

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Some discussion took place as to procedure of taking down the speeches of members, of reading the minutes before the meetings and as to publishing them. Finally after full discussion the *Chairman* remarked: As regards these minutes the Government Secretary has forwarded a memorandum of corrections which he desires to have incorporated in the records and which is as follows:

Page 2, Column 2, at end of column, should read: "as it will probably be found necessary to ask for aid in the form of money."

Page 2, Column 3, top of column, should read: "There are certain features which will not require action by Congress, such as the establishment of a Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor. In this connection, we have three separate departments in the Federal Government dealing with these three fundamentals, but here one department is sufficient."

Page 2, Column 3, second paragraph, should read: "Just one more word by way of explanation, if I may be permitted, to the remarks of the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town on the word 'Civil'. He is quite correct when he says that the word 'Civil' need not be there, because we have a civil form of Government in these islands. We had a civil form of Government under Denmark and we still have it. My conception of the term 'civil government' is a form of government in which the people have a direct voice in making the laws governing them. A naval (military) form of Government is a Government by 'd cree' under which the people have no voice in the making of laws. It cannot be denied that the people of St. Croix have a great deal to say in the making of the laws governing them, otherwise there would be no need of the Colonial Councils. The fact that a Naval Officer is appointed Governor of these islands and that Naval Officers are loaned to fill civil positions, does not alter the case in any way. I therefore submit that we have a Civil Form of Government in these islands".

3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong)

entered the meeting and took his seat as Secretary to the Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) moved that the corrections be incorporated and adopted by the Council.

The motion was adopted and it was ordered that the corrections be incorporated in the records.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*): Mr. Chairman. I have already submitted my corrections to those minutes in writing.

The *Chairman* read memorandum of corrections filed by 4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) and asked if members had any objections to the memorandum as read.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*) entered the meeting at this stage of the proceedings.

It was moved by 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) and adopted that the memorandum of corrections in question be laid on the table.

Accordingly the document was laid on the table.

With these corrections minutes of meeting of February 7 were tacitly adopted.

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held March 3rd was next considered.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (*Jessen*) took the word and said, —Mr. Chairman. At that meeting a report of the Commission administering the Public Village at King's Hill was passed around to those members present. It disappeared from the table and since then I have neither seen nor heard anything about it. No mention is made of it in the minutes of that meeting.

3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Robt. W. Skeoch*): Mr. Chairman. I acted as Chairman for that meeting, and wish to say that the report referred to was presented, but disappeared suddenly from the table and therefore no mention of it could have been made in the minutes of that meeting.

The *Chairman*: I have succeeded in finding the copy of the report which I am sure will give pleasure to the Honorable 1st Member for Christiansted Country District. The report will be published and filed in the archives of the Council.

The *Chairman* remarked: As far as I can see this is a matter that should be forwarded to the Municipal Committee for recommendation.

There being no further objection the minutes of the meeting held March 3 were tacitly adopted.

The Chairman brought up the minutes of the meeting held April 4th for adoption.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) moved and it was adopted that the adoption of the minutes for the meeting held April 4th be postponed.

Accordingly the adoption of the minutes referred to above was postponed.

Item 1.

Colonial Council Bill No. 19.

Fourth Council, First Session.

Continuation of 1st discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 19, draft of an Ordinance introduced by 2nd Member for Frederiksted Town (*Merwin*) providing for a revision of Public Holidays in St. Croix.

The *Chairman* in order to further the Ordinance introduced by him vacated the Chair and asked the Vice-Chairman to take his place.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Town (*Merwin*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. When this ordinance was introduced I was prevented by illness from doing so personally and asked the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District to introduce it. The bill was continued until this meeting on first discussion and today I have the opportunity of giving further explanation on it.

I have to say that the present Holiday Bill which was approved by Governor Oman is the first holiday bill passed in this island since the transfer. I spoke to Governor Oman then as to the advisability of having such days as Easter Monday and Whit Monday incorporated in the bill. It is to be expected that the people of these islands cannot center their minds on the American Holidays as the people on the mainland do. We eliminated at the time all the holidays that were not considered essential, such as July 25th and October 25th. The inhabitants of these islands feel that Memorial Day should be a holiday, and Lincoln's Birthday. All the States in Continental America with a few exceptions, have adopted nine holidays a year. We have in the Ordinance now in force ten holidays, with two added it will will bring the number to twelve. It is not not considered good policy to have too many holidays. In the neighbouring islands only five holidays a year are observed.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. With regard to this holiday bill several of my constituents have asked me to include Transfer Day as it is considered by the people to be a very important day, being the occasion on which the American flag unfurled for the first time on this island. In drafting the holiday bill now in force it was an oversight on the part of this Council to omit Transfer Day. I now ask that that day be included in the list of holidays.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am willing to vote for an amendment on the lines suggested by the Honorable 1st Member for Christiansted Town.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman.