The death in Frederiksted yesterday is announced of Miss Elizabeth Heathley, native, and an old and respected resident of that town.

## Open Letter to the Edito. "St. Croix Avis"

In "St. Croix Avis" for Monday 10th inst., you stated· "For if milk was worth 16 cents a quart, when the rate of exchange was 26%, it is an arithmetical conclusion, that it is worth only twelve and twelve thirteenth, say 13 cents, now the exchange is 21%." –

Now I am very much interested in milk prices and therefore kindly ask you to publish, what milk will be worth, when we attain our old rate, 5% exchange; – but "arithmetical", please!

Respectfully,
Yours truly.
C. LAWAETZ.

"Little La Grange", May 11th, 1920.
—*West End News, May 12th.*

## Reply to Mr. C. Lawaetz, Little La Grange.

On the basis of the calculation by which the price of milk is shown to be 13 cents a quart, with an exchange rate of 21%, it may safely be stated that the price should sink to three and one thirteenth cents, with an exchange of 5%. Lest it be overlooked, the fact should be borne in mind that it was the deliverers who urged the regulation of the milk price according to that paid in U. S. currency for cattle, and if such a method was approved when it worked to the benefit of the deliverer it seems only equitable that it should remain in force even though its application may redound to the advantage of the consumer. Moreover, it is an indisputable point of reasoning that if the currency in which the price of goods is quoted assumes a higher value, prices should be changed accordingly. If there is anything not quite clear in what has been advanced in this connection the editor will be pleased to furnish additional explanation where necessary.

EDITOR "ST. CROIX AVIS".

## Some Hints For Improving The Dairy Industry.

The present time seems opportune for some suggestions to Dairymen, for improving the Dairy industry and placing it on a more profitable basis. Unless the profits from dairying are good, it is likely that the industry will receive little interest. Increasing the price of milk is one way of making the industry more profitable, but it is not the best way, though it may be necessary as a temporary expedient. The best way to make the industry more profitable, is by employing more scientific methods of production.

In the first place it is plain that the cows of the island, are not producing enough milk. There are two ways of increasing the milk production. (1) by better feeding of the animals (2) by better breeding of the animals. The latter method is the most economical and will be considered first. As far as I can gather the evidence from the Dairy men, an average cow in this island gives only 600 to 700 lbs. of milk per year, besides raising a calf worth $20.00 to $30.00. Probably the calf is allowed to get two-thirds of the milk and the dairyman takes one-third. Assuming this to be the case, an average cow here gives 1,800 to 2,100 lbs. of milk yearly when fed on grass and water only. A really good cow ought to produce some 4,000 – 5,000 lbs. of milk on the same feed. Very highly bred cows in the United States, produce 20,000 lbs. or more of milk yearly, but of course such milk yields are obtained by special feeding.

The system which ought to be adopted in order to improve the breed for milking purposes, is briefly as follows:

1. Separate the herd into 2 parts, (1) *A Dairy Herd* composed of a few cows, say 10 or 20% of the flock—the very best cows of the herd must of course be chosen. (2) A *Meat Herd* composed of the balance. The *Meat Herd* should be kept in pasture, on the poorest land of the Estate, and no milk taken from them. The ordinary flock bull of the Estate should be kept with this herd. If it is desired eventually to have only a milk herd, these cattle can be gradually butchered off, as the milk flock increases in numbers.

Procure a Bull of first class pedigree, of a first class milking strain, say Holstein, Guernsey or Ayrshire, and keep him with the selected cows. When the calves of the best cows reach maturity, and give birth to the first calf, separate the calf from the mother. Suckle the calf by hand with whole milk and then skim milk. Weigh the milk from each cow separately every day, and keep a record of the amount for the *whole period of lactation.* Keep the cows with the best milking record, and the calves of these cows, for breeding with the pedigree Bull. In a few years the milk production per cow, by this means, can readily be doubled or trebled. These facts are probably well known to most of the Dairymen here, but they do not get busy making use of them—now is the time to start when there is a good price for milk and a scarcity of production, all over the world. A start in this direction has been made in St. Thomas, by a prominent Dairyman there—now is the time for St. Croix, to show herself not behind the Sister Island in enterprise

With regard to the second method of improving the milk yield of cattle here, viz. by better feeding, I would offer the following suggestions.

1. Do not sell any cotton seed away from the Island, have it crushed and feed it to your dairy stock. If you can persuade your Cotton Ginner to import a delinting and seed crushing machine, you can then feed the cotton seed cake to your stock, and it will be better for them than the whole seed. One or two pounds of cotton seed per day per cow, will greatly help the milk flow.

2. Grow a crop of corn, and make the grain into meal, feeding about 2 lbs. of meal per day per cow. The Agricultural Experiment Station has produced a variety of corn which gives large yields of grain, and a small quantity of this seed can be obtained free by anyone applying for it. The seed should be sown in rows 3½ ft. apart, and spaced 1ft. apart in the rows.

Grow Velvet Beans between the corn, and feed the crushed beans to your cows. One pound of beans per day per cow will be sufficient. Velvet Beans bear prolifically here and cost little to grow. Besides producing a crop of beans, the vines make an excellent fertiliser for the soil and by their luxuriant growth, keep down all weeds. A crop of velvet beans matures in about 4 to 5 months. They should be planted between the corn stalks, and preferably 1 or 2 weeks later than the corn.

4. Encourage the growth of blue-wis among your Guinea Grass, by collecting and scattering the seeds of this valuable leguminous plant in your pastures.

5. Grow a few acres of Elephant Grass on some of your best and flattest land. The ground should be prepared thoroughly for this grass by ploughing and harrowing. The grass is best planted in rows 3 to 3½ft. apart, the cuttings of grass being spaced 2½ to 3ft apart in the rows. Elephant Grass grows quicker and makes more fodder per acre here, than any other grass, and further it makes good growth even in dry weather. It has Guinea Grass thoroughly beaten in this respect. Until the grass is stablished it should be kept clean by weeding. Cuttings of this grass can be obtained by anybody on application to the Experiment Station.

6. It is a good plan to give cows at all times access to salt. Keep blocks of rock salt in places where the cows can readily get to lick them.

7. Erect a Silo on your Estate, in which you can store green fodder during the wet season and feed it to your stock in the dry weather. In this way you can be quite independent of the drought, and have as good a milk supply in the dry as in the wet weather. For full instruction as to how to erect and fill a silo, apply at the Experiment Station.

LONGFIELD SMITH.