

head of water should be applied in a furrow as can be without washing the soil so as to make the run in the shortest possible time with a view to preventing waste by deep percolation. More intensive cultivation than is now practiced on the Island should be done where possible after each irrigation in order to form a dust mulch which greatly reduces soil evaporation, and also to keep down the weeds which utilize a large amount of soil moisture through plant transpiration.

48. By the adoption of such efficient methods of irrigation and cultivation, and also by the application of artificial fertilizer which can be used to advantage with irrigation, it is believed that good results can be secured with the net duty as here adopted and that the irrigation and distribution losses will not exceed 25% of the amount diverted from the reservoir.

RESERVOIR LOSSES

49 Evaporation: Good evaporation data are available at St. Croix from a daily record kept at the Government experimental farm for the years, 1919 to 1923. See Table 7. This record is of a standard exposed land pan, the pan being elevated from the ground so as to permit full circulation of air beneath it. This record shows a mean annual pan evaporation of 73 inches, and for the purpose of this report it is estimated that the annual evaporation from the reservoirs will be 75% of this, or 58 inches.

School Shows Gain In Virgin Islands.

EDUCATION MORE COSTLY UNDER AMERICAN THAN UNDER DANISH RULE.

PUPILS ATTEND REGULARLY.

Health Of Children Cared For By Navy Surgeons And Dentists.

Washington, May 20.—The provisions made by Uncle Sam to educate his wards in the Virgin Islands are shown in a recent report outlining the activities of the Department of Education of the islands. In the year (1916-17) of Danish rule the educational budget was \$16,932; in 1917-18, the year in which the islands were taken over by the United States, it was \$19,506 and in 1923-24, \$104,282 was provided. Enrollment of pupils in this period has increased from 2,455 to 2,947. The average daily attendance in 1922-23, 98.42 per cent., the report points out, is believed to be the highest for the number of pupils enrolled to be found anywhere under the American flag.

"It is the current opinion," says the report, "that the public school system of the Virgin Islands is the best in the West Indies and certainly compares very favorably with the public school systems of our Southern States. The school

equipment is ample and adequate; the school buildings are roomy, well ventilated and well cared for; the teachers are competent and of pleasing appearance, and the pupils on the whole are well-dressed, appear well advanced in their work and no sign of malnutrition was in evidence among them."

There are 29 schools on the islands, divided as follows: Public, 17; private, 8; parochial, 4. Courses in sewing, cooking and woodworking are offered in the public school, and much emphasis is being placed on mechanical arts, home economics and practical agriculture. Agriculture is now being taught for the first time, and the results are said to be gratifying. Music is a prescribed subject in all schools of the islands, and specially trained teachers are employed to take charge of this work. School orchestras have been organized in the three junior high schools, the instruments having been donated by the American Red Cross. The entire course in musical instruction is under the supervision of a bandmaster of the United States Navy and seven competent instructors. There are 197 teachers in the entire school system, and of these 101, or 94 per cent, are colored.

"The school nursing service, which was established three years ago by the American Red Cross with the assistance of the local Government," says the report, "has developed into one of the most important features of the school program. More than 10,000 treatments have been given to the children by the nurses each year. A school health center is maintained in each of the three towns.

NAVY DOCTORS HELP.

"Due to the splendid cooperation of the navy doctors connected with the Department of Health, physical defects found are immediately treated and physical examinations are conducted each year for all school children. These examinations are thorough, and compare favourably with those given to recruits. A municipal dentist is employed in each health center, who gives free dental treatment to all school children. A marked improvement in the condition of teeth has been revealed by the comparison of the defects found in the yearly physical examination.—*Baltimore Sun*, May 20th.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, June 11th.—United Press. A statement made by Mr. MacDonald that he will endeavour to create better machinery for the conduct of the Foreign Relations of the British Empire, is still the subject of much comment in the newspapers and the Premier is urged to fulfill the promise made. The "Birmingham Gazette" in discussing this question, believes that Mr. MacKenzie King claims more than Mr. MacDonald contemplated in his last speech and the question is bound to come up again in the Commons,

probably in a full dress debate. The Times concludes that the discussion, so far, on imperial relations, has not brought a solution of the problem nearer. While admitting that Mr. MacKenzie King's position is difficult owing to the fact that certain parts of the correspondence have been withheld from publication at the request of the Imperial Government, yet it maintains that Mr. King's duty is to set forth clearly his own ideas as to how a solution of the question could be attained. The "Express" recalling the services of Canada to the Empire during the war, regrets sincerely the blunders and the slight of the Dominion, which made Mr. King's speech possible.

London, June 13th.—The Manchester Cup run at Manchester today resulted as follows. Chosroes 1st, Marvex 2nd, Puttenden 3rd.

Marietta Ohio, June 12th.—Brig. General Charles Dawes tonight accepted nomination for the Vice-Presidency.

Tokio, June 11th.—Viscount Ishii, who negotiated the Lansingishie agreement, is to succeed Masanao Hanihara as Ambassador to the United States it is indicated on reliable authority.

Paris, June 11th.—A secret pact is ready to be signed by Tokio and Moscow, whereby Japan will furnish Russia with heavy artillery and warships, that it would be forced otherwise to scrap under the Washington tonnage ratio, in exchange for the Soviets ceding the Sakhalien oil rights to assure a supply for the Japanese navy, according to the well informed newspaper "San-fiae".

Chicago, June 13th.—In one of the biggest and most daring robberies in railway history, four automobiles crowded with bandits last night held up a Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul mail and express train and escaped with registered mail valued at close to \$2,000,000. The train, enroute from Chicago to St. Paul, was stopped at Rondout, Ill, 32 miles north of Chicago, consisting of eight mail coaches and two express cars. Fifty minutes after leaving Chicago, it was in the possession of the bandits. In 55 minutes more they gathered between 43 and 45 ponches of registered mail and speeded away in the darkness. A few shots were fired, but the only casualty was a robber shot by his fellows, who mistook him for a trainman. The loss early today was estimated at about \$2,000,000 but bank officials said that a careful check might show it to exceed that figure. Fourteen men, among them three well known characters in Chicago's underworld, were arrested in connection with the hold up here tonight.

London, June 14th.—In the cricket match between Oxford University and the South Africans the former compiled 117 for nine wickets when the match was abandoned. Parker took four wickets for 34 runs.