

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. There seems to be some misunderstanding of the attitude of my motives and remarks. I want to explain that I am not the drafter of the School Law passed by this Council. I had nothing to do with the drafting of the Law. I am frank to admit that I may have been as negligent in not going over it carefully when it was placed before us, yet I do not know that the Ordinance is so repulsive as to require such changes as proposed in the amendment.

The point that I am trying to make clear is this, this particular Ordinance has passed this Council, and has been in existence for a very short time; apparently there are questions that are involved, and which requires deep legal consideration; therefore I am advocating that we give the matter very deep consideration.

I do not say that there has not been cause for the amendment, there may be, but if there is, the facts and the details and the circumstances have not been presented to this Council; therefore, before this Council takes any final action, it should appoint a committee to hear the complaints and the merits of the complaints can be passed upon.

I say that fourteen of us here this afternoon should not decide without hearing the evidence on both sides. I again propose a committee of five members to consider the amendment, and let those Teachers and parents appear before the committee, let us give the Directors and corps of Teachers under them a chance to be heard and after hearing both sides of the case, if we find that the children are being deprived of their educational liberty, then, we will so decide. But this afternoon we have no evidence before us, and I don't believe a member of this Council here this afternoon can truthfully give an opinion on the matter. I again propose a committee of five members to receive and consider the amendment.

5th Appointed Member (Lunney) remarked: I agree with 2nd Appointed Member (Noll). I have acted on the School Board under the former Government for many years, and I find that the question raised by the Honorable 1st Member for Christiansted Country District is very important.

I will give one reason why the then School Director, a learned man, had for giving us the School Ordinance which we had here before, it is because he did not want to give the impression that the private

Teachers had not the standard of education to bring up the children as the High School did. The question today is one that the Government should decide and I am willing to leave the matter in the hands of the Government to decide.

Formerly it used to be the cry that there was no way or means to give the children a higher education, and therefore they had to go to foreign countries and when they came back they brought back foreign ideas with them. The Government of the United States is very careful where the education of the young people is concerned, and is always willing to give the good education so as to make good citizens of them. We should be very careful with this education question, and as the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member has said we must go into this matter very carefully so that justice should be done to all concerned.

I agree with 2nd Appointed Member (Noll) that a committee be appointed to receive and report on the amendment which is before us today.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I have no objection to a committee being appointed. I think it is waste of time to talk about appointing a committee. I know a matter of this kind must go to a committee.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think the amendment the 1st Member for Christiansted Country District has brought in is reasonable. We can always blame ourselves for passing the laws in a hurry, but the nine members who sat on the committee should be blamed more than the nine who did not. All a man can do is, if he finds that he makes a mistake by passing a law that is not in order, is to bring in an amendment. There are many matters concerning the Schools that do not appeal to me, and on which I am not prepared to speak, but the word discipline should be written by the children in the Schools five hundred times. They lack discipline.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I have been listening very carefully to the remarks of the last Speakers. I am one of the nine members who went through the laws, and at that time we had both the proponent of the Amendment and 2nd Appointed Member [Noll], both legal men, as advisers. I think it is right that a committee be appointed to receive and report on the amendment before final action is taken upon it.

I am glad to hear 1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] say that American principles should follow the Flag. "Old Glory" represents a free People whose motto is peace and prosperity at home, with cordial foreign relations with honor to the flag. I too would be glad to see honest American principles displayed here, not only in the

Educational Department, but in every department of our every day life.

We have too many conflicting ideas, and there are too many personalities among us, we should all pull together; those who understand law should lead us in all questions of a legal nature under discussion, rather than accuse each other of a false interpretation of the law. This discussion shows that even legally trained minds can get hot in the collar when under discussion, so there is some excuse for the rest of us who are not blessed with a legal training.

When the laws were in committee we depended on Lawyer Stakemann who has been practicing law here for nearly forty years, also Judge Noll who knows American Law. I myself know only enough about law to try and live within the limits of the law. While the Code of Laws were under discussion by the Committee, I read them carefully, but do not feel that I am yet qualified to give a legal opinion. The laws have been passed over in such a short space of time that we had no time to discover these little matters. The next thing is, when an old law is repealed and a new law takes its place, it must be taken into consideration that the people will find themselves working under laws that they know nothing about, and will have to get accustomed to it.

The Danish system of Education was very good; we have as well educated people here as we have in many places of an equal population in the United States; Mr. Stridiron in the Book-keeping Office is an example; therefore I do not think it right to turn down the Danish System of Education in this island. There were many respectable women here, who, through reverse circumstances were obliged to teach for a living; they kept good schools and the children improved wonderfully; therefore I cannot see any reason why restriction should be put on such class of people, so long as their teaching is done under the supervision of the School Director. I believe if this matter goes before a committee it would be so sifted that it will work for the benefit of the Government and the people.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The former officials of the Schools learned how to treat the people, they knew how to take them leniently, and they all worked in harmony. A man cannot come and say "this is the law and it must be obeyed." That will not work, why do it? Why not try to make the people here feel that they are glad to be under the United States Government? We all voted to go under the United States Government. There are some officials here who are using iron hands like the Kaiser. We are free here, and free as any other people in any other country, America and Europe included. Let us love the constitution and live up