

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., WEDNESDAY, 29TH OCTOBER 1919.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

[Continued from yesterday's Avis.]

Item 6.

Colonial Council Bill No. 14.

Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 5th Appointed Member (Lunney), to regulate and control the prices of Food Stuffs in the Municipality of St. Croix, and for other purposes.

Colonial Council Bill No. 14.

2nd. Session 1919-1920.

DRAFT OF AN ORDINANCE

Creating A Commission To Regulate and Control The Prices Of Foodstuffs In The Municipality Of St. Croix, And For Other Purposes.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council for St. Croix in Session assembled:

1. The Governor of the Virgin Islands is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a Commission to fix and regulate the selling prices for articles of food sold in St. Croix, and to carry out the powers and duties hereinafter set forth.
2. The said Commission shall be known as the "Food Commission of St. Croix", and, shall be composed of five members, each of whom shall be a resident of St. Croix. The Gov-

ernor shall name the Chairman of the Commission. The members of the Food Commission shall be appointed for a period of one year and shall continue in office thereafter until their successors are appointed and qualified.

3. The Food Commission shall have power to investigate the prices at which all articles of food are sold or purchased by importers, merchants, dealers, producers, manufacturers, or consumers, and for that purpose the books of all such shall be open to inspection by the Food Commission, and, if necessary, it may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or for the production of books or other documents, and it shall have the power to take testimony under oath.
4. It shall have the power to determine the prices and quantities at which all or any article of food may be exported or sold by wholesalers, retailers, producers or manufacturers, provided however a reasonable margin of profits shall be allowed, and the price fixed for local sale of a locally produced or manufactured article of food shall not be less than the net cash amount which might be gained by exportation.
5. It shall have the power to test all weights, scales and measures and to fix standards thereof.
6. It shall have the power to make all rules and regulations necessary to efficiently carry out the powers herein granted.
7. Any person who shall refuse to appear before the Food Commission, when summoned, or who shall refuse to testify, or shall testify falsely, or shall fail to produce books or documents required or shall sell any article of food in a larger quantity or at a higher price than prescribed by the Food Commission, or shall use a weight, measure or scale prohibited by the Food Commission, or shall violate any rule or regulation promulgated by the Food Commission, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and on conviction thereof shall be punished by fine of not to exceed Francs 1000:00 or by imprisonment not to exceed six months or by both such fine and imprisonment by the discretion of the Court.
8. All prosecutions for violations of this Ordinance shall be by information

filed by the Government Attorney in the Ordinary Town Court.

F. LUNNEY.

5th. Appointed Member.

5th. Appointed Member (Lunney) in introducing the Ordinance said.- Mr. Chairman. I have much pleasure in introducing this Ordinance. It is so far known in this Council, and it is considered very necessary in this Island today. The Food Commission is working in St. Thomas and it is also to be found in existence in all the islands affected by the war. It is absolutely necessary to have a Food Commission to regulate prices on foodstuffs as they affect us materially.

We have passed through strenuous circumstances and high prices are existing, even with our products here, therefore I consider it the duty of this Council to consider this bill from a humane point of view. We would not like our people to emigrate, and some who have lived in good circumstances here are today very much pressed by existing conditions. I ask gentlemen that you consider this matter in its true light. There may be some part of the bill to which some of the members may take objection, but that can be taken care of when it goes to a committee. I ask that the bill be furthered and passed.

It was then put to the vote and carried that the bill be furthered.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I propose that 1st. Discussion be closed and 2nd. Discussion opened:

The Chairman put the member's proposal to the vote.

6 members voted for; none against.

1st. Discussion closed.

With Government and the Council's consent 2nd. Discussion opened.

The Chairman then gave a recess of 20 minutes.

After the recess the Council re-assembled and proceeded with 2nd. Discussion on the bill.

The Chairman remarked: I have received two amendments to the bill one from 4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) and one from 2nd. Appointed Member (Noll).

Amendment No. 1 from the 4th. Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) reads:

Council Bill No. 14.

2nd. Session 1919-1920.

Section 4.

It shall have the power to determine the prices and quantities at which all or any article of food may be sold by