

ember 1867 for the purchase of St. Thomas and St. John, for the Capital of the Danish West Indies was Christiansted at that time.

I have written a small pamphlet giving a brief history of this island a copy of which will be handed to each of you upon your arrival in Frederiksted.

The Secretary then read letters from Member (Fleming) and Member (M. M. Skeoch) of Frederiksted Jurisdiction announcing with regret their inability to attend this meeting. Also a letter from 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) making a most courteous offer to forward photographic views of the Island of which he has an extensive collection to any of our guests present who would be so kind as to furnish him with their addresses, and which could be used by them in their various newspapers.

Before closing I wish to mention that two of our members have not been able to attend this meeting on account of the death of the wife of a very worthy Planter of this island, a lady of exceptional ability and a great loss to the Island.

In this room the mother of Alexander Hamilton met Mr. Levine who became engaged to her much against her will. I mention this only as a historical event.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.55 p. m.

## LOCAL

The s. s. "Catherine" is due today on schedule time, having 65 tons cargo for this island.

Among the passengers to arrive on the S. S. Catherine today are Revd. John R. Mayhew, Field Superintendent of the Bible Home and Foreign Missionary Society, and Rev. & Mrs. O. L. King, Superintendent of the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

## THE CAUSES OF DROUGHT

BY C. S. MAYHEW.

"Is there not a cause?"—1 Samuel 17:29.

In our first message about four weeks ago we touched upon the great need of water in this island. At that time every assurance was given us that this long felt need was about to be met by the construction of a dam for the collection of water from the hills around. Since then we've been given greater assurances by the coming of two experts who will tackle this great problem. The results, either for weal or woe to this island we anxiously await. But after all is said and done we must realize that there is an Almighty arm that directs this universe and knows when to send the rain and when to withhold it.

By going back to the old Book we will

discover the underlying causes of drought. Drought was one of the methods of judgment God imposed on the people of the Old Testament. In the days of Ahab we find the prophet Elijah predicting *three years' drought*. Now what was the cause of this? Ahab married a wicked woman and was led by her to worship idols (1 Kings 18:31-33). It was then that Elijah told Ahab "*As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*" And what God told Ahab surely came to pass. But this did not seem to bring Ahab to his knees before God for we find him trying to lay the blame on Elijah and in 1 Kings 18:17 Ahab is asking Elijah "*Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*" Elijah then gave him the truth right from the shoulder (1 Kings 18:18) showing him where the cause of the whole thing was and who were to be blamed for the drought. The moment Elijah was given the chance to destroy Baal, and his priests and worshippers, and God was honoured in Israel, he prayed that rain would come and it did.

This is just one instance but it will prove that God has much to do with the droughts of this day. The hearts of men are just the same as they were in the days of Ahab and while we cannot find a Baal or Diana yet men are as idolatrous as they were in the past. They pretend to worship God but God says "*this people draweth nigh to me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.*" In the New Testament we find the the new idols which the people of this day worship. 2 Timothy 3:2-6 describe some of these. (Please turn to it and read for yourself). Again we find that the blame is laid on the Church and the leaders as in the days of Ahab but what Elijah told Ahab we must reiterate in your ears (1 Kings 18:18).

If men would repent of their sins and turn to God with all their hearts I believe these droughts would be averted. I may say that another thing which causes droughts is when we rob God of His portion of all we possess. In Malachi 3:7-10 we find proof of this. The tithing of all we possess belongs to the Lord and when we withhold this we are also withholding from ourselves many blessings which God wishes to bestow upon us. Oh that men would realize these solemn facts and put away forever every sin from their lives, then would we have no lack and our little island would truly become even more prosperous than in days of long ago.

In closing let me give God the glory for preserving the life of Elijah all through this severe drought which we have related above. And we can also testify of God's wonderful preservation and care to His true children in these days of depression, persecution and oppression. Amen.

## TELEGRAMS.

### ST. CROIX STATION.

Ottawa, Feb. 26th—The abandonment by the British Government of the idea of creating an Imperial Economic Committee will be noted with satisfaction in Government circles here. The resolution to create the committee was passed at the recent Imperial Conference in London, with Canada alone officially dissenting. Some objections were raised by delegates from South Africa and India and there was doubt if they would nominate representatives to the committee, except on a few special subjects. The Dominions were to be represented on the committee by two members, but it was understood that Canada in view of the Canadian opposition to the committee, would not nominate representatives.

London, Feb. 27th—The Government is considering a scheme to advance large credits and issue a loan to Russia for reconstruction work there, according to the newspapers. An indispensable condition is that all the materials must be bought in Great Britain, to help relieve the unemployment.

Manchester, Feb. 27th—A lockout of 150,000 cotton operatives is threatened almost immediately, eventually affecting if it materialises 500,000 workers. The decision to take the step was reached yesterday by the Master Cotton Spinners Federation, to enforce the calling off of a strike now in progress in a comparatively small mill at Royton. A few weeks ago an extra machine for breaking up raw cotton was introduced into the mill. Two women operatives claimed this imposed increased work on them and demanded an increased wage. Efforts to arrange a settlement of their claim led to the strike. The employers yesterday decided to give the operatives one week more in which to resume work, failing which they say they will close all the mills governed by the federation and keep them idle until the workers agree to return.

Toronto, Feb. 26th.—Records were broken in a financial way by the Canadian National Exhibition in 1923. The revenue totalled \$1,056,905.73. The disbursements were \$89,571.99 leaving a surplus of \$247,393.74.

Paris, Feb. 27th.—A vaccine against diphtheria, invented by Drs. Renault and Levy makes epidemics of that disease practically impossible, according to the results of their experiments communicated to the Academy of Medicine. The vaccine, which is called Plus A and is injected subcutaneously is hyper neutralised and causes little inconvenience. 300 children treated with it were found to be completely immunized after three injections, it is said. The inventors believe even better results can be attained and are continuing their experiments, but the academicians declare the vaccine a great improvement over the anti-toxin treatment.