

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.)

And when by his interpretation he stripped the Government House of all the furniture which in the opinion of many including the majority of his countrymen here was not the intent of the Treaty, The Colonial Council succeeded in acquiring the furniture used by it in the Hall for a very moderate consideration with all courtesy instead of being sent to the auction block, but the mirrors, chandeliers and portraits of the King were taken away and packed up for transport to Denmark. The portrait of the King was definitely within the wording of the Treaty, but the mirrors and chandeliers were held not to be. However where the mirrors were are now portraits of the Presidents of the United States and also some of the famous men of its history including Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson, and in place of the antique chandeliers hang modern electric light fixtures.

The Hall is provided with two long tables on either side toward the southern end and which are provided seats for the members of the Council. These are faced across the Hall by a rostrum provided with four desks with chairs accommodating the Chairman and Secretary of the Council and for the Governor and his Secretary when attending meetings of the Council.

At the northern end of the Hall hangs a small oil portrait of Alexander Hamilton presented in 1920 by his great grandson Mr. William Pierson Hamilton of New York, to the island and decided by Governor Owman that it should be hung in the Council Chamber. At the south end of the room hangs a large portrait of President Harding flanked on either side by small pictures of Lincoln and Washington, the former was the President when these pictures were hung in 1921.

This Hall was used originally only as a ball room by the Governor when large balls were frequently held or upon levees held each year by the Governor upon the King's Birthday. The Governor in those days had an annual allowance of \$2,500 as table money for entertainment and was expected to spend it and rather more.

The Colonial Council held its first meeting in this Hall according to Council Records which reads as follows:

"On Friday the 8th October 1852, 11 o'clock, the first Colonial Council for the Danish Westindia Possessions, partly elected by the inhabitants, partly named by the Governor in behalf of His Majesty the King, assembled for a first meeting in the great Hall of Government House.

"The Governor dwelt in a speech of some length on the great importance of the task imposed on the Council, and the value of this royal gift for the future welfare and development of the Colonies."

Thus opened the first meeting of the Colonial Council and elected as Chairman Counsellor Kunzen, Vice-Chairman Counsellor Friderichsen, and Secretary J. H. Burt who was owner of Estate "St. John" at the time and as well attorney of several estates on the island belonging to absentee owners.

As our guests entered the Council Chamber about 4 30 p. m. on Thursday, February 21 they met the Colonial Council of St. Croix in session assembled, upon the rostrum sat the Chairman and Secretary of the Council, His Excellency the Governor, Captain Williams, Admiral Coontz and Despatching Secretary (Barrett).

The Chairman in opening the meeting requested the Chaplain, Rev. Father Clair to offer prayers as customary at the opening of all meetings of the Council and after which the Chairman announced that as the time was most limited owing to the short time at the disposal of our guests the speakers were limited to the Chairman of the Council, His Excellency Governor Philip Williams, D. C. Canegata, (Chairman of the Municipal Committee), Admiral Coontz and on behalf of the representative of the Press Hon. Pleasant Stovell who each made addresses after which the meeting was adjourned and our guests left to see as much as they could of the historical town of Christiansted within the short time at their disposal. As they left the Council Chamber and went down the broad steps the town photographer, Mr. Anselmo Fabio, was prepared to take a photograph of the gathering who agreeably halted a moment upon the north side of the steps for the purpose after which they left the precincts of our really historical building vying with almost any on the Mainland as to a antiquity as a brilliant action of past days.

(To be continued.)

WEST END MOVIES

Sunday night 8.15

PRISCILLA DEAN

IN

The Flame of Life

Admission 5 and 10 cts.

THE services in the Lutheran churches Sunday will be held at the usual hours morning and evening. The evening service in West End will be a Union service in the Moravian church.

We trust these services will be of value to those who are searching the deepest and highest things in life. Your prayers and effort are earnestly called for in these serious days.

A cordial invitation extended to the services.

J. P. CHRISTENSEN.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

The Vice-Chairman: Should we refuse to vote on Government's amendment?

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I don't believe the amendment is in order. If you take the vote on it you will be establishing a very dangerous precedent. You cannot amend by a proposal which is exactly the negative of the main question.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The only idea of Government for introducing this amendment is to give the Council an opportunity to vote for the original draft of ordinance introduced by Government.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Anderson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I thought it would be a help to Government if we vote for the Committee Report and vote down the original draft. Government and its Aides and all the members of this Council know that this tax law is not suitable to St. Croix.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I don't think it is proper for a member to relate to other members his views as to what Government may think regarding a mea-