

CHRISTIANSTED THEATRE**8.15. MONDAY EVENING 8.15.****At Bethlehem Wednesday 7.30****"THE PRISONER OF ZENDA"**

So little need be said and so much can be about the "The Prisoner of Zenda." The story is established as one of the great romantic tales of modern times—a story of the sort that can never be written again, for the war, for one thing, has stamped out the picturesque, gaily uniformed little kingdom of Europe, where Sir Anthony Hope found his setting for the love story of Rudolf Rassendyl, the young Englishman who resembled so closely the king of Ruritania, and of the Princess Flavia.

It can never be written again in print, but it can on the screen, *with all his glamour and brilliance*. "The Prisoner of Zenda" is romance embodied: love in the net of court intrigue, cries at night by the black moat about the castle, duels to the death in the dark dungeons of the citadel, the clatter of hoofs along roads, white in the moonlight. The action is breathless, the excitement fairly stabs at you, the suspense is tightened to concert pitch.

Such a story, as dramatized by Edmund Rose, given into the hands of so masterly a director as Mr. Ingram, and enacted by a cast including Alice Terry, Terry, Robert Edeson, Lewis Stone, Stuart Holmes, Barbara La Marr, Edward Connelly, Malcolm MacGregor and Lois Lee, cannot fail to be one of the most splendid and thrilling achievements of the motion pictures.

TWO PERFORMANCES**TWO PERFORMANCES****To Be Concluded Thursday.****EXTRA.****EXTRA.****"PATSY'S JIM"****2 REELS.****ADMISSION**

Reserved Seats.....25c.
Children.....15c.

General Entrance.....15c.
Children.....10c.

their butter and meat, but imports all its supplies from the United States. There is little hope of better conditions so long as the islands are administered by naval officers under a governmental system that is a combination of archaic monarchism with modern militarism.

The Virgin Islands were under a civilian government when they were peaceably transferred to the United States, and the only excuse for putting them even temporarily under naval rule was that they were taken over just as America was entering the European war, when Washington was too busy to elaborate a suitable administration. That excuse has been outlawed these four years since the signing of the armistice. The islands are still administered under the hastily drawn act of March 3, 1917, which vested virtually all power in the President, stipulating that he might assign an officer of the Army or Navy to serve as Governor. In the preoccupation of the moment President Wilson practically turned over the government to the Navy, officers of which have administered it ever since.

The most serious omission of our six years in the Virgin Islands is the failure to grant citizenship to the natives. The civil rights and political status of the inhabitants of the islands shall be deter-

mined by Congress," the treaty of session said. Congress has not yet taken action under this clause, meanwhile a native who wishes to go abroad travels with a passport describing him as "an inhabitant of the Virgin Islands entitled to the protection of the United States." If he comes to the United States to live—and there are said to be 8,000 Virgin Islanders in New York City—he finds himself literally "a man without a country". He is not an American citizen, and yet under the ruling of the State Department he is denied an alien's opportunity to become one through naturalization.

Porto Ricans thoroughly in sympathy with American sovereignty have told me that the greatest mistake of the United States in that island was its delay of nearly 20 years in granting the natives citizenship. This delay laid the foundation for an anti American sentiment by giving the natives the impression that the people of the United States were eager to add the land of Porto Rico to their national domain but unwilling to accept its inhabitants as fellow-members of their body politics. Are we to repeat in the Virgin Islands the mistake made in Porto Rico?

Interwoven with the issue of American citizenship is that of civilian Govern-

ment. When the United States took over the islands they had a civilian government, although not of a democratic or forward-looking sort. For fifty years Denmark had been negotiating for the sale of her West Indian possessions and, with this as a more or less imminent probability, had apparently thought it not worth while to extend to the islands the progressive measures which in recent times it established for its own people. The franchise was limited to male landowners whose property yielded \$69 a year or to other men whose income amounted to \$300 a year. The income restriction may seem trifling, but with the low wages paid in the Virgin Islands it prevented virtually all industrial workers from voting. Even possession of the vote carried little power—only the right to elect members of the Colonial Council. There were two Colonial Councils, one jointly for the islands of St. Thomas and St. John, the other for St. Croix. In each case the Colonial Council fixed the taxes and authorized the expenditures, with the approval of the governor. The governor's natural influence over the colonial councils was increased by his right to appoint four of the sixteen members for St. Thomas and St. John and five of the twenty men for St. Croix. All in all, an unrepresentative, unprogressive, un-American system.

America adopted that system as its own—at least what was convenient of it. Under the Congressional act it is possible, apparently, to do away with the entire Danish heritage, but the Navy officers have chosen to establish their administration upon the body—or shall one say the corpse?—of the old civilian government. Undemocratic as was this government, it was more popular than the present one. Danish civilian government was conducted in the interest of the property-holding classes, but it was tolerant and friendly towards the moneyless masses. American naval government is conducted in its own interest, and it is clannish and unsympathetic towards both the possessing classes and the dispossessed masses.

*To be continued.***TELEGRAMS.****ST. CROIX STATION.**

London, June 11th.—It was officially announced today that Sir Herbert Samuel whose guards yesterday were reported attacked by brigands near Mutanah, is safe and proceeding to Haifa.

Muelheim, June 12th.—Telegraph wires were cut during the night outside this City. French linemen were busy today repairing the damage.

Cologne, June 12th.—A bomb was exploded on the railway tracks near Weisewirth, on the main line between Cologne and Kreuzkirchen, early today. A freight train jumped the track, but no fatalities resulted.