

S T. CROIX AVIS

Members and their Families will be furnished with Grand Stand Badges which they are politely requested to exhibit by wearing. In case of the Badges not being worn the official in charge has the right to demand the guilty party to exhibit same and if this cannot be done, admittance will be refused.

Parties who are not MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, and desire to drive their Cars, or Carriages within the enclosure must pay 50 cents per head.

The Judges' Stand, must be used only for the purpose intended, and only the President, Vice President, Judge, Judge's Assistant, and Clerk of Scales have access to said Stand.

No Person shall be allowed to cross the course or leave any of the paths leading to same, after the bell has been rung, except during the half hour's intermission between the Races.

MUSIC IN ATTENDANCE

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I. S. HODGE,
Sec. & Treas.

the that will be on exhibition at the Red Star 25 cents store. Rt. Rev. Bishop Greider will count the beans and on the 24th. Dec. 4 p. m. the dolls will be presented to the winner.

Go and see the Dolls and record your guess.

Guessing closes at noon Dec. 24th —
The Bulletin, Dec. 15th.

The Virgin Island Protective League has sent the sum of \$35.50 for distribution to the very poor of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix to Mr. Rothschild Francis of this city. He in turn has remitted \$20 to Mr. Joseph A. Benjamin for the two towns of St. Croix and \$17 to Mr. Louis Sprauve for St. John, while the balance will be distributed in the poor house here.—Com.—*The Bulletin, Dec. 16th.*

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ITS INAUGURATION.

After years of endeavour, after long years of weary waiting, with deferred hope that maketh the heart sick, a Public Library in the island of St. Thomas, has at last become a thing accomplished. Looking back into the past, we see individuals as well as the combined efforts of societies being made for the procuring of such an establishment. We remember, how in 1898-1900, when some of the British West India Islands, notably Dominica, were endowed with a library by that great American philanthropist Carnegie, how we, thru certain interested sources, tried to secure a like gift, but failed. Nothing daunted, some of our leading and educated young men got together and forming themselves into a literary society, endeavoured to gain the goodwill and financial assistance of the populace toward the successful achievement of this project, but failed; not through lack of endeavour and initiative but through circumstances over which they had no control. Death claimed a few; while circumstances militated in such a manner, that others had to go abroad to earn a lucrative livelihood. Thus, the little band of heroes diminished in number, until today, that the grand project has been realized, only a

few, of that pioneer, band, remain.

Some time after the occupation of these islands by the Americans, representations were made to Governor Oliver, relative to the need of a public library in our midst. This representation met with sympathy, and ever since, the idea was never allowed to lay.

When our popular Governor Oman, succeeded to the governorship, representations concerning the Public Library were again put forward, and met with ready and spontaneous sympathy at his hand. Since then, no stone was left unturned to obtain a successful issue to our desires. Eventually, the services of that greatest of mothers—the American Red Cross which has contributed \$3,000 to the cause—were enlisted. Likewise, were those of the American Library Association which has contributed right nobly to the cause of the Library.

To assist in this well-merited scheme, the Government on May 14th, introduced in the Colonial Council an ordinance authorizing the establishment and maintenance of a Public Library, and toward which, the sum of Fres. 6,000 was budgetted. Securing the assistance of some ladies, they with the zeal so characteristic of them, when engaged in charitable work, collected from the general public the sum \$659.14. Things having thus been got "under way," the sight for the Library the upper storey of the building east of the Lutheran Church was secured; while a few days later saw the arrival from the States of Misses Adelina Zachart and Eleanor Gleason to take charge of the operations.

With heart and mind set upon the work before them, it was not long before things began to take on a definite shape. Soon books began coming in from the States and elsewhere, and so rapidly was the work accomplished, that a date for the definite opening of the much needed and highly prized institution could be set.

Friday night, December 10th, saw the formal opening of the institution.

Previous to its being turned over to the community, appropriate exercises, consisting of musical selections by members of the U. S. Navy Band, addresses and a vocal solo by Mr. Phil Gomez,

were rendered, in the spacious ball room of the Grand Hotel. With the Hon'ble O. S. Kean member of the Colonial Council and Chairman of the Library Commission in the chair, the meeting was called to order at 8.10 p. m. Among the vast audience were His Excellency Governor Oman and Mrs. Oman and members of the Governor's staff, the Chairman and members of the Colonial Council, the teachers of the various schools, members of the clergy, and many of our merchants and prominent citizens.

Next on the programme, after a few prefatory remarks by the Chairman, was a short address and prayer by the Rev. Fr. Guillo, O. S. S. R., followed by a short address of welcome by the Chairman. Then came the selection "America" by the Band. Then followed the address of the evening by the Rev. A. H. Leslie. This was in itself a literary treat, and we regret that lack of space prevents us from giving some excerpts from this brilliant oration. It was fine!

Another musical selection by the Band following. Miss Zachart was introduced to the audience, and gave a succinct account of the work; she and her colleague—Miss Gleason—had done. Taken up with her subject, she carried the audience along with her, as phase after phase in the preliminary work of the Library was unfolded.

At the close of her address, she received well-deserved ovation. The Library having now been formally handed over, the Chairman accepted same. Then, followed a short address on Libraries by Mr. Leroy Nolte. This was followed by a song by Mr. Philip Gomez beautifully rendered as usual, and accompanied by our rising pianist Master Hugo Bornn.

After the closing address by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Greider, President of the American Red Cross, and the playing of the National Anthem, the vast gathering surged forward on their way over to the Library Building.

Here, a beautiful collection of books of every description, met the eye—histories, biographies, natural study, fiction, poetry, encyclopaedias, books of all sorts.

And with eager, glistening eye, and bated breath, as the vast throng passed from room to room on its tour of inspection, one could read nothing but appreciation and high expectation of the work accomplished.

As one, who has always had the idea of the erection of a Public Library in our midst; as one, who for years has planned and worked towards its realization, we hail the opening of the Public Library with joy. With acclaim, we hail the 10th day of December as a red-letter day in the life of our community. Long live the Public Library! Long live the American Red Cross and the other associations that have helped to make the opening of the Public Library a success!—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Dec. 13th.*