

Mails Close

for St. Thomas by the Vigilant at 10 a. m. today.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) left the meeting during the recess.

After recess the Council reassembled and the Chairman remarked: Before recess I asked Members to prepare for the election of Members of the Road Commission. The law provides that half the number of members shall retire at a time, but does not say in what way it is to be done. I think that's up to the Chairman of the Road Commission to draw lots for the retiring members when the time expires and to notify Government and Government will notify the Council.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Fleming) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Before proceeding to the election of Members of the Road Commission, I have here a draft of an ordinance which is not on the Order of the Day, and which I would like to bring up at this meeting (copies of the ordinance were handed to the Chairman).

The Chairman remarked: 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Fleming) has sent up a draft of an ordinance regarding a scheme of road repair for the Center Line Road. I will circulate copies to members; it requires a three-quarter vote of the Council to further it today. (Accordingly copies of the Ordinance were circulated to members).

The Chairman put to the vote whether the ordinance should be forwarded today. 11 members voted for; none against.

The Chairman remarked: The necessity has been obtained; I will bring it up as the last item on the Order of the Day.

Chairman then brought up the members of the Road Commission.

11 envelopes were handed in, one was invalid.

Elected were: G. B. Fleming and F. Andersen with 11 votes respectively, 4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) with 9 votes and M. M. Skeoch with 7 votes.

Mr. W. H. Fleming received 3 votes, Mr. W. H. McKay, Mr. A. V. Nelthropp and Mr. J. Schuster received 1 vote respectively.

Item 4.

Colonial Council Bill No. 13.

Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 13, intro-

duced by 3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander), providing for free pilotage for vessels carrying United States Mail between Porto Rico and St. Croix, Virgin Islands of the United States.

The Bill reads as follows:

Colonial Council Bill No. 13.

Third Council, First Session 1921-1922.

DRAFT OF ORDINANCE

to provide free pilotage for vessels carrying United States mail between Porto Rico and Saint Croix, Virgin Islands of United States.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council for St. Croix, in session assembled that:

1. Any vessel engaged in carrying United States Mail, between Porto Rico and Saint Croix, Virgin Islands of United States, is hereby entitled to free Pilotage into and out of the Harbor of Christiansted, Saint Croix, V. I.

2. This Ordinance becomes effective immediately after it has received executive sanction.

3. All other laws and ordinances or parts thereof conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

JOS. ALEXANDER,

3rd Member for Christiansted Town and Suburbs.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) in introducing the ordinance said,—Mr. Chairman. In introducing Colonial Council Bill No. 13 which provides for the free pilotage of vessels carrying United States Mails between Porto Rico and St. Croix, I do not think it necessary to go into details as the bill is self-explanatory in its tenor; however there are two points that need consideration. It has occurred twice during this present year that the Schooner "Mystery" had to put into this harbor as she could not go to Frederiksted owing to rough seas. As we all know this vessel is not obliged to put into this harbor, but it was done for the convenience of all. The public in general are always anxious so receive their mails; the Captain of the "Mystery" put into this port, delivered his mails and left, but it cost the owners \$27.00 each time for pilotage; if the owners have to continue to pay pilotage the Captain may refuse to come in this harbor and the community would suffer a great inconvenience. I see no reason why the Council should not pass this ordinance considering the island will lose no revenue by it.

The second point is, sometime to come the Post Office in Washington may in-

stall a double service; if that is done, the steamers may have to call at this port, but may not want to do so if the owners will have to pay pilotage.

The law is simply to encourage trade and commerce; it does not include harbor dues, only pilotage; and if passed, it would not be in conflict with any law. I place the matter before you for consideration; I have given you reasons for asking you to consider it favorably. I hope the gentlemen from Frederiksted as well as the gentlemen of Christiansted will view it in its true light.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I think all that can be said has already been said. I only wish to endorse what the 3rd Member for Christiansted Town has said by adding that it will become a matter of precedent if this bill is put into effect as there seems to be no law or ordinance in regard to pilotage; this is only trying to make a precedent which has already been established a rule.

The Chairman put to the vote whether the Ordinance should be furthered.

It was unanimously adopted that the ordinance be furthered.

No one requesting the word further 1st discussion closed.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) proposed, and with Government and the Council's consent 2nd Discussion opened.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) remarked: Mr. Chairman. This bill needs no further introductory remarks. I have already pointed out the necessity for its passage.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Government will approve of this bill particularly in view of the fact that it is so restricted in its character; it merely includes the question of payment of pilotage of vessels coming into the harbor from Porto Rico with United States Mails.

It was put to the vote and unanimously carried that 2nd Discussion be closed.

2nd Discussion closed.

With Government and the Council's consent 3rd Discussion opened.

No one requesting the word, 3rd Discussion closed, the Secretary read the bill and the Chairman put same to the vote.

It was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman remarked: The bill is adopted and goes to Government.

(To be continued)

LOCAL.

Readers and theatre patrons are reminded of the continuation of the Vanishing Dagger this evening in some parts said to be the most thrilling of this stirring story of the screen.

Splendid rains continue, the last fall