

ORDER OF THE DAY

for an extraordinary meeting of the Colonial Council of St. Croix, Thursday, July 17, 1924, at 2 o'clock p.m.

(Convened by request of the Chairman.)

1. To receive report of Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee of the whole Council on June 30, 1924.

Colonial Council Office, St. Croix, July 14, 1924.

ROBT. L. MERWIN
Chairman.

NOTICE.

HAVING been designated Assistant Postmaster at Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands Miss VIOLA L. E. PETERSEN is authorized to assume charge of the affairs of the post office during the absence of the postmaster.

Post Office, Christiansted, Virgin Islands, July 14, 1924.

B. R. LARSEN, Postmaster.

An entertainment will be given at the Leper Colony Tuesday evening July 15, 1924, at 8.15 o'clock.

Relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As regards the amendment introduced by the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District I wish to state that it would be a rather peculiar thing for the Council to adopt such an amendment. That should be left with the Officers of the Council to decide. I recommend that the amendment be defeated.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on the Colonial Council Maintenance. Honorable Members will notice that travelling expenses for Members of the Council have been cut 10 percent to what it originally was last year. The question presented to the Municipal Committee—

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander): Mr. Chairman. I rise to a

point of order. We cannot discuss all the items at the same time. I have the greatest respect for the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town, but he knows that it is against parliamentary decorum to do such a thing.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I just want to say in response to the Honorable 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District that it is not lack of confidence in the Officers of the Council that has caused me to introduce the amendment; it is the custom obtaining in matters pertaining to the expenditure of public funds. The amendment is perfectly in order. It is above board measure.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that some Members of this Council are confused as to what they are doing. The items under Maintenance, Colonial Council, are now before the House, and not because an Honorable Member has brought in an amendment to a particular item that I must confine myself to that item. If the Honorable Gentleman does not care to hear what I have to say I will take my seat.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander): Mr. Chairman. The Honorable Member is at liberty to speak. All I said was rather than discuss one thing here and another there, let us proceed in order.

The Chairman remarked: The Chair rules this, that after discussion is closed on an item any amendment offered to that item is put to the vote. The Rules of Business says that discussion can go on until the vote is taken. The Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town has the floor. He can proceed.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): I thank you Mr. Chairman. I am finished.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I see under Maintenance, Colonial Council, Pres. 60 for electric light, one dollar per month. I want to say that a flat rate is charged for this light and the current paid for by this flat rate is also paid for by meter.

The Chairman in reply to the last speaker said, —This light for which a flat rate is paid is in the Clerk's office. There is no meter in that office.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg): Oh! I didn't know.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): Mr. Chairman. Is it the intention of Government to have the office of Auditor filled this year?

The Chairman remarked: At the meeting when officials of the Council and the Commission were elected two Members were appointed. The two members elected by the Council to select and appoint an Auditor are at work and an Auditor will be appointed in the very near future.

Despatching Secretary (Barrett) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The two members of the Colonial Council appointed to take care of this matter were informed of their election and at the same time Government wrote asking that the Auditor be appointed as soon as possible. I have no information from those gentlemen, but I have been informed, in an informal way, that they have same under consideration. No appointment can be made for the present fiscal year as it will be closed in the next few hours, but the appointment will be made for the next fiscal year.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): Mr. Chairman. This matter has been running for a whole year and the expenditures have not been audited. I understand that an appropriation for an auditor was provided for last year.

The Chairman: Yes, but none was appointed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): Mr. Chairman. And yet we are asked to vote this budget. I don't think this is strictly American. It is the Government's duty to see that an auditor is appointed if the two men fail to do their duty, I hope I will see this office functioning next year.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) Mr. Chairman. The Honorable 3rd Member for Christiansted Town and myself have been notified by Government of our election to select and appoint an auditor and we have the matter under consideration. There is a very good man we thought of, but when he was approached he could not see his way to accept. We have another in view and we hope to report soon.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It strikes me and I am getting used to it by now that Government is blamed for all delinquencies of every kind and description, but in this particular case it has been well over two months ago since I pointed out the fact that an auditor had not been appointed and requested that immediate action be taken to remedy the situation and that immediately upon the appointment of the auditor he go over the accounts of the whole fiscal year. I would suggest, however that an auditor be appointed at the earliest possible moment and that one of the stipulations in offering him the position be that he go over all the accounts of the fiscal year.

The amendment handed in by 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) was again read by the Chairman and put to the vote with the result that 4 members voted for 8 against.

The Chairman remarked: The amendment is lost.

No further remarks. Items under Colonial Council and Municipal Committee were tacitly adopted.

(To be continued.)