATION IN HAINAN.

The manner in which the cultivation of rubber is spreading throughout the East is shown in the development of this product in the Chinese island of Hainan. The cultivation is chiefly undertaken, according to the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, October 31, 1919, by returned emigrants from the Malay States, and it is likely to develop into an important industry. One company has planted 6,000 rubber trees in one district, and another company 45,000 trees in another district. Tapping was begun on the former plantation in 1916. The product was shipped to Singapore, and reported on as of first quality.

About the middle of 1917, a Chinese merchant in Singapore obtained a grant in Hainan of 500,000 acres of land on which to grow 5,000,000 rubber trees. When they are in a flourishing condition he has guaranteed to pay a royalty of \$1 per tree to the Government.

Heretofore this tropical island has been chiefly devoted to the production of live stock, especially swine and small beef cattle; sugar, rice, ginger and other crops are grown. The area said to be suitable for rubber growing includes a very large part of the island. —*Ibid.*

NOTICE

Fr. 10,000

can be loaned on first priority mortgage in a property, by applying to the Upper Guardian.

St Thomas January 1920.

Publication.

IT is hereby brought to public notice that the Government has, this date, authorized REV. MARTIN F. MULLIGAN to perform civil-religious functions in the Municipality of St. Croix.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, St. Croix, January 13, 1920.

C. C. TIMMONS,
Government Secretary.

Publication.

LIEUTENANT O'Hagan, U. S. Navy, at his own request has been relieved of his duties as Despatching Secretary of St. Croix.

COMMANDER COLBY, Financial Adviser to the Governor, in addition to his other duties, has been detailed as Acting Despatching Secretary of St. Croix.

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For particulars apply to

C. E. HAGEMANN.

Frederiksted, St. Croix, V. I., January 15th 1920.