

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Item 2.

Colonial Council Bill No. 12.

Third Council, First Session.

Continuation of 3rd discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 12, Draft of an Ordinance introduced by Government providing for the assessment, levy, and collection of taxes for the Municipality of St. Croix.

The *Vice Chairman* remarked: This is a very old ordinance. I won't say an old friend, for it is not. It has been on the calendar for nearly two years; it was sent to a Committee of the whole Council and by that Committee was sent to a Committee of 5 members. A report was received, printed and circulated to Members. In the meeting of December 17 it came up on 3rd discussion and the Government Secretary asked that it be continued so as to give Government time for consideration before final action is taken on it.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I beg to draw attention to an omission—Colonial Council Bill No. 8 creating a commission to compile and revise the Code of General and Special Laws for the Municipality of St. Croix is not on the Order of the day.

The *Vice-Chairman* in reply to the last speaker said,—The Clerk informs me that this question is taken up with the Chairman and was advised that bills before a committee are not entered on the order of the day until the committee sends in its report.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): The procedure is wrong. Bills pending before a committee always come forward on the order of the day and if it is to go over it goes, but it must be put on the order of the day.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Honorable Member is wrong. My experience has been that whenever a bill goes to a committee it is not put on the order of the day until the committee reports.

The *Vice Chairman*: That's exactly the ruling of the Chairman of the Council.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*): If the Chairman so rules I wish to file an objection.

Government Secretary (*Zane*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The real and personal property tax ordinance which, as the Vice-Chairman has stated, has been so long before the Colonial Council is now on 3rd discussion and therefore subject to amendment only by Govern-

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

We now pass upon our left a large imposing building of three stories which is the public school, a school efficiently conducted and one that would be a credit to a town twice the size of Christiansted upon the mainland; and on our right we see the stately building, the Danish Lutheran Church, dating from 1830 and built during the reign of King Christian VI. of Denmark and which was the State Church of the Danish Government who during that time had entered upon the annual budget of the Colony the salary of the Minister and other general necessary expenses for its upkeep.

The church contains some interesting mural tablets and a very large pew for the use of the Governor and his family when he attends services in the church; the expenses of maintaining the church however were transferred as a charge on the colonial budget to the Danish State Government upon the revision of the Colonial Law in 1907.

Before the transfer the Danish Government did not recognize any other religious sect than the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Moravian except for some years previous to the transfer they began to admit other forms of religious meetings, but did not allow their ministers full functions of the recognized clergy; but since the United States sovereignty all have been granted full license and today we have besides the four old established Churches the Seventh Day Adventist, the Christian Mission, African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Burning Bush Society and last but not least the ever irrepressible Salvation Army. The inhabitants of St. Croix are a God fearing people and with few exceptions are attached to one of these religious bodies.

We have now, so to speak, arrived at our journey's end as the next building is the stately Government House, begun in the middle of the eighteenth century, largely rebuilt and increased in size in 1774 and again added to in 1830 when the northeastern entrance was built with its commanding steps and entrance gates to provide an easy access into the ball room as was previously necessary. The building is built of brick and stone of three stories in height and a length of about 200 feet long and wide about 50 feet. The building was built principally as the Governor's residence who occupied the second and third floors while the ground floor was used as offices of the various departments of the government except the southwest corner which was the entrance to the residential portion. The building is now occupied by various departmental activities of the Municipal Government in the southern portion while the northern portion is used by the Despatching Secretary and offices immediately under his charge as well as the Governor's Office when upon the island. The ball room on the second floor (north) is now the Council Chamber and as such has been used by the legislative body since its inception; over this large hall is a suite of rooms now used by the Governor as living quarters when in residence, as the Danish Governor's principal residence is now used by the District Court and by the office of the Government Attorney, while the entrance through which callers upon the Governor in the olden days passed to be received is now the office of the District Judge.

Our automobiles stopped at the entrance gate at the end of the building and our guests mounted the steps which was constructed as already mentioned in 1830 and entered the Council Chamber first through an ante-room in which is seen a very large oval mahogany table and at which Secretary of State Seward on 18 of November, 1867 when the island was visited by an earthquake and tidal wave, the principal casualty being the casting ashore of the U. S. S. "Monongehela" at Frederiksted. Damage from the earthquake in the island was inconsiderable and no loss of life occurred; such a phenomenon has not been experienced since then. Mr. Seward at the time was negotiating for the transfer of the islands of St. Thomas and St. John to the United States; St. Croix was not included in the deal as the French Government by a clause of the Treaty of sale in 1733 had the option of repurchase and filed objection with Denmark. At the time of the negotiation the French Government was not friendly disposed toward the United States owing to their attitude toward Mexico and Emperor Maximilian who gave great offence to France at that period as the United States formally opposed the reestablishment of the monopoly system of Government upon the Western Hemisphere.

Entering from that room into the Council Chamber we view a hall 90 feet long by 21 feet wide with lobbies the length of the room on either side exits from which into the lobby being 14 doors on either side, the panels between which were formerly filled with tall mirrors with bright gilt frames and from the ceiling hung five large crystal chandeliers with many glass shades each supplied with large wax candles. But the mirrors and chandeliers by the Government Secretary of the Danish Government who has been made Consul General of Denmark after the transfer and with power to carry out upon Denmark's behalf that part of the Treaty which reads: