

St. Thomas News.

It is reported that some of the gentlemen of the turf in St. Croix will participate in the much looked for races on Whit Monday here, and a few of the many good horses are getting ready for the contest. St. Thomas has always gained the victory over St. Croix where sports are concerned, but this seems somewhat doubtful; hence St. Thomians ought to look alive and be ready for the approaching event.—*St. Thomas Bulletin, April 19th.*

All yesterday the town of Charlotte Amalie was filled with rumour that the bands of the sister islands, now here, will be leaving on Wednesday morning, 21st. inst. to resume duties in their respective districts.

If this report is true we feel certain the people "over there" will be overjoyed at having their bands with them again, for they have been here quite a good while. We learnt recently that the hospital patients in particular missed the comfort given them on Sunday afternoons by these bands.

We beg to extend our best wishes to the men for they have done remarkably, and their conduct here, till now is praiseworthy. It is not necessary for us to hope they will continue to make progress, for as the younger band is fast going "over the top" it behooves the other to strive toward descending the other side first, even tho the struggle may be hard, and on this behalf result spells improvement to both the Christiansted and Frederiksted Band.—*Com.—Ibid.*

We are glad to mention the promotion in the Naval Bands, Mr. Pauldon Nicholson, has been made First Musician. This young bandsman was in the Adam's Juvenile Band from its organization and undoubtedly merits his rating. Five others have received the promotion as First Musicians.

Mr. A. Sebastian Forbes, of the Christiansted Band has also been rated to a First Musician. This aspiring young musician has several times conducted the Frederiksted Band here and we understand will carry over said band and act as its temporary leader.—*St. Thomas Bulletin, April 13th.*

A Danish Republic?

We get a singularly interesting glimpse of both social and political conditions in Denmark when we see a Socialist deputation visit the King and converse with him regarding the establishment of a Danish republic. During more than half a century, ever since Prussia defeated Austria in the fight for Schleswig-Holstein and carried off the spoil, politics in

Denmark has been for the most part an almost continual quarrel between the Conservative and advanced Radical parties, the latter gradually gaining, and in 1915 making a really great gain by the adoption of the liberal constitution of that year. But in recent reigns the people have had no quarrels with their kings, and since Christian X. succeeded to the throne in 1912 the relations between him and his countrymen have been peculiarly close and cordial. Caring nothing for regal pomp or ceremony, but much for simple and friendly intercourse, he is a familiar figure in the streets of Copenhagen, with his pleasant face visible above all others by reason of his unusual height. And those who know him well declare that no other desires more earnestly the welfare of the people.

The wisdom of his action in demanding the resignation of the Zahle cabinet is a matter of controversy. Opinions differ as to whether the ministers did or did not mismanage Denmark's share in the plebiscite that gave the southern section of Schleswig to Prussia, but it appears that a change of ministry was due, Premier Zahle and his colleagues having held office since June 1913. There may have been discontent with the administration, but no direct complaint of the constitution is heard. Denmark has seemed content. It has its two representative house of Parliament, for which both sexes vote, with the women as eligible as the men for election. Local government, in counties, parishes and towns, is well developed. About five-sixths of the land is owned by small freeholders and peasants, the law forbidding the union of small farms into large estates. Little Denmark is Europe's big buttermaker. The British depended greatly on her before the war. In 1914 they received butter from her to the value of \$55,193,185, and they wonder why in 1918 the supply shrank to the value of \$3,856,455. How much of neutral Denmark's butter went over the Schleswig border for German use during the war may never be known. But the position was perilous and something had to be bartered for German coal.

Denmark is in less peril today either without or within. The calling of a general strike in Copenhagen by friends of the fallen cabinet does not appear to command popular approval. So far as any avowal has been made, there is no great reform to be effected, no high purpose to be attained. The republican movement and the strike are not definitely connected, and the latter will not attract the people if it be merely expressive of discontent with a change of ministry. Its organizers magnify it for their own advantage, but their estimate of its importance is probably not general, nor is its extent or result likely to satisfy their hope. It may prove to be no more than an episode in the system of fac-

tional warfare. If the Liebe ministry be given a trial it may do at least as well for the country as the Zahle ministry did, and set at ease the minds of the latter's supporters. But if they really wish to have a Danish republic, let them go to the people with a straightforward declaration and a direct demand for a decision at the polls. If Denmark is for a republic she is democratic enough to establish it by a bloodless revolution. *Boston Herald, April 1st.*

The quantity of cocoa shipped from the 1st of January to the 15th inst. is 1,466 cwts against 709 cwts, during the same period of last year. Coffee 2,629 cwts against 462 cwts. Hand pressed lime oil 3,310 lbs, against 1,961 lbs. Cocoa-nuts figured 195,402 and 85,314 respectively. Concentrated lime juice 13,373 gals. and 26,653 gals. and raw juice 55,020 and 42,047. The other items were either nearly alike in figures or slightly in favour of last year's output at that period.—*Dominica Guardian March 25th.*

The Government of Martinique is doing its very best in the line of improvement. We read in the Trinidad papers that a delegation of Martinique gentlemen lately visited Fort-de-France to study the local system of sanitation and administration of the Public Health Department. The delegates were M. M. M. T. Tarquin, Deputy Mayor of Fort-de-France; M. O. Motole, Health Inspector, Municipal Councillor, and M. P. Nayo, Inspector of Roads for Fort-de-France. Another good move has been the establishment of a free continuation school for the adults of the island, male and female, of which every advantage is being taken by the people.—*Ibid.*

We have just heard that a white man, name unknown, supposed to be a tourist on the s. s. Manoa, which called in here yesterday from New York has disappeared under what seems to us to be rather very funny circumstances. This stranger went to Mr. Rock's stables at about 9.30 yesterday morning, and hired a saddled pony from Mrs. Rock, saying he intended to go up the Lake way, and would be back in two hours' time. He pretended to have had only French money on him, and obtained a loan of eight shillings from Mrs. Rock to keep in his pocket. But until this day (noon) nothing has been seen or heard of the man or of Mr. Rock's pony. The steamer left port last night, and what is strange about it is that no report was made before she left that a passenger was missing. Is there an accident, or has the man tethered the pony somewhere and gone?—We have just heard that Mr. Rock's pony has been handed over to a man at Petit Savanne, miles away from Grand Bay, by a white man.—*Ibid.*