

EDITORIAL.

At request of one of our subscribers we reprint in this issue an article on fruit stealing in Miami, Florida, a problem with which fruit growers in St. Croix have to contend also. In fact the discouragement occasioned thereby is reported to be the chief reason for the limited raising of fruit here, and the method of coping with this evil in Miami, Florida, will be noted to be strikingly more effective than ours. If those prepared to develop a fruit industry in this island could feel protected from the ravages of the wingless birds which harvest the fruit crops and abscond with them, it might be an incentive to plant fruit more extensively, and the money spent in Porto Rico weekly for the large quantities of oranges and grapefruit imported would remain here and increase the wealth of the place.

Our contributor requests that the clipping be copied by the St. Croix Tribune and West End News.

LOCAL.

The Daredevil-Jack serial will be concluded at the Christiansted Theatre this evening. This popular film has gained the admiration of all who have been seeing it these last weeks and a full house will surely attend its close.

The Creole from St. Thomas with mails and passengers arrived here this morning.

The Luther League members held its usual meeting last evening, the topics were interesting, and attendance good.

The Old Timers entertained a good audience at the theatre last night, the actors were at their best and the show was a success.

1½ lines of rain was measured at the Fort this morning.

AFTER THE FRUIT THIEVES.

An advertisement offering a reward for the conviction of fruit thieves calls attention to a situation which arises in this section nearly every year with the opening of the citrus fruit season. This grows out of the established custom on the part of some people of stealing fruit, and on the part of some others of acting as receivers for the fruit.

This is a form of crime which has nothing spectacularly attractive about it. It is merely contemptible petty thievery and the alleged business man who encourages it by purchasing the stolen fruit is worthy only of the utmost contempt.

Fruit stealing is rather hard to stop when it is as well organized as it seems to be in Florida, but the authorities are

determined to stamp it out, and it is probable that somebody will suffer before this season is much older. It is to be hoped that if actual thieves are caught there will also be brought within the law the "higher ups" if it is proper to use this term about anyone so low-down.

There would be comparatively little stealing of fruit if there were no easy market for it. There would probably be some who would take an occasional grapefruit or orange, but fruit is not sufficiently easy to dispose of unless there is someone who has no conscience who stands ready to provide a market. It is these receivers of stolen goods who are particularly to blame for thefts, and they should be made to suffer as well as the actual purloiners.

There is a heavy punishment provided for fruit thieves. The maximum when the amount stolen is under \$20 is a year's imprisonment. When the amount is larger than that the offense becomes a felony, with penitentiary imprisonment as punishment. In view of the situation which has been growing worse rather than better, the maximum penalty should be imposed on anyone convicted of this contemptible crime.—*The Herald, Miami, Florida, Nov. 20th.*

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Dec. 3rd.—Mr. Timothy Healy has accepted the Governor Generalship of the Irish Free State and his appointment will be announced when royal assent is given to the Free State bill, according to special despatches from Dublin. Healy for many years was one of the stormy petrels of the House of Commons. He was noted always for being ready for Parliamentary fights. During the days when the Irish Home Rule Bill was a bone of contention in the House of Commons, Healy was a strong antagonist of Parnell and John Redmond. He retired from public life in 1918. Previously he had served various Irish Constituencies in Parliament. He is 67 years of age.

Dublin, Dec. 3rd.—The present provisional regime in Ireland will cease to exist next Tuesday, when the Royal sanction having been given the Irish Bill, a special sitting of the provisional Parliament will formally transfer the responsibilities of the Government to the actual Free State Govt. The present Dail Eireann then will become the lower House of Parliament and a Senate of 60 members will be constituted, 30 members being nominated by the President and 30 elected by the lower House. The nominations are expected to be made on Tuesday.

Athens, Dec. 3rd.—Prince Andrew, brother of Ex-King Constantine, has been sentenced by a military court to banishment for life and degradation of his rank. He will not suffer actual degradation. The judgement of the court finds that Prince Andrew refused to obey

orders in presence of the enemy and moved his army corps in another direction, but considers that in view of his lack of experience in commanding large masses of fighting men and the conditions under which he was placed, application of the penalties provided by law, would not be justifiable. The trial of the Prince closed last night after numerous witnesses had been examined and pleas had been made by counsel for the defence for clemency. The indictment brought against him, set forth that during the advance on the Sangarias river, Prince Andrew, commanding the second army corps, refused to obey an order. Royalty had a bad time during the final stages of the inquiry. The prosecutor dwelt on the disadvantages of employing Princes in high positions in the army. He pointed out that influence was pernicious, not only in Greece but in all countries. The court's deliberations on the verdict lasted nearly three hours and the sentence, deprivation of rank and life banishment, came as a relief when the worst was feared. The Prince read his defence, which obviously had been prepared for him. He pleaded extenuating circumstances, contending it was not fair to treat a Prince the same as a General, because he was only a figure-head and occupied his position as chief of an army corps through the fact that his brother was the King.

Athens, Dec. 3rd.—Prince Andrew and his wife, Princess Alice, embarked at Phaleron this afternoon aboard a warship. It is understood that they will be taken to England.

Rome, Dec. 2nd.—The eruption of the volcano Stromboli, which began on Wednesday, ceased yesterday. No fatalities have so far been reported. The entire population has moved from the vicinity fearing renewal of the eruptions.

Lausanne, Dec. 4th.—The closing of the Dardanelles to all warships except those of Turkey and giving Turkey the right to fortify the Dardanelles were advocated by M. Tchitcherin, the Russian Foreign Minister, at today's meeting of the Lausanne conference to discuss the question of the Straits. Ismet Pasha asked for absolute Turkish control of the Straits without demilitarization. The delegates of Greece, Bulgaria and Roumania explained the position of their respective Governments. The preliminary exposition of the question by the representatives of the great powers was begun at this session, which started at 11 o'clock behind closed doors, but had not been completed when the meeting was adjourned at 1 o'clock, without a time being fixed for the next session. M. Tchitcherin's plea for Turkey was an impassioned one. The Russian spokesman insisted that Turkish sovereignty could only be guaranteed by the presence of Turkish warships in the Straits, while the warships of other powers should be prohibited from entering them. He contended also that Tur-