

St. Croix Avis

76TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A. FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 1921.

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Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

EPSOM SALTS FROM LAKE.

In the summer the water of a small lake near Clinton, B. C., evaporates, leaving a crust of Epsom salts (magnesia sulphate) from four to six inches thick. Under this layer which is practically pure is a second layer several feet in thickness but containing impurities of various kinds. The salts are dug from the lake in much the same manner as ice is cut and harvested, picks, bars, shovels etc. being used. A considerable quantity of the pure sulphate from the upper layer is shipped to the United States. —*The Pathfinder*, Aug. 20th.

ENCKE'S COMET NOW COMING.

Every year we have an average of two or three cometary visitors, but they hardly ever have the grace to show their face. Usually they lurk just around the corner and vent spite by throwing rocks at us and playing hob with our weather. Undoubtedly the Pons-Winnecke comet has had its effect in making weather conditions this summer specially severe, though that is not the only disturbing cause. Meteors of unusually large size have fallen and these meteoric bodies have no doubt been cast off by the swishing of the comet's tail as it passed the earth.

The great comet of 1882 gave off similar meteors; in some cases these meteors were of such huge size that they were seen in broad daylight and seemed to the observer to rival the sun itself in intensity. The present writer saw one of these gigantic meteors at that time, and for a moment thought that the end of the world was coming.

Encke's comet has now just been sighted in the offing. Prof. C. D. Perrine, American director of the Argentine national observatory of Cordoba, reports first seeing it July 23. Encke's comet's is the most interesting of all the comets to the astronomers, although it never comes near enough to the earth to make a show. It was first identified as a periodic comet in 1818, when Encke, a German, calculated its time of revolution as about three and a third years.

With this point proved he was able to trace back and show that the comets that had been seen in various former years, back to 1786, were this same comet. He was able to figure ahead and predict the time of the return of the comet, and the point in the heavens where it should be expected. He hit it within three hours.

It was found that the period of revolution of the Encke comet is decreasing about three hours each revolution, which means that in due time it will be drawn into the sun. Encke believed that this change in the motion of the comet was due to a resisting medium in space, which acted as a brake. But his assumption is no longer regarded as the true explanation. Comets are erratic at best and many things interfere with their movements. —*Ibid.*

REWARD

Will be given to anyone who can give the necessary information leading to the discovery of the party responsible for the disappearance of a

Fishing Boat

belonging to the undersigned, or leading to the discovery of the boat itself which disappeared from Mannings Bay beach between 2nd and 3rd September.

J. SCHOU,
Est. Mannings Bay.

NOTICE.

I HEREBY notify to my customers and public in general that from the 1st Sept. I will sell FRESH BEEF (young cattle) at 22c. per lb. for steak and 20c. for stew, at my stall, opposite Apothecary Hall.

F. A. LINDQVIST.
Christiansted, 29th Aug. 1921

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