NOTICE.

AN examination for Pupil Nurses for the Municipal Hospital, Christiansted, will be held on Thursday Nov. 20th. a. c. at 2 o'clock p. m. at the Nurses' Room. Applicants must be over sixteen years of age. Those who are desirous of applying will appear at the time and place, when, if satisfactory, their applications will be held in view of vacancies occurring.

R. H. JENKINS.

Municipal Physician in Charge.

Municipal Hospital, Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of U. S., Nov. 17th. 1919.

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on the firm foundation of a monetary standard that cannot fluctuate here, remove to a certain extent causes for discontent, but also cheapen measureably the necessaries of life.

With the introduction of the U. S. Currency fluctuating rates of exchange on New York must disappear, and only a nomimal charge for issuing bills on N. Y. remains. And it is well to remember that for a long time to come the U. S. dollar will be appreciated, and for this reason its purchasing power will be greater in things-in-general in this island. It will also tend to cheapen imports from England and France. And if these propositions are true, and they are true; shall we not as a people ask that they be granted unto us? Are we to clamour for everything American save the currency? We do not pretend to say how it shall be done, nor do we attempt to indicate the means whereby it may be done; but we do that which common sense dictates; we ask those who are to help us, to do this thing for us. Despite all that has been said to the contrary, we are convinced that it can be done without harm to anybody and without violating any part of the Convention.

Some persons who are in favour of the change of currency are of the opinion that the moment is unfavorable on account of the present high rate of exchange. The foreign exchange has nothing to do with this matter. The Resolution asks that the change be effected at the Mint par of Exchange, a technical term that can be explained. "It is the expression of the money of one country in terms of the money of another country and has nothing to do with the course of trade. Thus the English Sovereign is equivalent approximately to 25.221 French gold franc or to 4.866 U. S. gold dollars. Where countries use the same metal for their money such relation of their standard coins is called the mint par of exchange, and is a mere matter of physical measurement. Hence as long as there is no alteration of the standard coinage in either country the mint par of exchange between the two must remain the same, just as the relation between yards and metres remain the same".

From the foregoing it will be seen by any one what the relation between the U. S. gold dollar and 5 D. W. I. gold francs must be if we remember that the French gold and the D. W. I. gold coins are practically of the same weight and fineness. Whatever the relative value may be, will constitute the base for the exchange, and not what is known as foreign exchange.

Two other points remain to be considered, and they are worthy of consideration.

It is claimed that "Denmark granted us the right to coin the local currency, so that the colonies may pay off long standing debts". This would imply that the colonies' treasuries profited largely by this "right" The question then very naturally suggests itself: In what year's budget did these amounts figure? It would be very interesting to the public to be informed on this point. What was the amount of the profits, and what long standing debts did these profits liquidate. A reference to the Law Concerning the Monetary System in the D. W. I. says:

Paragraph 4, "Small coins shall be coined of silver, nickel and bronze."

Para. 14, "All coining is performed by the home government. Small coins shall be coined for *the State Treasury's account.*" (Vide St. Thomas Tidende, 1st June 1904)

If the coining of small coins were for the State Treasury's account, then the profits accruing therefrom went into the same treasury. This needs only a query: Did the State use this profit for the islands' benefit, and for what particular purpose?

The second point is the Bank Notes. It is the centre around which the whole dispute circles, it is the pivot.

In the Law concerning a D. W. I. Bank of issue, given at Amalienborg in 1904 we find in

Paragraph 17. "The State shall furthermore *before the expiration of the term of concession have the right to revoke or restrict the right of the Bank to issue Bank Notes*". Provision is made in this paragraph whereby the Joint Stock Company shall be entitled to demand that the state shall take over all the assets and liabilities of the Bank etc.

What is to be noted here in connection with the request for the withdrawal of the D. W. I. currency is the expressed right reserved by the Danish State to restrict or revoke the right of the Bank to issue Bank Notes. Under the sale convention Denmark transferred her sovereign rights to the United States, and the United States promised to maintain all grants and concessions given by the Danish Government *in accordance with the terms on which they were given.* I am not going to discuss the exercise of the rights transferred from Denmark to the U. S., for we all agreed that the National Bank should remain here and live out the term of its charter. But I have made the quotation to show that under certain conditions the issue of the Notes could be restricted.

The aim of those who adopted the Resolution, which reduced to its last analysis, is to obtain a change in the currency, in other words, change the reading of the Notes and make them conform in value to the National currency; and it can be done. An example:

In Porto Rico there was at the time the United States took possession of the island a Spanish Bank that had the right to issue Bank Notes redeemable in Spanish currency, and the same issue was raised there as is now raised here, with the result that the Bank stamped across the face of its notes "Moneda Americana", thus making the notes to read "payable in U. S. Currency.

This Pto. Rico Bank had a concession from the Royal Spanish Government, and the United States was bound to respect that concession like any other and it did so; yet the issuing by the Bank of Notes redeemable in U. S. gold was arranged in a satisfactory manner and without violating any clause of that convention. Why should it be so difficult in our case?

The discussion in regard to the change of currency is being hedged around with so many supposed difficulties, in some quarters, that the arguments advanced in support of their contention seems more academic and hypothetical than practical.

There are many here who have reason to believe that a way to introduce the National currency in these islands can be found without infringing the rights of the Bank or violating the sale convention in any manner or form. The question won't be settled in these islands. The four big banks in Denmark with their Directors will be called upon to discuss this matter in connection with Secretary Lansing and Minister Brun.

The Joint Stock Company can certainly agree to any reasonable proposition

The question stands thus at present: The good of the people, versus a fluctuating high rate of exchange.

CARL A. THRAEN.

The Quebec Steamship Co , New York, advise as follows:

"S. S. "Korona" sails from Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 21st at account of Royal Mail Service outward only, on their Nova Scotia–Bermuda–St. Kitts and British Island route.

We have purchased the Steamship Shoshone with accommodation for fifty Cabin passengers, one hundred steerage and 35,000 barrel cargo capacity. She sails from New York December 10th.

Owing to new vessels having large