

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., ^{Wednesday} TUESDAY, 26th AUGUST 1919.

No. 195

THE ST. CROIX AVIS

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PROPOSE NATIONAL GUARD FOR ISLAND DEFENCE.

Congress Appropriates Funds to Support a Regiment of Infantry and Squadron of Cavalry.

Interesting Letter From Sec. of War to Governor Outlines Organization for Island.

If sufficient local interest is shown in the project it is probable that a National Guard force will be formed in the island. It is the desire of President Wilson that such an organization be formed here, capable of independent operation or of cooperation with the Regular Regiment of Porto Rico Infantry, with the police and internal defence of the island.

According to a letter from the Secretary of War to Governor Yager, funds are now available for the organization of a National Guard here consisting of one regiment of infantry and one squadron of cavalry.

If the scheme can be carried out it will mean that in addition to about 2,000 volunteers there will be vacancies for over 70 commissioned officers of the National Guard. The organization and command of the local National Guard will be placed in the hands of a regular army officer who will rank as Col., while the highest ranking officer of Pto. Rico National Guard will be Lieutenant-Colonel.

The appropriation for the formation of a National Guard for Porto Rico was made under the Act of Congress passed in July last and it provides funds for its maintenance during the fiscal year of 1920.

The following is the letter from the Secretary of War to Governor Yager—
July 19, 1919.

Hon. Arthur Yager,
Governor of Porto Rico.
San Juan, P. R.

My dear Governor:

In the Act of Congress approved

July 11, 1919, funds have been appropriated for the maintenance, during the fiscal year 1920, of the National Guard as authorized in the National Defence Act of June 3, 1916, with the proviso that the provisions of Section 62 of that shall be considered fulfilled if the first strength mentioned therein be attained by June 30, 1920, and the other increments in successive years thereafter.

It is the desire of the President in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned Acts, to ultimately organize in Porto Rico a small self contained force of National Guard troops capable of independent operations or of cooperation with the Regular Regiment of Porto Rican Infantry in the police and internal defense of the Island. Such a force would probably ultimately consist of a brigade of Infantry, with attached Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Signal and Sanitary troops. The first units to be organized, and for which funds are now available from the appropriations for the fiscal year 1920, are as follows:

1 Regiment of Infantry.

1 Squadron of Cavalry.

Units will be organized for the time being under Tables of Organization, United States Army, approved May 3, 1917. Two copies of these tables are inclosed with this letter. The strength required for Federal recognition will be the minimum strength specified in these tables.

I will be greatly obliged if you will be good enough to advise me at an early date as to the number and character of National Guard units if any, which will be organized in Porto Rico under this authority.

Your very truly,

(Signed) Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War.

The tables of organization of the U. S. Army show that the Infantry Regiment will have an aggregate strength of 1391, including fifty-one officers, and the squadron of Cavalry an aggregate strength of 434, including 14 officers and there are in addition the machine gun section, headquarters and supply company, engineers, signal corps, and hospital and sanitary corps the aggregate number of which is not known now. All members of the organization will be sworn in under the regulations of the U. S. Army, and there will be no dodging the duties once a man joins up.

Porto Rico Progress, Aug. 15th.

Advertisement.

BIDS are requested for the following supplies which are needed in the administration of the Municipal Institutions at Richmond Sick-houses and Leper Asylum for the month of Sept. 1919.

Delivery is to be made by the merchant.

Bids should be addressed to Inspector, Richmond Sick-houses.

Flour 85 lbs., Cornmeal 500 lbs.; Rice 400 lbs., Oats 360 lbs., Sago 250 lbs.; Sugar 1,200 lbs., Beef 480 lbs., Pork 180 lbs., Fish (salt) 224 lbs. Beans 200 lbs., Peas 200 lbs., Potatoes 200 lbs., Lard 75 lbs., Cooking butter 100 lbs., Table butter 110 lbs., Onions 50 lbs., Tea 20 lbs.

All bids should be received by August 27th, 1919.

Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of U. S. A., August 22nd 1919.

H. T. HANSEN,
Inspector
Richmond Sickhouses &
Leper Asylum.

THE NEW ST. CROIX SAVINGS BANK.

AS there was no quorum at the 38th Annual General Meeting of the New St. Croix Savings Bank advertised to be held on Friday the 15th inst., the Members are hereby notified that a meeting will be held on FRIDAY THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER 1919 AT 4 O'CLOCK P. M. at the office of the Institution, at which meeting a statement of the transactions for the fiscal year ending 31st March last will be produced and the election of Trustees take place.

Christiansted, St. Croix, 23rd August 1919.

By Order
T. J. STRIDIRON,
Accountant.

Fresh Goods AT THE Company Street Emporium.

PICKLED SALMON	20cts. per lb.
CODFISH	20cts. " "
RED BEANS	18cts. " "
WHITE do-	16cts. " "
BLACK EYE PEAS	12cts. " "
POTATOES	5cts. " "

Christiansted, 22nd Aug. 1919.

M. A. PRETTO.