

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Arriving in town so late did not give time to view Frederiksted as we had in such bright sunshine seen Christiansted, nevertheless there was opportunity to make a hasty circuit of the town which our friend of old has spoken so particularly of in his record of his visit to St. Croix.

The same religious bodies as were noticed in Christiansted are here also: The Lutheran Church on the hill aback of the town, a building of quite some age, well built and carefully preserved; the Anglican Church, St. Paul's, was built in 1812 during the British occupation and for many years was the most largely attended church, there being so many English and North-of-Ireland resident planters in the community who were of this persuasion and who contributed so liberally to its support. The Moravian Church, Fredensborg, perched upon the hill in such an airy situation for both church and residence of the minister selected in the early days of the settlement of the town is evidence of the foresight of those intrepid missionaries.

Under the hill in the eastern part of the town is St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church a rather imposing edifice with its large Presbytery, school buildings and yard which occupy a large block. Of this church Mr. Weed, already quoted, writes in one of those interesting letters of his from Santa Cruz under date of January 10, 1845:

"There is a Catholic Church here, of which the Rev. Mr. Ryan, a very excellent young man, is pastor. The worshippers, with few exceptions, are black, some of whom are free and others slaves. This congregation, though of course poor, laid the foundation in 18... of a neat, massive and sufficiently large stone edifice which, by their monthly contributions, judiciously expended, is now three-quarter finished. Its progress, however is necessarily slow. Service is held in apartments temporarily inclosed. An effort was made last week to obtain funds enough to put a permanent roof upon that portion of the church in which the congregation assembles, when a large number of the colored people (most of whom were females) laid their contributions, amounting to from one dollar to five dollars each, upon the altar. These poor people, who paid thus liberally for the building of a place of worship, cannot earn, by their labor, more than one hundred or one hundred and fifty dollars a year. Their more fortunate and wealthy brethren in America could not do a more acceptable service than to raise fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars for the completion of this church."

This appeal seems to have been answered, funds made available, and the church completed shortly after as an inscription upon the building over the main entrance records:

"Dedicated on 25th June, 1844, by Rt. Rev. D. Smith,
Bishop of Olympus."

"On the 25th of June, 1846 erected principally
by the parishioners under the direction of
Rev. T. A. O'Ryan, Parish Priest."

The town has an excellent and well equipped hospital in charge of two naval doctors also nurses with an efficient native personnel trained by them as in Christiansted, with modern facilities, and here major surgical operations are performed with great success. Other public institutions as schools, post office, etc., are the same as described in Christiansted.

(To be concluded.)

LOCAL

Some little dissatisfaction is heard concerning a rule recently put into effect in the public grammar school requiring the pupils to sweep the floors of their respective class rooms and the gallery adjoining. They have also been made to scrub the w. c. That the children of this school receive free tuition and should be willing to give something in return may be all very well, but as a fact there are practically only the public schools available at present, since support of other

schools from public funds has been withdrawn and children must be sent there by force of circumstances or be placed at school abroad. For this reason the objection of such parents as do not appreciate having their children do janitor and scavenger work will be understood. At a public school there cannot consistently be distinctions shown between the pupils and in order to be partial to some others will be imposed upon. It is to be hoped that this source of complaint will be removed and the popular esteem in which our public

schools are held reflecting such credit on their administration shall not be affected.

Battling against the odds of the prevailing calm weather the sloop "Mizpah" was to be seen far out heading for this port early this morning.

Postmaster Leader begs to bring to the notice of the patrons of the Frederiksted post office that owing to the limited space in the temporary quarters occupied by the post office in these days it is urged that all mailing be done when practicable instead of holding up business to the last moment as is the general rule. To secure dispatch and avoid congestion money orders, registration and such business should be obtained in due time tomorrow.

Correspondence

WANTED TO KNOW.

What has become of the old water wagon? For the last day or two the dust is actually blinding us through the need of a little water on the streets. Do let our water wagon appear and help to keep down the dust that is killing us; it is needed.

W. S. ABRAMSON.

28th March 1924.

Road Commissioners, Members C C. &c., &c.

About 9 years ago Inspector Lunny allotted Roads and this Concern's portion all came under the name Whim B. P. and all were satisfied as I always kept Roads under my care in order without —

Now in 1923 comes Inspector Meyer and demands that Good Hope and Campo Rico must have separate allotments with B.P.'s marked C. Rico, G. Hope, but has failed to give each estate its quota as per chart that was in Police Office. I request superior authority to see to this.

Respectfully,

J. W. SMITH,

Mgr. Whim Concern.

26th March 1924.

P. S. Understand money voted to allot roads correctly.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Moscow, March 24th.—President Kalinin, of the Soviet Republic, today issued a statement regarding alleged French interference in Russian affairs in China and Bessarabia. "At the present moment", says M. Kalinin, "let us forget Japanese and American interference, but let us remind France, that the Russian people never will forget how France repays for the hundreds of thousands of