

LOCAL

Six hydroplanes arrived here yesterday afternoon.

OFFICIAL NOTES.

The Despatching Secretary is just in receipt of information from the Governor that one hundred and twenty newspaper men and ten Officers from the Fleet will arrive at Frederiksted on Thursday, February 21, 1921, at 3:30 p. m., and has been requested to arrange a trip for this party to Christiansted to meet the Colonial Council of St. Croix. The party will return to Frederiksted at 6:30 p. m. the same day and will leave from there for Culebra.

Governor Williams and Government Secretary Zane will accompany the party returning to St. Thomas the same evening.

It would be appreciated if private owners of automobiles, who so desire, would donate the use of their cars for this party. Those who are willing are requested to call the Despatching Secretary by phone and state if they will place their car at the disposal of this party on the afternoon in question.

It is believed that this is a great opportunity to boost St. Croix, as the one hundred and twenty newspaper men come from practically every State in the Union and there is no reason why good accounts of this island should not be broadcasted throughout the United States.

In all probability there will be representatives of the large motion picture concerns on board and every opportunity will be afforded them to take views of points of interest in the island.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Feb. 14th.—Huge plans to make London the most efficiently protected city in the world against air raids have been perfected within the last few days. Yesterday arrangements were completed for the purchase of land enough to establish a ring of airdroms around the city. New types of planes capable of carrying new devices to enable movements to be made in combination by groups of planes at night, and capable also of attaining an extraordinary speed, which until now has been regarded as only in the range of the fantastic are now being built in considerable quantities, while delicate sound instruments capable of detecting the approach of air craft at hitherto unheard of distances, have also been perfected.

Washington, Feb. 14th.—A man who never went to school is being boomed for Vice President of the United States. He is Major Geo. L. Berry, President of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America.

He was an orphan at 6, and at 8 he was a printers devil. He was 16 before he could read or write. Berry is known for his war record, his position as labour adviser on the American Commission to negotiate peace and as one of the organizers of the American Legion. Pressmen and ex-servicemen throughout the United States are campaigning for his nomination on the Democratic ticket.

London, Feb. 14th.—The Government in the House of Commons today was subjected to a rapid fire of criticism and questions on every conceivable subject, most of which the ministers were inclined to parry, but when the debate was concluded tonight no division had been taken. Thus Mr. McDonald's declaration of policy was accepted without challenge. The Prime Minister made two important statements, the first, with respect to national defence, when he declared emphatically that he wished to avoid any policy calculated to increase armaments and that the Government was inquiring into the whole problem, with the object of preventing the growth of war conditions and second, that as the country had rejected the idea of a capital levy, it could not be enacted in the present Parliament. The novel position of a minority Labour Government continues to supply amusing incidents. Mr. Austen Chamberlain alluded to Mr. Asquith's peculiar position describing him as sitting on one side of the house, speaking on the other and voting alternately on one side and the other, which caused much laughter. Another amusing situation arose from an attempt by Mr. Chamberlain to elicit what sort of parliamentary "defeat the Government would regard a vote of censure", to this Mr. McDonald replied that it was impossible to define. Defeat on the popular question might be a vote of censure he said, "but I can imagine a defeat on popular which would not be a vote of censure at all. That very convenient political phrase, "I wait and see", was revived yesterday. I proposed to keep it alive today, but I can assure the House that the Government will not remain in office five minutes after a vote depriving it of its sense of dignity." Mr. Chamberlain made the principal attack on the Government and raised a number of interesting and important points, especially concerning Russian recognition, a capital levy and imperial preference, which drew a long reply from the Prime Minister, throwing further light on the Government general policy. With regard to Russia, the Prime Minister reiterated that the Government had been assured that Russia far from trying to repudiate her obligations, was now anxious to meet the wishes of the British in all outstanding questions, and further, concerning the question that Italy had got the advantage of England in this respect,

Mr. MacDonald thought it not indiscreet to express the belief that the Government would get the same terms of equivalent value, to those of any other power recognizing the Soviet Government.

London, Feb. 15th.—Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a Parliamentary question, denies that the Government has any idea of ceding Jamaica, or any other part of its possessions, to the United States in connection with a settlement of the French debt, as was alleged last week by the Paris "Excelsior". This newspaper said the Washington Government was willing to accept the cession of the French West Indian Islands in settlement of the French debt and would pay Great Britain the amount of the French war debt in return for the cession of Jamaica. In his reply Mr. Ponsonby asserts, however, that the MacDonald Government has been informed that the previous government committed itself to an agreement which might involve "a certain small cession of territory." He gives no idea of the nature of this cession. A despatch from Paris last Monday said it was stated at the French Foreign Office that the French Government was stoutly opposed to the cession of any French territory. The statement was due to the publication in "Excelsior" of a paragraph saying the newspaper believed the United States would not reject the idea of cancelling the French war debt in exchange for the French West Indies.

London, Feb. 15th.—The indisposition from which Mr. MacDonald is suffering is neuritis, according to statements in the London papers this morning. This is accompanied in some degree by insomnia, with the result that he is very tired. It is not suggested, however, that this condition is in any way serious.

London, Feb. 15th.—The Minister of Labour Mr. Shaw last night informed the House of Commons that the president of Trade would speedily introduce a bill in Parliament designed to give effect to the Washington convention for the eight hour day. The Minister added, that, provided the bill was enacted without amendments contrary to the provisions of the convention respecting hours of labour and other matters, it was proposed to ratify the convention.

London, Feb. 16th.—The strike of dock workers, affecting 120,000 men, became effective at noon today in all ports of the United Kingdom.

Liverpool, Feb. 16th.—The dock workers here walked out at noon today. The town-boat workers struck in sympathy with them.

Middleborough England, Feb. 16th.—The dock workers in this port ceased work in accordance with their schedule. Twelve liners from the Far East are held up at their piers and scores of smaller crafts in the river.