

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 1919.

No. 255.

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SPONGES FROM THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Mr. A. E. Collens, acting Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, has recently forwarded an interesting report on his visit to Tortola and other Virgin Islands during last June. In this report reference is made to the occurrence locally of marketable sponges.

Several types have been found growing in shallow water, but only one, the reef sponge, is regarded as being of any value. Dredging in deep water, however, might reveal the occurrence of the Velvet sponge. The reef sponge occurs in isolated pieces attached to coral, etc., and can always be recognized by the glossy, velvety, black and smooth skin, somewhat cone-shaped with large osculi.

In March 1918, a Greek exploiter searched around the shores of Peter Island and Norman Island, and his highest daily haul was between 300 and 400 sponges, according to the report under notice. These were hooked up or grained in shallow water and dived for in the deeper parts. Specimens have been secured, and it is hoped these will be forwarded for commercial valuation at the time of their collection the Greek exploiter was giving 3 cents a sponge—an absurdly low figure if the sponges are of any real commercial value.

There is but little doubt that the cultivation of sponges, by means of cuttings attached to cement discs, could be carried on successfully in certain areas of shallow water in the Virgin Islands. It has been stated officially that the

whole question of sponge production in the West Indies will shortly receive expert attention, in which case consideration will no doubt be given at an early date to the matter in the Virgin Islands. —The Agricultural News, October 4th.

Resolution.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council for St. Croix in Session assembled:

The Governor is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of Fres. 25,000 from the Reserve Fund, to be deposited in the Colonial Treasury, and to be applied in accordance with the terms of Colonial Council Bill No. 12, 2nd Session 1919-1920.

That the loan thus authorized is to be secured by a mortgage bond to bear no interest.

That the building acquired in accordance with the terms of Colonial Council Bill No. 12, 2nd Session 1919-1920 is to be rented for the sum of Fres. 125 per month, such rentals to be deposited in a redemption Fund to be known as the "Frederiksted High School Redemption Fund", there to remain so deposited until such deposits equal the amount of the mortgage bond, when the total amount shall be deposited in the Colonial Treasury and applied in satisfying the mortgage held in the Reserve Fund.

Thus duly passed at the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council held Monday, October 20, 1919.

Christiansted, St. Croix, October 22, 1919.

D. C. CANEGATA, ROBT. L. MERMIN,
Secretary. Chairman.

The above Resolution is hereby sanctioned and approved.

Witness my Hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States at St. Thomas the 27th day of October, in the year 1919.

(SEAL)

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

FOR SALE

White Lime delivered in town from Estate Southgate Farm at 60 cents pr. barrel.

CATHRINE LUDVIG

Additional Moneybill

To the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.

To Item XI. MISCELLANEOUS ADD:

8. For the purchase of the building known as the Frederiksted High School, No. 30, 30a, 30c, and 31 Strand Street, Frederiksted..... Fres. 25,000.

Thus duly passed at the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council held Monday, Oct. 20, 1919.

Christiansted, St. Croix, October 22, 1919.

D. C. CANEGATA ROBT. MERWIN
Secretary. Chairman.

The above Additional Moneybill is hereby sanctioned and approved.

Witness my Hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States at St. Thomas, the 27th day of October, in the year 1919.

(SEAL)

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

October 28, 1919.

Executive Order No. 8.

PURSUANT to authority vested in me by Section 2 of an Ordinance "Creating a Commission to Regulate and Control the Prices of Foodstuffs in the Municipality of St. Croix, and for other Purposes, approved October 27, 1919, the following residents of St. Croix are hereby appointed, respectively, as Chairman and Members of the Food Commission of St. Croix" therein created:

HON. D. NOLL, Chairman.
MR. P. ADAMSEN,
MR. L. HENDERSON,
MR. M. A. PRETTO,
MR. R. DE CHABERT,
MR. F. COULTER,
MRS. R. D. HAGEMANN,
MR. T. RAMSAY, and
MR. S. JORGENSEN, Members.

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

LOST.

ONE MILLER TIRE AND TUBE WITH SPARE RIM, size 31 x 4. Any one who can give information leading to recovery will please report at this office.