

LOCAL

We are informed that the Commission sent by the President to investigate and report on conditions in these islands will arrive in Christiansted on Saturday this week at 6.00 o'clock p. m. The Governor has placed his Packward automobile at the disposal of the commission during its stay in St. Croix.

In this issue there will be found the addresses of the Chairman of the Municipal Committee and the Despatching Secretary at the ceremony on Monday afternoon. Another address by the Assistant Public Works Officer received too late for this issue will be published tomorrow.

We have been asked to mention that the Native Brass Band will give a concert on the wharf this evening.

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY THE HONORABLE D. C. CANEGATA, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1924.

Honorable Mr. Secretary, Honorable Members of the Colonial Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I esteem it a very high honor to have been accorded the privilege of saying a few words to you this afternoon. It further enhances to the honor that the occasion should mark the beginning of the construction of what we hope, will be the means of furnishing a public water supply for the town of Christiansted. We have long waited for an effort to be made in this direction and we can all feel some measure of satisfaction at this faint realization of our dream. I think too that this project in a way forms a new departure, or rather it is an exception to what appears to have been the established rule; we have in the past always waited for the initiation of any project to be made by the Executive Department of the Government; this however can truly be termed a people's measure and in that respect it is an exception to the rule.

When the Budget for 1923-1924 was first submitted to the Municipal Committee sometime in May last year, that Committee making an effort to secure some measure of economy based on efficiency in the several Departments, proposed several different amendments with the hope, that the amounts saved thereby should be used for such constructive improvements within our limits that would tend towards the material benefits and welfare of the inhabitants of this island. The representatives of Christiansted worked (there are 3 of us, Mr. Abramson, Mr. Alexander and myself) and worked hard to gain some share of the spoils, and by the recommendation of the Municipal Committee, with the support of

our other colleagues in the Council, the approval of Government and the co-operation of the Public Works Officer, Lieutenant Gebhard, the people of this town are about to realize the fruits of our labor. I shall not fail to mention to our present Governor, His Excellency Governor Philip Williams and his Aide Lieutenant Barrett our Despatching Secretary who have added fresh stimulus to our efforts. I know that the Governor has a very keen and deep interest in the attainment of this end, which is evidenced and has shown itself by his desire to have this work started at the earliest possible date; as you all are aware he even called the Colonial Council together in extraordinary session to further the object, and it is a source of great regret to us, that he has been unable to be here this afternoon at this ceremony, which I think is his own initiation and for which he is solely responsible. I draw attention to this as it seems that this is a feature of the case which is deserving of our gratitude and recognition and should warrant its full measure of appreciation.

I want you to regard this structure when completed not as a separate entity, but as the beginning only of that larger project when every home and house in this town shall have a public supply of running water within its doors; that is the ultimate object we all have in view. It is possible by your cooperation, by your effort, keep it always before you. And to attain that end you and I are determined; and I see in the enthusiasm of our gathering to press on without haste, but without rest towards its final accomplishment.

Our friends from the Country District will receive this with astonishment. This of course is an urban gathering, and naturally urban problems are of the greater interest for us, but we are not unmindful of the support derived from our rural district and of that greater rural project, the impounding of water sufficient for agricultural purposes. Our slender resources are inadequate to even attempt anything of material benefit along this line, but we trust that the day is not too far distant, when by a generous amount of Federal aid we may be able, to place our main industry on a more substantial footing and we shall not be wholly dependent on the natural rainfall for a normal or average crop. Happy shall we be if to us it is given to see the realization of this project. Happy shall we be if before our day is over it is given to us to dispel some of the gloom which has fallen over this community and help to raise the hopes of many of us from the despond of despair. Happy shall we be if to us the opportunity is afforded to place our own town of Christiansted in its rightful place and restore some measure of the former prosperity of our island.

I believe that all our aims can be realized; it is true that our population has been gradually dwindling, but it is not numbers that tell in every movement, it is life and force. And life and force are ours if we only believe it. What we need most is unity of purpose and unity of action. It is the exercising and forgetting of miserable personal differences and contraction on our plain duties and doctrines. This is my message to you the people of Christiansted and St. Croix this afternoon. Act upon it, and we may be perfectly confident that, whether after a long interval or a short one, we shall attain the realization of our ideals and win a triumphant victory for our cause which we know to be the cause of freedom, justice and good government.

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY HIS HONOR THE DESPATCHING SECRETARY (R. E. BARRETT), ON MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1924.

The Honourable Members of the Colonial Council, Municipal Committee and Citizens of St. Croix.

History tells us that Sir Walter Raleigh landed on the shores of this island during the early part of the seventeenth century. The inhabitants of this island at that time presented him with a very beautiful basket of manchineel apples and a copy of a local newspaper. In all probability he read in the local newspaper that a water supply for the island was contemplated. The article no doubt wound up with information reading something like this: "We will have more to say upon this subject later." Both the manchineel apples and the prospects of water proved to be a bitter disappointment.

For approximately 100 years the question of a water supply for this community has been agitated, but nothing concrete was done. To lay, due to the energy and forethought of your Legislators. Fathered by the Municipal Committee, the question of a water supply for this community is now an established fact. Money has been appropriated, the site selected and the actual work started. In order to complete this project it will be necessary to have the hearty co-operation of each and every citizen with your legislative body and your Government. The time for action and results is at hand. The day of quibbling, bickering and useless talk is passed. There has never been in the history of the world any improvement contemplated for the benefit of a community which has not met with opposition. Individuals may have their own ideas and may condemn the work of others, but when the feat is accomplished and all have benefited; those who criticised, those who condemned and those who scoffed, will be the first ones to