

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., FRIDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 1919.

No. 263

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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.

HOOK AND LADDER STORY.

A painter at work on a water tank at Buhl, Minn., foresaw a catastrophe when a cow began to scratch her back on the bottom of his ladder and started to come down. That frightened the cow and she ran her horns through the lower rungs of the ladder and started off in a gallop, carrying the ladder, painter, paint and all. The louder he yelled the faster the cow travelled. It was but a short ride for the painter, who struck the ground uninjured, but the cow carried the ladder for a quarter of a mile—Ind. News.—*Puerto Rico Progress.*

THE SUGAR FAMINE.

(By S. G. Ruegg.)

The sugar famine continues in the North Central States and no immediate relief is promised. It has been exceptionally trying during the preserving season. Recipes have appeared in the daily papers as to how to preserve without sugar and how to make cookies without the sweetening influence of sugar. But this does not say that the sweetening powers have not been used, for corn syrup, common molasses and cane syrup have come in very handy. The country stores in Wisconsin have been ransacked too and some of the denizens of Milwaukee have come in with as high as 50 pounds of sugar. This is largely due to the fact that the turn-over in sugar in the country stores is not as rapid as in the cities. Some consumers in our section have gone for two weeks without a mouthful. In La Crosse, Wisconsin, 90 per cent

of the groceries were without sugar for nearly a week, but a carload came later on and was equally distributed among the grocers of the city.

United States District Attorney Wolfe, of Madison, has been warning the public of this State that 11 cents was the price to be paid for sugar. According to Mr. Wolfe sugar dealers may chafe under this ruling, but they are going to sell at that price or spend money for their lawyers to keep them out of jail. He also sent out this statement: "Wholesalers holding stocks of sugar may as well put them on the market now, because they have small hope of getting a bigger price for this commodity. The Government has set a price and I am here to see that dealers do not charge any more. If dealers want to keep out of jail I would advise them to be satisfied with the 11 cents allowed them. Strikes and other influences have caused a sugar shortage all over the country, and if it had not been for the Federal regulations sugar would be selling for 50 cents a pound. Regulations of food and clothing will follow shortly. The unheard of price of 72 cents a pound for butter for instance is a disgrace as is the \$12 shoe."

In Seymour, near Green Bay, a carload of sugar arrived but the grocers refused to accept the sugar because it was said they could not sell it at 11 cents a pound and come out even. The mayor of the town then seized the sugar and retailed it at that price. In Milwaukee they predict that sugar will be 14 cents a pound. In that city District Attorney H. W. Sawyer holds that the Government has no right to set any price. Mr. Sawyer claims a dealer can be prosecuted for hoarding or charging an exorbitant price. Mr. Sawyer explains: "The question of whether any certain price is exorbitant depends on the margin of profit for the dealer. The margin depends on many factors. The first consideration is the price the dealer pays for sugar. Then there are the expenses in handling it. Sometimes the dealer selling it through quantities of one or two pounds has a considerable added expense of paper bags and labor. We have investigated many complaints and have found in each case the price was just. A typical complaint was that a dealer was charging 14 cents. We discovered that he had paid 13½ cents to a dealer in Chicago. After he had paid freight, storage and labour charges he was losing money. If there was any profiteering it was on the part of the man who was

charging 13½ cents wholesale. We made a report to the Chicago authorities.

The grocers seem to hold to the theory that if there is a shortage of sugar that it ought to bring a higher price for people were willing to pay 14 cents to get it. The Wisconsin sugar companies will meet the new situation with sugar and the United States Sugar Company at Madison will put out at least 5,000,000 pounds. The campaign for at least two new sugar factories is going on and from present indications Green Bay and Oshkosh will have the two new factories.—*Louisiana Planter, Oct. 18th.*

ORDER OF THE DAY

for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council for St. Croix, MONDAY, November 17, 1919, at one o'clock p. m.

(Convened by request of Government)

1. Colonial Council Bill No. 13. Continuation of 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 13. Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 2nd Appointed Member (Noll), to provide for a re-organization, regulation, and government of the Municipal Police Force of St. Croix.
2. Colonial Council Bill No. 16. Continuation of Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 16, Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Colonial Council to appoint a standing committee of nine members to receive and consider advance copies of a Code of Laws to succeed the present existing laws.

Colonial Council Office, St. Croix, November 11, 1919.

ROBT. L. MERWIN.
Chairman.

Reward Offered.

A REWARD of Francs 50.00 is hereby offered for the apprehension of the well known prisoner Thomas Williams, alias "One-hand Tom", who escaped from Richmond Prison on Friday evening October 31st a. c.

Frederiksted Police Office, November 8th 1919.

JOHN L. CURRY,
acting Director of Police.