

THE electorate of St. Croix is hereby invited to attend a meeting to be held under the auspices of the St. Croix Civil Rights Committee in the Christiansted Theatre, tomorrow (Sunday) at 2 p. m. sharp, and in Frederiksted Theatre, tomorrow (Sunday) at 5 p. m. sharp, for the purpose of taking action with regard to Senate Bill No. 2786.

May 3, 1924.

*Advertisement.*

## Mr. Hubert Alexander Phillip

please call at the Post Office, Frederiksted.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

*(Concluded from yesterday's Avis.)*

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As regards remarks made by the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town that he knows that when the resolution was presented it was not sincerely meant I wish to say that where I am concerned I always try to do what I know will be for the benefit of the greatest number of the people of this island. I have already given my opinion on this matter at the last meeting. You may take a plebiscite if you care to do so, but I do believe that there are not two persons in this island who are agreed as to what form of civil government is best suited to these islands. If there are, any I have not seen them yet. As regards American citizenship I am in favor of that and the Council has gone on record that the people want American citizenship.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The last speaker is mistaken. There are a number of persons in this island who have made up their minds as to what form of government they want. Let him go down town to talk to some of the people and he will find that the people of this island are more intelligent than the people of Porto Rico.

It must not be thought that Congress will recommend the adoption of a bill they have not given their careful study. The Honorable Gentleman who has introduced the bill is from Connecticut. He is a very able man; he is not a radical; he never would have agreed to introduce this bill unless he knew that he stood on good ground. What happened to the Jones Bill? How many times has it been amended? Many times. And by whom? By the Congress of the United States. Where is the danger in this bill? Why not let it come? What is the cause of the

fright? I have never met with one person objecting to the bill that has been given any good reason for his objection.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) said he was not in favor of the resolution introduced by the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District, and would very much like to see Government put in effect Sec. 4 of Par. 36 of the Colonial Law.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Chairman. If the Honorable Gentleman will make a motion that Government put in effect Section 4 of Par. 36 of the Colonial Law I will support it.

3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (Robt. W. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Chairman. We are coming to a close. Let it be said that we didn't have an opinion and we didn't give one, I will give some of my fears. Those that ask for Civil Government do not mean civil government, but a civilian government. They are afraid of the brass buttons and gold lace. I have never been hurt by any one of them. I fear that when we lose the naval men a low class of politician may be picked out and sent here and who may come and graft on us poor individuals in these islands. If we were sure that we would have the best men then I would say let us go ahead, but have we any guarantee that we are not going to get the civilian government people that are not desirable? Gentlemen, I am ignorant. I confess that I am ignorant as the man in the field where this matter is concerned. If there are defects in the present form of government that can be rectified. If there is a man in the government that is not suitable, he can be removed. All mistakes can be taken care of. The only reason I say let us keep what we have now and make improvements, if necessary, is because I believe we have a better class of men to select from. I am not throwing any bouquets to the Government. We have heard the Government lauded by many. The result of the recent courtmartial was read in the papers today and I am glad to see that my colleague on my left is satisfied with the manner in which the trial has been conducted and the results obtained. If they can be trusted to defend a native of this island against one of their own countrymen, they are quite capable of taking care of us down here. I don't care what government or law you bring here I will not be afraid.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I want to say that I am perfectly satisfied with the courtmartial. But where is the assurance that we are going to have men of the present type to care that what happened before may not happen again? There are instances where men have been sent out to make trouble. Who is afraid of brass buttons and gold lace. Take the record of your Police Court and compare it with that of a town

of the same size in the United States and you will see the difference. On the contrary men are brought before the court here without any charge against them. We want a government that must get its power from the people, the governed. Any man who is sincere could never object to a civil form of Government as proposed in Senate Bill No. 2786. The fear is that a colored population will come into prominence and power. Gentlemen you are not saying what is fair to the colored people of these islands. Some of them have nursed you. You should have no cause for fear.

The Chairman: It is now nearly eight o'clock. I feel persuaded that ample opportunity has been afforded for full discussion of this Resolution before the House. If no objections I will close the discussion and proceed to take the vote, first upon the amendment offered by 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) and immediately after upon the Resolution as amended or as entered.

The amendment was put to the vote, with the result that 3 members voted for; 6 against.

The Chairman remarked: The amendment is lost.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Be g) moved that the vote be taken on the resolution by roll call.

Accordingly the vote was taken by roll call with the following results:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| F. Coulter.....          | No.         |
| D. S. Armstrong.....     | No.         |
| A. J. Blackwood.....     | No.         |
| W. S. Abramson.....      | No.         |
| D. C. Canegata....       | Not voting. |
| J. Alexander.....        | No.         |
| Holger Jessen.....       | No.         |
| Halvor Berg.....         | Yes.        |
| Robt. W. Skeoch.....     | No.         |
| D. Hamilton Jackson..... | Yes.        |
| Robt. L. Merwin.....     | No.         |
| W. H. Fleming.....       | No.         |
| Jno. L. Curry.....       | No.         |
| F. Andersen....          | No.         |

There being no further business before the House the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50 p. m.

## LOCAL

We have information that janitor service has been established in the schools, three employees for this work being taken on at the Christiansted Public School, two at Frederiksted and one at the rural school at Diamond. This is a good move; one that will be appreciated by teachers and pupils alike.

The "Grebe" arrived here yesterday morning and His Excellency the Governor returned to St. Thomas by her some time before noon. The police force was inspected by the governor on going off. The "Grebe" carried a mail to St. Thomas.