

nevertheless there were many pedestrians on the streets, but much of the usual liveliness of Xmas eve night was curtailed through the inclemency of the weather. Christmas Day was actually, as traditionally, a day of peace marked only with religious observances. The sacred concert announced to be given on the wharf by the Native Brass Band on Christmas night had to be abandoned as no current was available in the bandstand. The 26th, which fell on Sunday this year, was kept up yesterday when a large number of the town and country folk sought diversion at the Mannings Bay racecourse, winding up the evening at the theatre or at private entertainments of which there were several.

Now that it is an established fact that the electric current cannot be depended on to furnish light in the bandstand it having been frequently necessary to postpone popular concerts through failure of the lights, would it not be well to provide some proper lamps or lanterns for such purposes? The band music is about all the public has in the line of free entertainment and it has been seriously affected of late through lack of lighting accommodations.

The races at Mannings Bay yesterday resulted as follows: 1st. and 2nd. races won by Mr. Jarvis's Fisher Girl; the third by Mr. Penheny's Emmy Lou, and the fourth by Mr. James's Rainbow.

The S. S. Parima for New York which had been scheduled to reach Frederiksted this morning prearrived on Sunday morning the 26th. and sailed north at 8 a. m. taking all the mail posted up to Saturday evening.

The Virginia arrived Sunday morning with a large mail which was delivered here at midday, and yesterday.

The Creole returned from St. Thomas Thursday night, arrived here Friday morning and left again for St. Thomas early this morning to perform the regular mail trip from there tonight.

The schooner "Fancy Me" with tourists from St. Thomas and three automobiles arrived here Sunday morning and returned last night.

## RED CROSS MEETING

A meeting of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the American Red Cross was held on Tuesday, December 21st, at the Frederiksted High School, for the purpose of reorganization and reviving Red Cross activities in St. Croix.

Interesting addresses were made by Miss Colcord and Miss Zachert, both representatives of the National Red Cross, and now engaged in respective branches

of that work in St. Croix. Miss Colcord reviewed present activities of the Red Cross in all parts of the world, on land as well as on sea, and spoke of what the organization is doing and hopes to do on the Island.

Miss Zachert, who is engaged in the library work under the auspices of the American Red Cross, announced that both Christiansted and Frederiksted will have most attractive libraries, well equipped with books for old and young, and open to all. The library at Frederiksted is to be opened formally on Wednesday December 29th., and the one at Christiansted on Thursday, December 30th.

It was voted at the meeting to send \$500.00 from the treasury of the local chapter to Washington, D. C., to the European Relief Council for Child Distress in Europe.

An enrollment of thirty four members in the Santa Cruz chapters was taken at the meeting and the general Red Cross roll-call will soon be taken, St. Thomas already having had theirs with almost 500 members.

The officers elected are: Chairman, Mr. R. L. Merwin; Vice Chairman, Mr. R. W. Skeoch; Secretary, Miss M. L. Bahnson; Treasurer, Mr. Wm. H. Fleming. Executive Committee—Mrs. Hageman, Mrs. Du Bois, Mrs. Critchlow, Mrs. Espersen, Dr. Canegata, Mr. Douglas Armstrong, and Mr. R. W. Skeoch.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman Mr. R. L. Merwin. —Com.

## TELEGRAMS.

### ST. CROIX STATION.

Rome, Dec. 20th. An ultimatum issued by General Cavallia, commander of the Italian forces in the Adriatic region, to Gabriele Arnao, is published in the newspapers here today. It demands the evacuation by D'Annunzio of the islands of Arl and Vegha, the release of Italian war material in Fiume and the disbandment of D'Annunzio's forces. The ultimatum will expire on Tuesday at six o'clock in the evening.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 20th.—The number of persons dead and injured in last Friday's earthquake is now estimated at more than 400. This figure is based on reports received from relief parties in the affected zone.

Ottawa, Dec. 20th.—Official announcement was authorized today of the retirement from public service of Mr. William MacKenzie, who, since April 1918 has filled the important position of Secretary of Imperial Foreign correspondence.

London, Dec. 21st.—The Ministry of Labour statistics show that the cost of living in Great Britain on the first of December had fallen seven points as compared with previous months making average prices 1.9% above the average of July 1914. The reduction

is mainly due to a decrease of 4d a pound on sugar. There are also reductions in the cost of clothing which, however, are counter-balanced in the prices of eggs, milk and fish some commentators are disposed to think that the corner of high prices has really been turned at last. Wholesale prices have been steadily dropping and although there may be a temporary upward movement, the belief is that the downward tendency will continue.

Dublin, Dec. 21st.—Heavy fighting has taken place between forces of civilians on one side and soldiers and policemen on the other, in the section lying between Callan and County Tipperary. The military and police were ambushed at not less than three different places yesterday and numerous casualties resulted on both sides. An official communication issued by headquarters tonight estimated the casualties among the attacking forces at 16 and gives the military casualties as one private killed and several wounded. No police casualties are mentioned. Details are still in doubt and no information has yet been received regarding the ambush of police reinforcements from Clonmel. The inhabitants of the country side are in a state of terror and many are fleeing from their homes. The first conflict occurred early in the day at the foot of Seivanawood Hill. After a sharp fight the military got through and sent a message to Callan for reinforcements. In this instance, it is believed, the ambushers escaped unscathed. Reinforcements of Royal Irish Constabulary and soldiers left Callan late in the afternoon and when about two miles out ran into another ambush near Carrick Grinken. At the first volley from the ambushing party the soldiers and police dismounted from the lorry and spread out and a brisk fight ensued. The fighting was still in progress when a county inspector and a dozen men of the Kilkenny Constabulary arrived in another lorry. It was now becoming dark and the lorry was subjected to a heavy firing. About the same time reinforcements from Clonmel were attacked near Glenbowe where the biggest skirmish occurred.

Cork, Dec. 21st.—At the request of the attorney for the defence, the court martial of cadet Harte, who is charged with having killed Canon Magner, the parish priest of Dunmanway, an indefinite adjournment of the trial was given. The attorney asked for the adjournment on the ground that the doctor was not yet in a position to say whether Harte was in a condition to plead.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 22nd.—A hearty welcome to the crews of the Canadian cruiser Aurora and the Canadian destroyers Patricia and Patriot, which arrived at Halifax this morning from England, via Bermuda, was extended today by Mr. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.