

S T. C R O I X A V I S

ing heavy rainfall and its subsequent use for irrigation; it is probable that the plantations may be subsequently able to pay a proportionate share of this project. If these two contemplated important measures can be successfully effected they will afford sure relief to the treasury of the island from serious difficulties of long standing.

III. This Council being fully cognizant that the needs of our people are great and the demands of the public service are urgent and pressing has always been anxious and willing to study all possible means and enact such legislation that will increase its revenues and resources, but obviously it cannot be expected to increase taxation in such a way or to such an extent as to strangle and check the growth of our industries or unduly burden our commerce and business; it is therefore of the opinion that the statement that "the tax laws on this island are inadequate, inefficient and unjust" is unfounded and due to too hasty investigation of the subject. There is no land held on this island so far as this Council is aware of for unearned increment. The Congressional report of 1920 on this matter has no bearing in fact upon the island of St. Croix. We therefore request that this subject be thoroughly investigated and as a basis for our request we beg to submit the following data:

SCHEDULE OF TAXATION on an estate in sugar cane cultivation.

Assume the estate to be 400 acres.

Land and Building Tax as per present Ordinance at 70c. per acre . . .	\$ 230.00
Immigration Tax as per present Ordinance at 10c. per acre	40.00
Maintenance of Public Roads at circa 40c. per acre	160.00
Export tax on sugar at the rate of \$8.00 U. S. C. y. per ton of 2,000 lbs. as provided for by the Organic Act of Congress March 3, 1917, being in reality a tax on sugar cane land and amounting to about \$7.00 per acre when an average crop of about 300 tons of sugar is reaped on an estate of 400 acres.	2,800.00
Horse and Carriage Tax approximately	30.00
Total	\$ 3,310.00

This means an average tax per acre of \$8.274.

For comparison we may advise the average tax per acre in Porto Rico was about \$2.50 in the year 1919-1920.

The staple industry should therefore receive the consideration necessary for its continuation and be brought more in conformity with the land taxes imposed in Porto Rico.

IV. The Council also desires to emphasize again its feeling in regard to prohibition forced upon this island against the wish and will of the inhabitants as being unfair and unequal in view of the liberty allowed the Phillipine Islands which is an analogous territory, as well as the loss suffered by the plantations being prevented from making rum for export.

The injustice of National Prohibition being extended to this island is particular emphasized, in view of the fact that this island had passed a Prohibition Law suitable to the island and rum was manufactured for export purposes; and further we endorse the petition to the Governor praying for the right to manufacture rum for export only, submitted by the rum manufacturers of this island.

V. We would also recommend that Congress be urged to extend if possible the Federal Farm Loan Bank system to this island to enable agriculture to secure loans upon growing crops and to afford the necessary assistance to small proprietors. To further enhance this project we would urge the establishment of a local department of agriculture and labor to investigate and advise on the fundamental problems of the entire agricultural industry in St. Croix.

ALL cane-deliverers to St. Croix Sugar Factory, Inc. are hereby invited to attend a Meeting at the Factory at Richmond (not the town office) on SATURDAY THE 21st OF APRIL 1923 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon precisely in order to discuss the Price for cane.

ST. CROIX SUGAR FACTORY INC.

LOCAL

On Sunday, 22nd instant, the Rev. Anton E. Jensen, minister of the Lutheran Church in this town, will preach his farewell sermon, it being arranged that himself and family should return to the States via the S. S. Parina on or about Friday, 27th. During the 9 months Rev. Jensen has officiated in the parish he has gained the goodwill and regard of the congregation through his zealous, and earnest efforts. As a preacher he holds a high repute and as an organizer and live Christian worker the Lutheran Church in Christiansted is losing one not easily replaced. Rev. Jensen and family go to Bedlington, in the State of Washington, where he worked prior to coming to St. Croix. Our best wishes follow them.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Berg was baptized by the Rev. H. M. Pigott at St. John's Episcopal Church yesterday forenoon receiving the names of Ernest Eugene. An agreeable gathering of family and friends in the evening formed the social part of this auspicious event, on which we add our hearty congratulations.

At the meeting of the Saint Croix Colonial Council on the 23rd instant, the following members will be retired: D. S. Armstrong, K. Henderson, and A. R. McIntosh, appointed members; D. C. Canegata, member for Christiansted town; H. Jessen and A. V. Nelthropp for Christiansted Country District; F. Coulter member for Frederiksted town; F. Andersen and G. B. Fleming, for Frederiksted Country District. New elections will be held on the 4th and 5th proximo. We purpose having something to say in regard to these forthcoming elections; see tomorrow's issue.

Assistant School Director and Mrs. Lindborg became the happy parents yesterday of a fine baby girl on which occasion we offer our hearty congratulations. Both mother and infant are doing well we are glad to learn.

We have been asked to mention that the Industrial Band will give a concert on the wharf tonight.

Georges Carpentier in the "Wonder Man", kept a large audience highly interested at the Christiansted Theatre last night; it was a fine show. Same will be repeated tomorrow evening at