

LOCAL

The s. s. "Romanita" is due on schedule time, having 20 tons of cargo for Christiansted and 12 tons for Frederiksted.

We have been asked to mention that the Native Brass Band will give a concert on the wharf tomorrow evening.

Under official notes in this issue it will be observed that the Governor has appointed Messrs. F. Coulter, D. S. Armstrong and A. R. McIntosh as members of the Colonial Council, provided for under par. 14 and 33 of the Colonial Law. We consider the Government's selection excellent and indicative of the interest felt in the people not having the right of vote whom these members represent.

Administration Building,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands,
22 May, 1923.

OFFICIAL NOTES.

His Excellency the Governor of the Virgin Islands addressed the following letter to the Honorable, the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C., as a result of the petition which was delivered to him on Friday, 18 May, 1923:

"From: Governor of the Virgin Islands.

To: Secretary of the Navy.

Subject: Parade of Protest in re the application of the National Prohibition Act to the Virgin Islands of the United States.

1. Transmitted herewith is the original of a protest personally delivered to the Governor of the Virgin Islands by Mr. Emile A. Berne, Chairman of the Citizen's Committee of Saint Thomas.

2. Coincident with the delivery of this petition there was a congregation of the people of St. Thomas before the Government House, and I forwarded you a radio report of the occurrence as follows:

"0018 Thousands of citizens of Saint Thomas congregated peacefully before Government House today and addressed petition to Governor protesting against application National Prohibition Act to these Islands. Silent parade carrying banners etcetera proceeding through entire town. All Stores closed. Letter of Protest will be forwarded to you by mail. 1545'

3. There appears to exist a belief locally that the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Mellon, while drafting the regulations in pursuance of the recent ruling of the Supreme Court prohibiting foreign ships from entering the territorial waters of the United States when having on board alcoholic liquors, either in their cargo or as ship's stores, will in some manner, alleviate

the predicament in which the Virgin Islands find themselves, as under existing law the main commercial life of this port is sustained by foreign coal burning vessels, which furnish work in the harbor to the laborers.

4. If such action be possible it would avert the distress and suffering, which, under the present conditions, would appear to be inevitable.

5. Under all the circumstances the Governor of the Virgin Islands can make no recommendation to the Department other than to request that the plight of the people of Virgin Islands be placed before the President of the United States, in accordance with their expressed wish in the enclosed petition.

(signed) HENRY H. HOUGH".

25 May 1923.

His Excellency the Governor of the Virgin Islands has made the following appointments to the Colonial Council of St. Croix:

Mr. F. Coulter, First Appointed Member.

Mr. D. S. Armstrong, Third Appointed Member.

Mr. A. R. McIntosh, Fifth appointed Member.

St. Thomas News

Yesterday's Parade.

Almost the entire populace took part in the parade yesterday, demonstrating protest against the 18th Amendment, the three mile limit and other destructive interpretations.

The unity of sentiment was clearly manifested by the fact that merchants, members of the Labor Union and of the Federation of Labor and other citizens from all walks of life took part in one of the largest processions ever seen here.

The procession started at 2.30 p. m. from the market square where Mr. J. Percy Souffront had previously addressed the crowd, expressing as Chairman of the Committee his great satisfaction at the hearty cooperation of so many citizens and requested that they walk in the parade as orderly as possible.

Passing along the Main street, the procession went up the Government Hill and halted before the Executive Mansion, where the following protest was handed to the Governor:—

Henry H. Hough,

Governor of the V. I.,

St. Thomas, U. S. A.

Sir:

Today we present ourselves to you in this mass formation symbolical of a very serious and grave catastrophe, which is about to fall upon our heads causing misery, want and distress, through ships which afford us a livelihood and which is

the pivot of our commerce being prevented from coming to St. Thomas to take coal, water, and buy our products on account of the recent ruling of the Supreme Court known as *three mile limit* which is inimical to this Island.

While we are aware that your sympathy is with us, and that we cannot blame you for carrying out in effect any or all the destructive measures applied here by the Congress of the United States which tend to place us in a very unfavorable position, yet, we as a people feeling the effect commercially, financially, physically, morally and otherwise come before you in this peaceful manner protesting against what we consider an imposition that is detrimental to our welfare.

You will please therefore, inform the President and other Head of the Departments of this nation especially the Secretary of the Treasury of this concourse of people moving as One in Unity and opinion to the effect that *while we are not drunkards* or an alcoholic drinking community, yet we know from our geographical position that all our future for a livelihood depends and is centered upon *ships of all nationalities coming into our harbor* free from all obstruction and that all our present difficulties can be traced up to the law of prohibition.

We are in our rights to PROTEST. We feel that this action of ours is the cry of a starving people to be relieved of the burdens imposed upon us. We have repeatedly *petitioned*, and have sent a Delegation to Washington that was the ridicule of the United States with *no results*. And we hold that we cannot and will not stand this any longer, and hope that this prayer of ours will be heard while recognizing the fact, that you as a stronger nation have no desire to crush us a weaker.

(signed)

EMILE A. BERNE.

Chairman Citizens Committee.

The Governor spoke telling the huge crowd of the sympathy he had with them, and how he would forward their telegram and that of course, he was obliged to carry out the law and was subjected to same just as much as any there present.

The concourse of people then marched toward the field where speeches by Messrs. Lionel Roberts, Rostchild Francis, and Adolph Sixto were heard and money collected for sending telegrams to St. Croix papers, the Civil Liberties Union and the Secretary of the Treasury.

The procession was headed by muffled drum, while the people marched quietly and no wonder the Governor asked the people to try, despite actual conditions, to look at things with a brighter eye, for it looked mournful, and seem to cry out with a touching voice "St. Thomas, are you dying; are you going forever." In front was the flag, and behind the merchants was a flag being borne by workers of the Union and banners with inscription like these:—