

MAILS CLOSE

for New York, N. Y., Europe, etc., per S. S. Korona at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Last night's show at the theatre was a real fine affair and the manager must be commended upon his having afforded the public such a wholesome evening's entertainment which we are glad to say was embraced by many and enjoyed by all who spent their time at this popular place of amusement.

Correspondence.

Editor "Avis".

I read in St. Thomas Mail Notes yesterday that Bishop Greider and other colleagues of the "cloth" presented a memorial from certain ministers in this land, the same purporting to be the expressions of the majority, and praying the Governor to withhold his sanction of the liquor bill. The most striking and ridiculous part of this whole move is the mention that the petition was signed by some 1300 of the inhabitants. Out of a population of 14,000 people, 10,000 of whom must be adults, 1,300 signed; and this constitutes a majority in the opinion of these descendants of Cain! Isn't it positively ludicrous? And if reports are reliable, and by all means they are plausible, lots of the signatures obtained through the instrumentality of these divines were secured by moral suasion, and from minors. It seems remarkable the Herald didn't publish the number of people who signed; certainly its editor must be conscious of the farce this entire business has been from beginning to end.

From ecclesiastical misrepresentation, and all holy deception and humbug, Good Lord deliver us!

VIXEN.

Christiansted July 12th., 1920.

OFFICIAL NEWS.

The Governor has received the resolutions passed by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John at its last meeting, petitioning the Government to lay an embargo upon certain St. Croix sugar. This in the opinion of the Government is permissible only as provided by paragraph 75 of the Colonial Law which reads as follows:

"The right of property is inviolable.

No person can be compelled to cede his property except when the public welfare demands it. This can only be effected according to a law or an ordinance and full compensation must be given."

Assuming that the public welfare demands it, the Government would not

legally have the right to embargo sugar without at the same time making full compensation, which would be the market price on the day the embargo was levied. Such action would be without beneficial result as the sugar is offered at that price without embargo. Therefore, the Government feels that it can do more than furnish legal assistance, which it has already promised to the Food Commission for the prosecution of its suit.

The Junior High School opened yesterday with grades 7, 8, 9, and a total enrollment of 76 pupils. The regular work has begun with the exception of manual training and domestic science which will be started upon the arrival of equipment from the States. Miss Tate, the principal, and two teachers, will be assisted later by an additional teacher who is expected to arrive from the States in the near future. It is noted that the enrollment in Spanish classes is unusually heavy. This course promises to be exceedingly popular. The other schools opened with an increased enrollment of about 159 pupils over last year.

Captain F. K. Hill, U. S. Navy, who has recently been on duty as Naval Attache at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, accompanied by Mrs. Hill, arrived on the Steamer "Martha Washington" this morning and called upon Governor and Mrs. Oman.

St. Thomas News.**THE SUGAR SITUATION.****A Foreign Spirit.**

Into the bitterness which is being felt by an unsuspecting public by being brought suddenly face to face with a sugar famine through the breach of contract by the Sugar Factory in St. Croix, mingles a genuine feeling of incredulity and surprise at the action of the said Danish Concern, an action which has come to our population like a flash out of a clear sky, or, perhaps, rather like a cold gust from a harsher climate.

It is generally felt as if a foreign spirit had invaded our territories, and which is taken as a bad omen for the new Laws, which have just come into effect in St. Croix, and are under contemplation here; and it is to be hoped that the said spirit will get no opportunities of manifestation in this island.

We have heard it suggested, that the Food Commission transfer the rights acquired by the Contract, to the Colonial Council on behalf of the people of St. Thomas; and that the Community of St. Thomas then prosecute the Sugar Factory for fulfilment of its obligations. We think this a very good move, if no

amiable settlement can be reached without delay.

Another way out, would be for the Community of St. Thomas to buy the necessary supply elsewhere and retail it at the old price, suing the Sugar Factory for the difference in price.

In the meantime, there is considerable uneasiness among the people. The Labour Unions have consulted, and we understand, have conferred with the Governor; and it is feared that any demands for higher wages, if the price of sugar should be advanced, will spread to St. Croix and cause corresponding claims over there; moreover, if the Labour Unions of the two islands should join hands for mutual support.

And all this, owing to the sudden display of a foreign spirit amongst us!

Let us hope that a quick amelioration of the situation may be brought about.
—St. Thomas Mail Notes, August 7th.

A deputation composed of the Revds. Christensen, Folensbee and Bishop Greider called on His Excellency, Rear Admiral Oman, on Friday morning at 10:15 o'clock, and presented a petition from St. Croix, containing 1,300 signatures, asking aid from Government preventing the free importation and sale of intoxicating liquors of all kinds into the island.

The claim of the petitioners is that the 18th amendment of the Constitution of the United States is operative in that island, and comes under the interpretation of the Supreme Court. Added reasons given, are that the operation of prohibition, during the time the law has been in force, has been for the moral uplift of the people of the island, and that a noticeable change for the better has been observed in their general condition. Among the 1,300 signatures, covering the two towns and the entire country district, are those of the Clergymen representing the movement, the Revs. Critchlow, Bartels, Allen, Smith, Pedersen, Barrow, Mayhew and Agaard, and many others in sympathy with the movement.

In addition to the very impressive evidence of the strength of the prohibition sentiment in the island, the petition was accompanied by one representing the 870 members of the St. Croix Benevolent Society, an organization for the mutual benefit of the working people of the island and signed by the President, Secretary, Vice-President and Committee of Management of that organization.

These petitions after being read, were formally presented to His Excellency by Bishop Greider. Following this, Rev. B. J. Folensbee read a petition from the Ministers' Association of St. Thomas, representing the Temperance Societies and sentiment in favor of prohibition in the Lutheran Moravian, Wesleyan and Reformed congregations of the two islands of St. Thomas and St. John and