

at the next meeting, will answer the questions the Member has propounded; I could answer some myself, but I think it would be better to take up all at one time.

In regard to the Agricultural Station the Municipality has nothing more to do with it. After the hurricane a certain amount was appropriated spent and the amount budgetted is to pay back the amount.

In regard to the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., the Honorable Member has a right to criticise, but you will find that all other places there is a cry about high rates; however, they have only three more years to go under their contract.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Is there any clause in the contract that prevents a revocation of it? It is ridiculous to pay Fres. 5,000 and get such bad service.

The Chairman remarked: In regard to the news I do not know why that cannot be remedied.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am very sorry to learn that we cannot get any news from the Agricultural Station. The Station was created by the community, and the community has spent a good deal of money on it and it is ridiculous that we cannot get any information from it.

The Chairman replying to the last speaker said, The Honorable Member, as a citizen has a right to make application for any information he wishes to have.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I think we did poor business in giving over the Station to the Federal Government. I do not know of any man who sells out his business and retains its debts.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I do not intend to speak on this budget because I do not consider the money is ours. I only wish to say if we curtail this budget by saying we do not want this or that the money will, very likely, go over to St. Thomas; we have seen that in the hospital case; for my part I would put on some more expenses. Why can we not put on some more money to fix our roads. When the time comes for us to spend our own money and we are taxed more than we are taxed at present, then we can say the amounts are too much. Under present circumstances I say let us get as much as we can.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) asked the last speaker: Do I understand you are not going to vote for this budget.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) answered: No, I will not.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay): Suppose all of us do the same?

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann): That's your business.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay): If you have this island's interest at heart you certainly would say different. To vote for the budget is fifty percent you owe and fifty percent the public owe. If you have anything at heart come out with it, but don't say you will not vote for the budget.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann): In my home I would tell my wife get this and get that, but this budget is a different matter; when it comes to the point it matters very little whether the Council vote the budget or not. Under the former Government it was different.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) remarked: I have, again, the trouble to attack the last speaker; I am tired hearing about the former Government; let that Government be dead and speak about the present Government. This Government is trying to work in harmony with us. It is true that expenses should be kept down as much as possible, but that does not mean that we should not have sufficient money to run the various departments, or that employees should be underpaid.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The remarks of the last speaker draws the attention of the Honorable Members of this Council to one or two items of expenses in connection with this budget. In connection with salaries for Municipal employees, the Municipal Committee has recommended an increase of 20% for all employees receiving a monthly salary of Fres. 75 or less. I am not acquainted with the salaries of employees in the various departments, but I am acquainted with the salaries of the employees in the Municipal Hospitals; and I am glad that the salaries of the Inspectors are raised to \$125 per month, that is more in keeping with the onerous duties of their position, but when it comes to the salaries of the other employees, take the salary of the Chief Janitor, Fres. 900 per year; now we all know the pay labourers are receiving today and when it is taken into consideration that a strong abled bodied man who is able to take a litter up the stairs—to work for \$3.75 per week, and he has to do duty from six to six in the day and three nights a week, I don't think any member of this Council will say that the salary budgetted is commensurate with the duties incumbent on such an employee; that also is applicable to the Wardmaids. Five dollars per month for a cook and she is supposed to be clean and wear shoes, and work from six to six every

day for \$1.25 a week. I don't think that member of this Council will say any, that remuneration this Government is proud of paying to such an employee. I certainly agree with Member Stakemann that the budget be increased. In these days of high cost of living to expect physically good people to live on \$1.25 per week is impossible. I certainly ask that consideration be given to my remarks in connection with these employees, and if Government cannot see its way to increase their salaries 40% propose to feed them with three good meals a day and that will preserve the moral fitness which the head of the department demands of them.

The Chairman closed 1st Discussion and remarked that Government desires to call an extraordinary meeting for next Monday the 21st. inst.

To be continued.

Attention is called to a notice from Mr. La Bega in this issue to the effect that ice will be manufactured from spring-water from Monday next week after which date, as it is understood, the supply of rain-water being so reduced it will not be possible to use much of it for the purpose.

Receipt is acknowledged and thanks extended the Government for 2 books comprising the new code laws sent to the office of this paper.

The Steamboat "Saranac" returned from St. Thomas yesterday afternoon. As passengers were observed Mr. E. Phaire and Lawyer J. P. Jorgensen.

The Navy Band enlivened the town with a popular concert last night at which there was a large gathering.

Several fair showers of rain fell after midnight last night.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Delayed in Transmission.

Honolulu, June 5th. — According to advices received here Nikolaievik has been captured by the Japanese naval and military forces, working in conjunction, after a short and decisive battle, in which the Bolsheviks were either driven out or captured.

Paris, June 5th. — A discussion on the budget in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday brought out the announcement that Pari Mutuel Betting had thus far totalled six hundred million francs, of which the Government gets ten per cent. It is proposed to increase this tax to eleven per cent, the additional money to be used to support the work of the Agricultural Department.

Washington, June 6th. — President Wilson on the fourth instant accepted the resignation of Mr. Polk, the Under-Secretary of State.