

St. Croix Avis

76TH YEAR

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St. Thomas News.

As scheduled, the farewell meeting at the Parish Hall last evening in honor of the resigned Rector of "All Saints," the Rev. Fr. Pilgrim, came off, and was a very touching, yet nevertheless interesting, affair.

The meeting was called for 8 p. m.; yet, long before the hour, people were flocking thitherwards, in order to secure seats.

Shortly before the time appointed for the opening of the ceremonies, the Revd. gentleman, preceded by Fr. Griffiths, entered the Hall, and after a few preliminary remarks by the Rev. Fr. Griffiths, the meeting was opened.

Present, apart from the two Rectors, were Vestrymen Messrs. Carl Anduze, Jno. J. Audain, W. McIntosh and Capt. W. Simmons. Absent therefrom were Messrs. D. H. Seale and W. Watson, Rector's and People's Wardens respectively, and Col. Robert Stride, Secretary, all of whom were ill. Letters to that effect were sent by the first two, regretting the circumstances of their inability to attend; while Mrs. Stride, at the instance of the Rev. Fr. Griffiths made a verbal excuse for the Colonel's absence. Thus was the ball set rolling. Present also was a large number of the members of the congregation, friends and adherents of the retiring Rector.

Expressing himself of the belief that it was the privilege and duty of the members of the Vestry to say "something," Rev. Griffiths called upon those present to do so.

First in line came Mr. McIntosh, who spoke briefly, followed in turn by Messrs. John Audain and Anduze. Desiring then that the congregation express their sentiments relative to the auspicious occasion in hand, he, after a few remarks, called upon Mr. Louis Audain, who responding readily, ascended the platform, and made the speech of the evening, showing clearly and distinctly the difficult and delicate task to be performed that had fallen to the lot of the retiring Rector, and at a time when conditions, social as well as economical, were far from normal. He paid in his address a touching tribute to the memory of the late and deeply revered Archdeacon Hutson, and as a testimony of their gratitude and respect to the deceased, called upon the audience to rise.

Touching upon Church events both past and present, he criticized with some asperity the spirit of restlessness which had lately entered the Church, due primarily to the misunderstandings and false impressions created "outside," by a few insurgent members, many of them ignorant and malicious. He, in fact, paid a befitting tribute to the work done by Rev. Pilgrim, and called upon the audience to rise as a token of recognition of said work accomplished, a request that was heartily endorsed and granted.

Other members were then called upon—Mrs. Robt. Stride, Mrs. Manecke, and Mrs. Boreham, each of whom, in a short speech, paid tribute to the Revd. gentleman. Mr. Speed and Miss Grigg, old veterans of the Church, declined the invitation to speak.

Rev. Griffiths, taking the stand, spoke in his usually fluent and eloquent manner touching the matter in hand, paying high tribute to the work done by Rev. Pilgrim.

An address, a copy of which was read was then presented by Captain W. Simmons, Vestryman, acting in the place of the absent Mr. Seale; likewise a purse containing about \$300.

Rev. Pilgrim visibly affected by these manifestations of sympathy and goodwill, then rose, and spoke accordingly. True to the core, even at the last moment he reiterated his determination to do nothing but good, and voiced his contempt for all cowards. With animosity against none, with good will for all, he would always remember the people here, among whom he had many

many friends, from whom it was hard to part, etc. etc. It was, indeed, touching. By this time, many were the eyes that were dimmed with tears.

After "three cheers" called for by Rev. Griffiths for Rev. Pilgrim, the latter retaliated by returning the compliment. It was now 9.15 p. m. Requested then to give the Benediction, and the audience standing, the retiring Rector in very solemn manner, spoke the words that give rest and balm to so many sad and weary souls. The meeting over, many were the "farewells" extended the Revd. gentleman. Thus, has passed for ever from the life of the congregation of "All Saints," the last link that bound us to a happy, peaceful, and loving past.—St. Thomas Mail Notes, Jan. 14th.

Executive Order No. 18.

THE Government having been advised that the Pink-Bollworm—a pest for cotton—has made its appearance in St. Kitts and Montserrat, and that the Boll Weevil has made its appearance in the island of Porto Rico, and in order to better protect the cane and cotton industries, it is directed that no person or corporation shall be allowed to import into the island of St. Croix by mail, freight, or by any other means, any cotton, seed, seed cotton, cotton lint, cotton plants, sugar cane cuttings, sugar cane plants, or pieces of sugar cane, unless through the medium of, and with the consent of, the Agronomist in charge of the Agricultural Experiment Station in St. Croix. Also, the baggage of all passengers to the island of St. Croix shall be searched by the Customs Officials for these articles and if any shall be found they shall be forthwith destroyed by fire.

It is further directed that the Agronomist in charge of the Agricultural Experiment Station or any official of the Agricultural Experiment Station appointed by him, shall have free access to all sugar cane or cotton fields on the island of St. Croix, for the purpose of examining such fields for pests.

Witness my Hand and Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States this 11th day of January, 1921.

J. W. OMAM,
Governor.