

Friday Evening Concert

U. S. NAVAL BAND,
Christiansted, Virgin Islands,
Feb. 6th. 1920.

First Musician Jacob W. Paulus, *Leader*.

—: P R O G R A M :—

PART I.

March... The Rifle Regiment... J. P. Sousa
Overture... Bright and Gay... Backie-Byer
Waltz... Hawaiian Rose... F. Henri Klick-
man
Fox-Trot... Everything Is Nice That
Comes From Dixie... Clarke, Meyer,
and Ager

PART II.

March... Washington Grays... C. S. Grafulla
Overture... Poet and Peasant... F. von Suppe
Fox-Trot... Snooky Hallow... Henry Mills
One-Step... Me-OW... Mel B. Kaufman

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

We are pleased to learn of the promotion to the rank of Sergeant of Corporals Naughton and Prince of the Police Force, stationed at Richmond and Kingshill respectively.

8½ lines of rain were measured at the Fort at 8 o'clock this morning.

MR. TOTTEN'S MEETING IN THE THEATRE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT was largely attended and is conceded as having drawn the greatest assembly of respectable and refined people of this community that has graced a public meeting in years. The working classes were also represented and the conduct can be commended as superior to that of last Sunday evening. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Ashley Totten who reviewed the question of naval and civil forms of government, not championing either but emphasizing the advantages, and disadvantages of both, as he knows them to exist, and admonishing great care in making a choice. He related many interesting anecdotes in connection with the political graft under civil government in the States, and on the whole held then terest of his hearers during the course of his talk which lasted more than an hour. Mr. Morris Davis, of the Labor Union of Frederiksted, who declared himself a supporter of the present form of government, made a short address and two or three other speakers in the audience presented views and interrogatories pro and con. Mr. Samuel A. Smith asked Mr. Totten to explain fully the peculiarities characteristic of civil and naval governments but to this Mr. Totten replied that as stated on a previous occasion the Governor had told him that this was a civil government, and as he, Mr. Totten, had no knowledge of what a really naval government was, it appeared to him that those who have lived under the administration here ought best to know what

are its peculiar characteristics. Mr. Smith then inquired what government obtains in New York and upon being told "civil government", rejoined "then let's have civil government here", and quitted the hall.

After everything is said and done it is probably all a waste of time in debating and rushing into heated argument on the question of what form of government is desirable as the Congressional Commission which must be given the credit of being composed of competent judges will most likely determine for itself and make recommendations independent of the special wishes of any particular class, faction, or even the majority here. It cannot be gainsaid that the present form of government is civil, and therefore it is ridiculous to speak of wanting what is already here. With the Governor and other officials chosen from among civilians, the expenses of maintaining such a retinue will fall heavily on the islands and increased taxation must naturally follow. The Customs revenues which revert to the Colonial Treasury nowadays, will possibly be withheld; the hospitals and leper asylum will drop back into the old groove for want of means which cannot be raised here; the navy bands will presumably be disbanded and dozens of our young men again be added to the number struggling for an existence; the islands will become less self-supporting and immigration will result in gradual depopulation. And during this time who knows but that the very outrages so much presented as the bugbear of a naval government may still take place, for there is nothing to prevent this, the control of such irregularities by vesting power in the civil authorities being in the general opinion but a fantasy. Name the places on the continent where the worst conditions prevail and ask why such is possible under civil government. As a matter of fact naval government is in existence in only a few places where there is peace, and the population civilized. We have civil government now and firm the communities can maintain and develop under, and no change seems necessary or expedient.

Dear Sir:

Your opinion fully expressed in your paper of Feb. 4th., regarding the present day topic as to whether we should retain the present form of government with its naval administrators, or whether we should change to civil form, seems to be poorly supported by the community, the chief reason I am sure comes from the fact, that a few schemers toward self aggrandizement have been stuffing into the poor people, chiefly the labouring class, their views, and demanding their cooperation in voting to that effect, without showing to them the advantages already gained from the present form of government, and not allowing each mem-

ber of the community to think for himself.

We have already made a great change in our time, and today the very ones that advocated that change, are heard bewailing their loss as, "having sold their birth-right for a mess of pottage." Have those influential schemers told the people that our chief administrators are at present paid by the Navy Department, and that the salaries of the Governor, Secretary, Doctors, and their entire staff under civil government must be paid by the people? Have they been told that our native nurses are trained, uniformed, fed and paid by the Navy Department, and that the withdrawal of which means, new civil doctors to practice, at the expense of the people, with no free operations or consultations as are afforded the poor at the dispensary of the hospital? also that over forty native young men that are at present enlisted as bandsmen in the U. S. Navy and representing the support of over forty families will with the incoming of a civil government be shifted to some other station, and, all things considered would mean less money circulated in our island? Have they been told that these islands are not self-supporting and, to pay the salaries of the men in office heretofore mentioned and support the hospitals would mean higher taxations under civil administration? And that the schemes of sanitation such as the sewer system and complete irrigation as planned for these islands by the Naval Government will be abolished or paid for by the people under a Civil Government, and can they pay for them? Have they forgotten that the Naval Government only a few short months ago at their own expense caused to be inoculated thousands of natives against that scourge of influenza there by saving many lives in our community, and that they are willing to do still more good if they are given the chance?

Have they been told that our present Governor whose policy is "fair play to all" and who is classed among the best Governors of the Virgin Islands, is a Naval Admiral, and that the Naval Department has many more such capable men at the back of them? If the people have not been told these things let the leaders who are "educating the masses" tell them, and also point out to them the fact that the Naval Government took over these islands during the great war, and judging from the good accomplished at such a perilous time, even to the sending of their NAVAL crafts across the ocean when Civil ones were afraid to travel, bringing us mail, that privilege of communication with our dear ones in distant lands. Let us then show our appreciation by allowing them a chance during a few years of peace, and I am sure they will prove to us all, that a better form of Government is unobtainable. —Communicated.