

lons of rum. This liquor was exported to the United States. New Englanders evidently cultivated an appetite for the produce of the cane fields of the Virgin Islands. But when a heavy tax was placed on alcoholic spirits in the United States to aid in the prosecution of the war the people of the Virgin Islands found their market curtailed, and they were compelled to find another. Denmark was the country which furnished the new market. For more than fifty years, and up to the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, upward of ninety per cent, of the rum produced in Santa Cruz was shipped to Denmark, and, according to the statement made to the American newspaper men, this rum was almost entirely in industrial work. It formed the basis of varnishes, perfumeries, shellacs and all such manufactures of which alcohol is an essential ingredient. But the Eighteenth Amendment applies to the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Eighteenth Amendment prohibits the manufacture of alcohol even for export, if there is danger that a single "snifter" might find a bayer of rest in the stomach of a thirsty Dane. The islanders desire legislation by Congress under which they may be allowed to renew the production of rum under such bonds and restrictions as will assure the compliance with the laws of the mainland, but will permit the export of the spirits to the continent of Europe for industrial purposes.

Scarcity of Fresh Water.

But while authority to re-establish the manufacture of alcohol from the "pale green sugar cane" is one of the privileges greatly desired, what the islands need more than anything else is a water supply. There are no streams, no springs, no fresh water except that which is caught during the rainy season and conserved in cisterns. Occasionally some of the visiting ships fill up the empty receptacles with sea-water freshened by distillation, or condensation, but the inhabitants of the islands are constantly threatened with a water famine. They have lost their cattle frequently; their fruits no longer supply most of their needs, and they live in the hope that the Government will come to their aid with storage dams and artesian wells.

To be continued.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, April 3rd.—The West India Parliamentary Committee yesterday unanimously adopted for presentation to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. J. H. Thomas, the following resolution which was moved by Lord Burnham, seconded by Sir Joseph Hood and strongly supported by Lord Is-

lington and Mr. Ormsby Gore. "This committee of members of both Houses of Parliament, especially interested in the development of good relations between the British West Indies and British Guiana with the Mother Country, having considered representations from authoritative bodies of both communities earnestly recommend the adoption by the British Parliament of the unanimous decisions of the Imperial Economic Conference on preference, and in order to promote imperial developments, urge that the preference on empire produced sugar be stabilized at its present cash value for a period of ten years." The committee also, on the motion of Sir Mitchell Thompson, seconded by Sir Joseph Hood and supported by Lord Burnham and Rear Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt, resolved to express satisfaction at the action of the House of Commons in passing the loan for the extension of the West Indian cable and wireless services and also urged the earliest possible completion of the scheme. Mr. Percy Hurd, Secretary of the Committee, submitted many replies from the West Indies and British Guiana to the Committee's recent questionnaire including those from the West Indian Committee, the Jamaica Imperial Association, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies, the Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural Societies of St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antigua, Trinidad and Barbados and also the Chamber of Commerce and Sugar Planters' Association of British Guiana. The subjects dealt with in the questionnaire included suggestions on the best form of representation of the colonies in London, whether by a High Commissioner or otherwise, preference proposals and the necessary developments of steamship, cable and wireless connections. It was decided by the Committee to prepare a report for presentation to the Government.

Geneva, April 3rd.—The question of limiting armaments should be separated from that of the establishment of an international organization for the prevention of war, is the opinion of M. Tchitcherin, Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his reply to a request of the League of Nations for Russia's viewpoint on the pact of mutual guarantees, elaborated at the last assembly of the League. M. Tchitcherin objected that the pact does not separate the two questions. He declares that the limitation of armaments is so grave and urgent that it is imperative the problem be treated immediately, separately and independently from other questions. He favours an international conference for fixing the maximum strength of standing armies, naval and aerial forces of each state, based on the area of its territory, population and special local considerations. He insists that general limitation of armaments could be carried out without the participation of the League, through a

general congress. He argues against tying up the question of limitation of armaments with the League of Nations for an indefinite period and objects to any scheme implying measures of restraint being exercised by any international authorities against any particular state, which he says would mean an international dictatorship. He warns the League that disarmament and avoidance of war cannot be achieved, even partially, without the participation of the Soviet Republic.

Berlin, April 4th.—Germany has taken drastic measures to curb lavish expenditures by her millionaires abroad. Hereafter passports and extensions of the same will cost \$1.25 and other difficulties will be thrown in the way of those who want to go to French and Italian resorts to spend their money. Issuance of all visas was suspended yesterday for two days preliminary to the establishment of the passport regulations. The statement in the American Senate that there are too many millionaires in Germany is understood to have influenced the Government in its new course. Commercial travellers and journalists are exempted from the heavy passport fee.

Santa Clara, Cal., April 4th.—The most violent earthquake shock recorded here since 1906, was registered here yesterday afternoon at Santa Clara University. According to Father Richard the shock lasted from 3.55 to 4.00 p. m. The vibrations were vertical, with a gentle swaying motion, which made it impossible to calculate the distance to the point of greatest intensity.

Paris, April 4th.—M. Poincare in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday again declared that France will not withdraw from the Ruhr until payment of reparations has been made to her.

NEW YORK, April 4th.

Flour, (hard winter clears \$5.00.
" hard winter straights \$5.50
Meal, Kilndried per 100 pounds \$7.40
New Season's Pork per barrel \$37.00.
Heavy Mess Pork per brl. \$25 25
Sugar—Crystals maximum per 100 lbs.
\$6 53
Molasses Sugar 89 maximum 5.50.
Cotton, Middling, Upland, at Liverpool
per lb. 17 68-100d.
Exchange, New York and London, 60
days' sight \$4.28½
Exchange New York and London, sight
\$4.30½

LONDON, April 4th.

Sugar, Demerara Crystals, nominal per
cwt 57 . 0d.—60s. 0d.
" Muscavado nominal per cwt. 50s.
0d.—51s. 0d.
" White Java's cif United Kingdom
31s. 3d.
Demerara Rum per gal. nominal.
Trinidad Cocoa, good middling red per
cwt. 56s. 0d.—57s. 0d.
Cotton, good medium West Indian Sea
Is. and at Liverpool, per lb. 24d. nominal.