

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., FRIDAY 6TH APRIL 1923.

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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.

FIND BASE HERE FOR AIR DEFENSE OF CARIBBEAN.

Landing field on Rifle Range Near Wireless Station Almost Ideal
Flyers Assert.

AIR LINK WITH MAINLAND.

Six Land Planes Cover 3,000 Miles in 34 Hours Flying Time; Complete Trip About 6,000 Miles.

Having found here what is believed will be a suitable base for an airplane defense of the Caribbean, six army observation planes, the first caravels of the air to link Porto Rico with the mainland, took the clouds at 10:15 yesterday morning for a return flight to Florida and thence to Washington. Capt. Thomas G. Lanphier, in command of the flight, said he expected to land at Santo Domingo City, 250 miles away, in less than two hours. The flight schedule calls for arrival in Washington not later than April 3.

Arriving here Monday morning at 10:51 o'clock the twelve fliers completed an air journey from San Antonio, Texas, a distance of approximately 3,000 miles in 34 hours flying time. When completed their flight of 6,000 miles will be one of the longest recorded for army planes over land and sea.

Next year, according to tentative plans, army planes will not only fly here but after a rest will continue on down the Windward islands to Panama and South America.

In advance of the flying party was Lt. O. S. Ferson and the flyers were Capt. Lanphier, and Lieuts. Chas. B. Austin,

D. H. Dunton, C. V. Haynes, Guy Kirksey, N. Longfellow, Geo. C. McDonald, Ivan G. Moorman, Erik H. Nelson, Edgar Y. Selzer, Rex R. Stoner and James A. Woodruff.

During their stay here the airmen were extensively entertained, commencing with luncheon at the Rotary Club Tuesday, a luncheon by Acting Governor Huyke, a dinner at the Union Club and an informal dance by the officers of the 65th regiment on Wednesday; a luncheon by the legislature, a theatre party to see Paquita Escibano and a reception at the home of Senator J. J. Benitez on Thursday.

Capt. Lanphier told the Rotary Club the purpose of the flight. "It is part of a War Department plan to find a port from which land planes can operate if necessary to protect the Caribbean from invasion of an enemy. I believe we have demonstrated that in an emergency land planes can fly here from Florida in two days flying time, with a landing in Cuba or possibly Haiti or Santo Domingo.

"We have found the landing field here much better than we had expected and at comparatively no expense it can be converted into an ideal landing field for land planes. It is near the city, near the harbor and all transportation facilities and this should be made a permanent landing place.

"We have been looking for a suitable field for a base and I think it is useless to look further.

"The West Indies, you know, are only a sort of a link between North and South America. Soon there will be daily air service between the mainland and South America and I would suggest that your commercial bodies get busy now and have this field converted into a permanent base rather than wait until possibly other factors develop."

The airmen used as a landing field a portion of the government reservation adjoining the rifle range in Puerta de Tierra. A large white cross marked on the ground served as a landing mark as well as a point from which to take-off.

Thursday Capt. Lanphier and Lt. Austin flew near to St. Thomas but put back because of a severe rain storm.

The return trip to the mainland will be across Santo Domingo, Haiti, Cuba and then to Florida. Instead of returning to Kelly Field, San Antonio, the planes will continue up the Atlantic coast to Washington.—*Porto Rico Progress*, March 24th.

GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES
ST. THOMAS.

Executive Order No. 1--1923.

EXECUTIVE Order No. 17 concerning Pardons and Paroles, issued on the 28th day of December, 1918, is so far modified that the Judge of the Police Court at Christiansted is appointed a Member of the Board of Pardons and Paroles vice the former Judge of the Ordinary Town Court of Christiansted.

The Government Attorney for the Municipality of Saint Croix is hereby appointed a Member of the Board of Pardons and Paroles in addition to the members appointed by Executive Order No. 17 above referred to, as modified by the first paragraph of this Executive Order.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall select its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

WITNESS MY HAND and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States this twenty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and twenty-three.

HENRY H. HOUGH.

[SEAL]

Governor.

Publication.

IT is hereby brought to public notice that the Government has this date authorized Reverend C. F. BROOKINS to perform civil-religious functions in the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, St. Thomas, 28 March, 1923.

J. J. GAFFNEY.

Government Secretary.

Quebec Steamship Co.

THE S. S. "PARIMA"

is expected to leave New York on the 12th inst. and is due at Frederiksted on or about the 19th inst.

ROB'T. L. MERWIN & CO. INC.,
Agents.