

Publication.

It is hereby made known that the Horse, Carriage and Boat Tax for the second half year 1923, will be received by the Director of Police in Christiansted and Frederiksted from the 20th July to the 10th August 1923, both days included, after which the list of arrears will be transmitted to the same authority for further measures.

Each debtor of tax will be subject to a fine of Frs. 1.00 if the tax be under Frs. 25.00 and Frs. 2.00 if the tax be Frs. 25.00 or above, besides the ordinary levy expenses.

The tax-lists will be distributed by the Police and are to be filled out in conformity with the ordinance of February 22, 1853 and returned to the respective Police Offices within 48 hours in the towns and 4 days in the country.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the U. S., St. Croix, June 26, 1923.

R. E. BARRETT
Despatching Secretary.

THE Principal and Teachers of the Christiansted Junior High School request the honor of your presence at the Annual Exhibit at the School Rooms Wednesday June 27th and Thursday June 28th, 1923.

Municipal Committee out of the dilemma. I would suggest that this amount be put under miscellaneous revenues to go into the Colonial Treasury.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in reply to the Honorable Government Secretary said: If you go into the Colonial Treasury, can you change it? Take Miscellaneous Revenues Frs. 40.00 that stands correct, but in that is included the Immigration Tax.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. According to the argument of the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee it would seem as if automobiles will be subject to two taxes.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Honorable Member is in error. The Ordinance was framed in the year 1885, and in that year automobile was a thing unknown in St. Croix.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander): Then according to the argument the police have no right to collect automobile taxes.

The (Vice Chairman): Unless under the four wheel law.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I was told by a colleague of mine that the telephone system does not come under the Public Works Department. If

that is true, I would like to have an explanation as to why the Municipal Telephone System is run as a separate department and all payments are made by checks drawn on the Colonial Treasury?

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think the Honorable Member is a bit mistaken. If he reflects a little he will call to mind that the system was established as the "St. Croix Municipal Telephone", and the Company was supposed to pay interest on the loan received. He will also find on the budget interest from Municipal Telephone Fund.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Under the Judiciary Department - Salaries - I see an amendment made in the salary of the clerk to the Police Court. I wish to know whether that refers to Christiansted or Frederiksted?

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in reply to the Honorable last speaker said: That refers to Frederiksted. It was a mistake. I received information regarding this matter after the amendment was made. I understand that the work of the Court has been greatly increased and the one clerk is unable to cope with it. I have in my hand a report of the number of cases disposed of in the Police Court of both towns for the period of one year totaling 1,438. I think that an additional clerk should be provided for.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. 1 Police Sergeant could be detailed to do that work without any additional expenditure.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Vice Chairman. I want to endorse the arguments of the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee for placing the automobile tax under a special fund. I believe that was the original intention of the Council. I believe too that the Horse, Boat and Carriage Tax should also go to a special fund. The Immigration Fund was created for a special purpose, and the interest should be used in swelling the fund year after year. We have been trying for many years to get a road roller; we have one now, and now is the best time to work on the roads, and if the Planters would cooperate we can have all the roads in good order before the rainy season sets in. If our Road Tax were put into a special fund, it could be used for keeping the roads in order instead of going into the Colonial Treasury. I think our Government should consider this matter and allow the tax to go to a special fund to be called the Road Fund.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Government has listened carefully to remarks made by the Honorable 4th Appointed Member (Blackwood). But in granting Frs. 45,000 for repairing roads as recommended by the Municipal Committee, Government

feels that that amount is sufficient to keep the road in repair and to operate the Road Roller. If, however, this amount is not sufficient, Government would be willing to allow a further grant.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) inquired of the Chair whether the Road Ordinance as passed by this Council has been approved by the Governor?

Government Secretary (Gaffney) in answer to the last speaker said: The Ordinance was returned to the Chairman of the Colonial Council on 17 January, 1923, to have certain minor changes made in order to have a draft printed. At all events, if this agreement is not reached the Governor will approve the draft even though it is not what we would like it to be.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen]: Is it necessary that the draft should come up to the Council to have the changes made or the Chairman can make the changes?

Government Secretary (Gaffney): It is not necessary that it should come up to the Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I know about this matter. What happened is this: The draft was returned while the Chairman was away on his vacation, and as the Vice-Chairman did not sign the draft, he did not want to change it. The draft is there pending the decision of the Council.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The words to be changed are merely to make sense in the interest of better English, not to modify the work of the Council. Only to clarify it. Those were the only changes.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): The unfortunate thing is, the Council passed the Ordinance without knowing how the original Ordinance stood. The copy submitted to Government is the original Ordinance, but half the members had not a copy of the original ordinance at the time it was passed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) inquired of the Vice Chairman whether the corrections were made after the bill was passed by the Council.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) in answer to the last speaker said: No corrections were made.

The Vice-Chairman: The corrections requested to be made were merely for the sake of correct English.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen]: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I understand that Government has approved the Ordinance and it is law.

The Vice-Chairman: The Ordinance is not yet approved by the Governor.

Despatching Secretary (Rappolee) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I feel