

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., TUESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 1920.

No. 10.

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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.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of the correspondence in the matter of proposed change in currency has been made by the authorities in Washington, and the matter is now being given consideration by the State and Treasury Departments.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Jan. 5th.*

The masquerade ball given at the Grand Hotel on Monday night was a fine success.

After enjoying themselves with dancing for about two hours, the maskers unmasked at 11.30 which caused many mutual surprises among the party.

An exciting feature of the evening was the "Mystery Ship," which proved to be a vessel filled with confetti.

The dance was fairly well attended, among those present being several well-known townsfolk and tourists from S. S. "Moccasin."

The dance was brought to an end at one o'clock.

Music was furnished by the Municipal Band.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Jan. 6th.*

LABOUR TROUBLES AT TRINIDAD.

"Our City was yesterday tied up, so far as trade is concerned, owing to demonstrations (generally passive—but in some cases hostile) of the stevedores and other strikers and crowds of the great unwashed who neither work nor spin. From early it was seen that trouble was brewing, and the fact was communicated by South Quay folk to Constabulary Headquarters. Major de Pass and some men were ready for eventualities, but the expected clash fizzled out to a free-

zle and the Constabulary returned to their bunks from which they were called out, while the strikers kept moving along. Later in the afternoon, however, an old woman was heard to loudly exclaim in patois: *Zaffaire Sho! Zaffaire Sho asoo Che la.* (Things are hot! Things are hot on the wharf,) and without doubt things were decidedly warm, judging from the running here and there and in every direction of big crowds, some of the members of which were excited and ready, if opportunity presented, to "run the whole hog." The St. Amers' Warehouse had to close up, and, it is said, without Government license imprison certain employees of a Shipping firm. The crowd grew and were getting dangerous looking, when the Secretary of one of the Working men's Association, In., turned up, and by some gestures and words which could not be heard from any distance owing to the growling of the crowd, got them to follow him to some place elsewhere. Shortly after, the Trinidad Guardian's office was rushed by some of the crowd who swore all kind of vengeance. The office having been closed up by the crowd, they turned to the Gazette office, but some person or persons caused them to desist. Another rush was later made on the Guardian office and then one 'Mc Conney, said to be "a high politician," came and showed his authority by causing the gathering to stop proceedings. Meanwhile the Constabulary very thoughtfully requested the various spirit and other shops to close—thereby enforcing, as it were and without notice "bone dry prohibition" in Port-of-Spain. For this unpopular result, however, the strikers lost tons of sympathy among followers and others. Many persons, it is said, got licks, and others were charged into the muddy waters of the gulf. To put it shortly, trade was held up throughout the city, the street cars were boarded by hooligans, who refused to pay fares, etc. The Constabulary, under officers, were in the melés, but as far as we learn no arrests were made although, it is said the matter is not ended one way or the other."

The strike lasted for three days, during which hooliganism controlled the destinies of the invaded quarter, in which peaceable citizens moving about their business were badly beaten. It only came to an end on Wednesday after it had been arranged to increase the wages of workers by 20 and 25 per cent. The Crown of Castille with over 200 cases of

machinery urgently required for the Usine Ste Madeleine, arrived there from Glasgow via Barbados and had to proceed to Demerara to return before unloading in consequence of the strike; while it has been officially reported that among the damage done and larcenies committed to and on various craft in the harbour, the R. M. S. P. tender Bure received the following "attentions," on the first night: Whistle wrenched off; buggy hood broken; four ventilators removed (where to?), vacuum guage glass to engine removed, as well as the following articles which were nowhere to be found: Lock met to slide of engine; foot board in stern gear; four life bells; 35 fathoms 2½ in rope for bow and stern gear; two gallons oil, one tin red paint; one tin white paint; three buckets and one hurricane lamp. The Harbour Constabulary has been informed in the loss.

Numbers of defaulters are being prosecuted for assaults against individuals and are being heavily fined.—*Port-of-Spain Gazette, Dec. 2nd.*

NOTICE

Fr. 10,000

can be loaned on first priority mortgage in a property, by applying to the Upper Guardian.

St. Thomas January 1920.

Publication

IT is hereby made known that the Horse, Carriage and Boat Tax for the first half year 1920 will be received by the Policemasters in Christiansted and Frederiksted from the 20th January to the 10th February 1920, both days included, after which the list of arrears will be transmitted to the same authorities for further measures.

Each debtor of tax will be subject to a fine Frcs. 1.00 if the tax be under Frcs. 25.00 and Frcs 2.00 if the tax be Frcs. 25.00 or above, beside the ordinary levy expenses.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States of America, St. Croix, December 30, 1919.

For the Governor,

R. O'HAGAN.
Government Secretary.