

and private buildings and business was suspended generally.

Another cane-piece fire, this time at Bethlehem, is reported as having occurred on Monday night.

Frederiksted, 18th Feb. 1921.

The s. s. "Guiana" arrived here at 6 a. m. and landed some overcarried cargo. Passengers from St. Kitts—Miss C. Europe, L. Herbert and child, Mrs. E. De Chabert, Mrs. Edwards and 4 children, Rose Stephens. She loaded 53 empty gasolin drums and left at 8.30 a. m. for New York via St. Thomas.

19th Feb.

The s. s. "Lake Elrio" from New York arrived here at 9.30 a. m. with general cargo and left for St. Kitts at 4 p. m. on Sunday.

20th Feb.

The American motor schmr. "Mystery" arrived here at 7 a. m. with general cargo and passengers from Porto Rico, and left again at 10 a. m.

The American schmr. "Pocahontas" arrived here at 2 o'clock this morning with general cargo, passengers and 72 bags of mails and left again for Porto Rico at 6 p. m.

It is understood that a quarantine has been established against Porto Rico from to-day.

Correspondence

Estate Annals, February 21, 1921.

To the Editor of St. Croix Avis.

Dear Sir:—

As a news item, which some of the readers of your valued paper might be interested in, I am quoting a few extracts from a letter from my son dated the 15th inst., Ralph is Chemist and assistant Superintendent of the Central Mercedita Ponce, Porto Rico.

They commenced grinding December 15, 1920. He writes, we are grinding fast now, have ground to date 31,807 tons of cane, with a yield of 12½% of 96 test sugar, for the past three weeks have been over 13%, we are doing fine factory work and if the sucrose in cane keeps up where it is at present, we should finish crop with an average yield of 13%.

This is the first year we have had a chance to try out the seedling developed by Dr. Longfield Smith, St. Croix 12/4 and are very much pleased with the showing it has made. And are planting as much acreage with it as possible, a 14.50 acre field gave 903.50 tons of Cane, equal to 62.31 tons per acre.

Brix....19.49

Analysis of juice Sucrose. 17.54

Purity...89.99

% Sucrose in cane..... 14.35
Total tons of sucrose.....129.652
Tons of sucrose per acre..... 8.942
Net tons of 96 Sugar..... 8.306

You can tell Dr. Longfield Smith that I believe that it is just as good a cane as B. H. 10/12 and runs just as high in sucrose.

Thanking you Mr. Editor for space,

Yours very truly,

A. J. BLACKWOOD.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Berlin, Feb. 17th.—Judging from the speech delivered in Karlsruhe yesterday by Dr. Simmons, the Foreign Minister, German political observers here are of the opinion that he is looking forward to the coming reparations conference in London with little optimism. They direct attention especially to one statement he made to the effect that in all probability the first attempts of the conference will not lead to an understanding and that it would be extraordinarily difficult to agree upon new reparations method. "If we do not accept the Paris decision", Dr. Simmons is quoted as saying, "Measures looking to the breaking up of the Empire will come into force". But, "He added, "Any attack from the outside constitution of the Empire. I gather from my tour to south Germany, would meet with the unanimous resistance of the whole of the people. I am going to London", he declared" feeling that the idea of the inviolability of the Empire cannot be torn from the hearts of the German People as a whole".

London, Feb. 17th.—Great Importance is being attached to the bye-election in Cardiganshire, Wales, where the coalition candidate, Captain Evans, Secretary to the Premier, is being opposed by Mr. Williams, Liberal, and the canvassing on the final day is being conducted at white heat. Prominent women are active on both sides. Mrs. Lloyd George has made another motor tour of the Rural districts, leaving her car to speak first in Welsh and then in English to small parties of ploughmen in the fields. Lady Bonham Carter, Mr. Asquith's daughter, is also active on behalf of the Liberal Candidate and yesterday she delivered twelve speeches. The independent Liberals are making their main attack on the Govt's Irish Policy. The Liberals will probably show considerable strength in the rural districts, but it seems certain that the towns will vote for the Coalition Cabinet, who will poll a majority of 4,999.

London, February 17th.—Mr. Lloyd George, questioned in the House of Commons today as to whether the Govt. will take steps to approach the Washington and Tokio Govts. with a view to arranging a limitation of armaments, replied

that the question was engaging the Govts. earnest attention and it would be premature to make a statement now.

London, Feb. 18th.—A manifesto on the proposed German Indemnity was adopted at a joint meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, held in London yesterday. It claimed that the cause of the industrial crisis lay for the most part abroad. All Europe had been impoverished by war, and part of it had been ruined by peace. "We are not faced in the indemnity terms, says the manifesto, with a demand for an immense tribute from German industry which must reduce still further the capacity of the German people, to consume our goods. We shipped directly last year to the German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian ports less than one tenth of that we sent out to them in 1913. The decrease would suffice to account for most of the present unemployment. In this general improvement which by ruining our customers had thrown out workers idle, there is something worse than the inevitable waste of wealth caused by the war. The Blockade of Russia was a wanton act of Policy. In clause after clause, the peace treaties have completed the ruin which the war began. Germany was bidden (quite properly) to work in order that reparations, might be earned, but the treaty which imposed this obligation took her mercantile marine, deprived her of three-fourths of her iron ore, diminished her supply of industrial coal and closed down the banks and business by which alone she can trade abroad. It is clear that the indemnity can be paid only in exports of goods which will come without calling for any answering goods by way of payment. That means further disturbance of British industry. Again, if Germany is to pay, she must desist for forty two years from buying but absolutely necessary goods abroad. That means the British market cannot be recovered and consequently unemployment. Swamping of the World's Market with what are virtually prison made goods will confront the British workers with an unprecedented form of competition.

London, Feb. 18th.—The House of Commons defeated the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, proposed by Mr. Bottomley ensuring the Govt's policy with regard to the Treaty of Versailles. The vote was 181 to 40.

London, Feb. 18th.—At the request of the Colonial Office, the London School of Tropical Medicine is sending an expedition under the direction of Professor Leiper, and composed, among others, of Doctors Andersen, Bavers and Lee, to British Guiana and the West Indies to investigate Filariasis.