

Publication.

IT is hereby made known, that the House and Land Taxes for the year 1923, for town and country properties, became due on the 1st May 1924, and will be received at the Branch of the National Bank of the Danish West Indies in Christiansted for the town and country district of Christiansted, and at the Frederiksted Branch for the town and country district of Frederiksted.

At the expiration of the month of August, the list of arrears will be forwarded to the Sheriff for further measures,

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, St. Croix, July 3rd 1924.

R. E. BARRETT.
Despatching Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Thursday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I would like to know whether the Government has made investigation as to whether there are firms or individuals on this island who are able and willing to take contracts.

Despatching Secretary (*Barrett*): Mr. Chairman. I can probably answer the Honorable Member by saying that we have not made any investigation on such a large project as this. We have, in a small way, awarded contracts to individuals in this island for very small jobs, such as painting and repairing of roofs, guttering, etc., and invariably on Friday or Saturday night the individual who has taken the contract has come in for \$10 or \$12 to buy materials. That I think is not an exception, but a rule, and I think the Honorable Members here are more qualified to answer that than I. I know of no firm or individual here who can undertake such a project as the building of a cistern which will cost approximately \$25,000. If there are any here, I am not aware of it.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I firmly believe that there are firms here that are competent to undertake such a contract.

Despatching Secretary (*Barrett*): Mr. Chairman. It is not a question of com-

petency. It's a question of financial ability.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): Mr. Chairman. I was referring to a firm with some sagacity and not to an individual jobber. I do believe that there are persons and firms on this island that are able to undertake such work.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town District (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. According to Ordinance any such firm or person will have to take out a Burgher Brief and there is no one on this island who holds such a brief.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town District (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. We are much enlightened on Federal appropriation for which we thank the Government Secretary. I just want to ask whether Government is in favor of this Resolution?

Government Secretary (*Zine*): Mr. Chairman. Government has no objection to the Resolution.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In view of the explanation by the Government Secretary that the Governor is very much interested in everything that goes on in the Virgin Islands, in the schools and elsewhere, I would like to ask the proponent of the Resolution if he would withdraw it as a great deal more would be accomplished if he did.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town District (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I cannot withdraw the Resolution. I am sorry I cannot oblige my Honorable friend the 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town District (*Jackson*): Mr. Chairman. I am going to vote on the Resolution, but before voting on it I want to make it clear that the Government Secretary said that Government will approve the Resolution but will not be responsible for whatever action taken on unexpended balance of the Federal appropriation.

1st Member for Christiansted Town District (*Abramson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I beg to differ with the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town that there is no one here, as far as he knows, who is capable of undertaking a contract. That's an error. The very man who is now supervising the building of the cistern learnt his occupation in Europe and I believe that such a man is capable of undertaking such a work. As the Despatching Secretary has said there may not be workmen here who can finance the proposition, but there are men on this island who can build the cistern.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town District (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. My Honorable friend has missed the point. I know that Mr. Tuitt is supervising the building of the cistern, but there is a big difference between a man who is a foreman and a contractor. As

I said before there is no contractor on this island.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): Mr. Chairman. Yes there are contractors on the island. Robt. L. Merwin & Co. Inc. are contractors.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am fully convinced that in reporting matters to Washington this might be reported. I wish to erase that impression. We have Bethlehem Concern and the St. Croix Sugar Factory, it may be the policy of the engineers of these factories to take in contract. It is said that Robert L. Merwin & Co. Inc., takes in contract. I don't know to what extent. Take Mr. Einar Svendsen, I am sure he will be able to put through any such work very efficiently, economically and profitable to the Municipality.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town District (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town has introduced another Resolution which he calls an amendment to the original resolution. The Government Secretary says that Government is in favor of the Resolution, I wish to know which of the Resolutions Government is in favor of, the one that creates the fund or the amended resolution?

The Chairman in reply to the last speaker said,—The Government Secretary desires to state that Government has no objection to the last amendment introduced by the proponent of the Resolution. The Chairman read the amendment and said: The passage of this amendment will nullify the original Resolution and the amendment proposed by the Honorable 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District and adopted.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I move that in view of the lateness of the amendment and of the consequent lack of opportunity given to Members to study and argue upon it that the amendment be typewritten and circulated among members of the Council and that it go over until the next meeting of the Council. I make this motion because there are certain facts in the records of the Council which I can bring in to support arguments against this Resolution, as I consider it unfair.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL

The s. s. Surinam from New York arrive at Frederiksted yesterday and discharged 21 bags mail for Christiansted which will be received and delivered this morning.

The result of the horse races at Mannings Bay track yesterday are the winnings by the Concordia Stables of all the races its horses participated in, namely