

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

AT one o'clock p. m., Monday, November 17, 1919, the Colonial Council for St. Croix held an Extraordinary Meeting convened by request of Government.

The following members were present: The Chairman (Merwin), A. E. Stake-
man, D. Noll, W. S. Abramson, Robt.
W. Skeoch, M. M. Skeoch, G. B. Flem-
ing, W. H. McKay, F. Lunney, K. Hen-
derson, Thomas Ramsay, and F. Coulter.

4th. Appointed Member (Blackwood) absent from the Island; furthermore were absent, 3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Pentheny), 3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong) and 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen).

His Excellency Governor J. W. Oman and Despatching Secretary R. O'Hagan attended the meeting

After prayers had been said the Chairman announced to the House that the proceedings for the last meeting of the Council have been published in the "St. Croix Avis" as customary, and if members had no objection he would consider same tacitly adopted.

There being no objection the Chairman declared the minutes as published tacitly adopted.

The Chairman then read a letter received from Government under date of November 11, 1919 calling a special meeting of the Council to be convened at one o'clock p. m., November 17, 1919, and remarked that he had received no other letters since the last meeting.

The Chairman requested 3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (R. W. Skeoch) to act as Secretary as the Secretary (Canegata) was not present.

The Chairman then laid before the House Item 1 of the Order of the Day.

Item 1.

Colonial Council Bill No. 13.

Continuation of 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 13, Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 2nd Appointed Member (Noll), to provide for a re-organization, regulation, and government of the Municipal Police Force of St. Croix with Committee Report.

COMMITTEE REPORT
on Colonial Council Bill No. 13
Session 1919--1920.

DRAFT OF ORDINANCE
to provide for a re-organization, regulation and government of the Municipal Police Force.

The Committee of the Colonial Council

selected at the last meeting of the Council reports, that a meeting was held at Frederiksted on the 6th day of November for the purpose of considering the Draft of Ordinance:—

The Committee recommends the following changes:—

1. Paragraph 4.—Line 12—strike the words "Seventy-two" and insert "thirty-six".

2. Paragraph 5—strike the whole of the paragraph and insert as follows:

"5—The compensation of the members of the Municipal Police Force shall be as follows per annum:

Director of Police.....	\$2,400.00
2 District Chiefs of Police @.....	\$1,500.00
2 District Chiefs of Police @.....	\$1,320.00
Inspectors@.....	\$1,200.00
Sergeants @.....	\$ 720.00
Patrolmen @.....	\$ 600.00
Matrons.....	\$ 480.00

3. Paragraph 14—add thereto— 'which shall be submitted to and approved' by a committee of three members named by the Colonial Council.

D. NOLL, A. E. STAKEMANN,
Chairman. Speaker.

D. C. CANEGATA. ROBT. L. MERWIN.
KENNETH HENDERSON.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann), as speaker for the committee report arose and said that, according to the Rules of Business the Committee Report would be introduced by him during second discussion.

No one requesting the word, 2nd Appointed Member (Noll) moved that 1st Discussion be closed.

The Chairman put the proposal to the vote.

12 members voted for; none against.

1st Discussion closed.

With Government and the Council's consent 2nd Discussion opened.

The Secretary (Canegata) entered the meeting.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As speaker of the Committee appointed to consider and report on this Draft of Ordinance, I have the honor to introduce the report of the Committee to the Council.

The Committee had a meeting and the following changes were recommended: (The speaker read the Committee Report) and continuing said,—From that the Council will see that the Committee has proposed an increase for the Director of Police. It was considered that if we are to get a competent man it was necessary to pay a higher salary. Of course, we all agreed that it would be expensive to the community, but on the other hand, the community thinks it is necessary to have an efficient police force. It is of no use to have a

police force and pay its members small salaries and have men in the service corresponding with the salaries. For instance the salary that is being paid to the police today, twenty dollars, is not sufficient to support them.

It will also be noticed that the Committee recommends to fix the salaries for patrolmen with a certain amount, instead of leaving it to the Police Director's discretion to pay the men according to qualification; as experience has shown that if efficient men cannot be had for the salaries granted, it would be better not to have any than to fix the salaries lower for inefficient persons. The salaries of patrolmen have been increased to \$600 per year so that we may be able to have competent men.

The Police Force, as it is today, is generally acknowledged to be inefficient; and with that in view, I recommend to the Council the adoption of the amendments which are now proposed so that we may have a good and efficient Police Force. Gentlemen I recommend the Committee Report.

[To be continued].

The s. s. Parima arrived at Frederiksted yesterday morning and sailed for the Islands in the evening. A small mail was received from New York by this opportunity and it is understood that the cargo was very short of expectations, the chief items to hand being flour, and canned goods. The merchants in this town are rather disappointed, their stocks of staple articles of foodstuffs being almost exhausted.

The attention of readers is invited to the following extract of a statement concerning the High Cost of Living published by the United States Council of National Defense, composed of the Secretaries of War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, after a careful investigation of the high-cost-of-living problem:

"That the Nation's productive powers have not been fully utilized since the armistice.

That too few goods, notably the necessities of life, have been produced, and that even some of these goods have been withheld from the market, and therefore from the people.

That the high cost of living is due in part to unavoidable war waste and increase of money and credit.

That there has been and is considerable profiteering, intentional and unintentional.

The Council believes that the remedies for the situation are:

To produce more goods, and to produce them in proportion to the needs of the people.

To stamp out profiteering and stop unnecessary hoarding.

To enforce vigorously present laws and promptly to enact such further new laws