

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town that the salaries of some teachers are too low while some are paid too high. I would like to ask the Chairman of the Municipal Committee (Canegata) what are the reasons given for increasing the special teachers, and what are special teachers? What kind of teachers are specified as special teachers, and how many natives are employed as special teachers?

2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata] in reply to the last speaker said, — Mr. Chairman. Sewing teachers, music teachers and domestic science teachers, teachers in administration are special teachers. Principal Teacher's salaries are fixed by Ordinance and Special Teacher's salaries are fixed by the Director of Education.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Anderson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. While the idea of the Council in fixing the salaries for Principal and Graded Teachers was in line with the requirements of the island, it seems that there is no limit to Special teachers. That's one thing I want to have on record as needing a change.

Government Secretary [Zane] remarked: Mr. Chairman. I might state in that connection speaking for myself, I am no more satisfied with the method of fixing salaries for teachers than the gentleman who has just spoken and if any scheme can be proposed which would tend to better the situation, Government would be very glad to seriously consider it.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town [Jackson] remarked: Mr. Chairman. Why I am keen on the question of teacher's salaries is because the School Director is empowered to fix salaries. I know some instances where some special teachers have been discharged without a hearing; without having been previously acquainted with any violation of the regulations, and other more favored ones taken on. This certainly gives the Director of Education leeway to favoritism.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata]: Mr. Chairman. Since that is the case we should ask the Honorable Member of the Council who is on the Educational Board to give us his experience.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District [Curry]: I think the Chairman of the Council is better able to give the necessary elucidations. Mr. Chairman. We started to inspect the schools

last year but did not get through. We were told that we would be advised as to when the work of inspection would start again but up to the present we have not received any information.

Despatching Secretary [Burrett] remarked: Mr. Chairman. Being also a member of the Educational Board of Review I have here the pay rolls for the Department of Education for the month of May any member desiring information as regards salaries and nationality I would be willing to give it.

No further discussion. Department of Education tacitly adopted.

SUBSIDIES:

The Chairman remarked: Honorable Members, I have to state that the contract with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company will expire in March next year.

No further discussion. Subsidies tacitly adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) handed in an amendment which reads as follows:

AMENDMENT

to the Draft of Budget 1924-25.

Under Item Miscellaneous add sub-item:

- No. 51. In aid to Century Brass Band, Frederiksted Frs. 1500.00
- " 52. In aid to Native Brass Band, Christiansted " 1500 00
- " 52(a) In aid to Industrial Brass Band, Christiansted..... " 600.00

D. C. CANEGATA,

2nd Member Christiansted Town & Suburbs.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) in introducing his amendment said, — Mr. Chairman. Honorable Members will notice what has happened is, that the subsidies for the Native Brass Band of Christiansted and the Century Brass Band of Frederiksted have been reduced. I think in order to come to some understanding Honorable Members should know why those subsidies were given. Formerly the only band that was given a subsidy was the Industrial Brass Band; when it was first given the subsidy it never appeared on the budget as an item; it was paid out of the Military Music Fund. Later, when most of the original Industrial Band became the Navy Band in 1917 and was transferred to St. Thomas, to encourage public music and keep the local organizations running it was decided to give the Native and Century Bands \$25.00 each per month as a subsidy and the amount budgetted, at the same time the \$10.00 given to the Industrial Band was transferred from the Music Fund to the Budget. I do not know the reason why that was done. The two Bands which were receiving Frs. 125 per month each, then asked that that amount be increased;

The Council not wanting to go on record as increasing the subsidies put down on the budget "special aid for doubling service." This has subsequently this year been followed the same thing was put down, and perhaps it was thought that as it was a special arrangement that could be struck out. The Municipal Band in St. Thomas formerly received \$75 per month. I don't believe this organization can exist on Frs 125 per month. I realize this that the time has come when economy should be practiced in the budget, and it is with that in view I ask that the amount be taken from the interest accruing to the Reserve Fund. The Bands deserve the subsidy. If the Colonial Council had retained the Military Music Fund as a separate fund we would have had it to pay the Bands, but it was transferred to the Reserve Fund. At present we have one \$15 000 from the Reserve Fund invested in Bonds and Real Estate the interest of which would be sufficient to take care of this amount.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL

The s. s. "Paria" from New York via St. Thomas arrived at Frederiksted at 2 o'clock p. m. yesterday, bringing 32 bags of mail which was received and delivered to box holders in the evening.

The U. S. S. "Grebe" arrived here at noon yesterday from St. Thomas with the following passengers:

Lieutenant E. A. Foote, U. S. Navy, Lieutenant C. R. Johnson [CEC], U. S. N. Lieut. Allen Hoar [CEC], U. S. N. Lieut. Col. F. H. Brown, U. S. M. C. 1st Lieut. F. W. Bennett, U. S. M. C. Mrs. G. C. Mattison, Judge Curry, Miss Mildred Williamson [Amer. Red Cross] Judge Nolan, T. Franklin [prisoner] 2 Corporals and 1 Private, U. S. M. C.

Correspondence

Dear Mr. Editor!

The fourth paragraph in the Tribune of Monday, July 21st, is a side-piece to the passenger canvass in a former issue.

It reads: "If we would become an independent people as we once were, every opportunity must be afforded to develop our industries, to enhance our commerce and to increase our revenues to the point where we would become independent of Congressional gifts." Such bunk!

Were we ever independent with a Lottery?

What is our industry? Sugar.

What is our commerce? American wholesale catalogues.

Such high brow—copy—will sure lead to compulsive cattle raising, reduction