

S T. C R O I X A V I S

Frederiksted Country District (*Fleming's*) amendment to the vote.

12 Members voted for; none against.

The Chairman remarked: The amendment is carried and will be incorporated in the bill.

The Chairman then brought up 4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood's*) amendment to Section 2 of the bill.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Mr. M. Skeoch*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. One objection I have to this section of the Honorable Appointed Member's amendment is that it is a savage tax. In the first place I do not cart my cane on the public roads. I deliver my cane to the scale and it is transported over private roads. As this amendment reads it certainly will be taking off the bulk of the taxes on some and place it on others. In one of the previous meetings the Honorable Member read a protest signed by a number of persons, the majority of which do not pay tax. I certainly do not consider this a fair tax to the cane growers.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. There is no doubt that we are very generous about spending the other fellow's money.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Fleming*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I do not agree with Section 2 of this amendment, because it seems, from the reading of it, as if I would have to pay a tax for carting my machinery over the road. It is not long since an ordinance was introduced in this Council abolishing a tax, and since its introduction I have not heard anything more about it.

3rd Appointed Member (*Armstrong*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I have a few figures which I have prepared showing what effect it would have on cane cultivation in this island if a tax such as is proposed goes into effect. (The Member explained his figures) and furthermore said,—A good deal of land on the island would be put out of cultivation if a squatter is made to pay fifty dollars tax per year.

The Chairman put Section 2 of the amendment to the vote.

1 Member voted for; 9 against.

The Chairman remarked: Section 2 of the amendment is lost.

Section 3 was put to the vote.

11 Members voted for; none against.

Section 4 was put to the vote.

12 Members voted for; none against.

Section 5 of the Committee Report was brought up for discussion and no one requesting the word it was put to the vote.

11 Members voted for; none against.

Section 6 of the Ordinance was put to the vote.

9 Members voted for; none against.

The bill as amended was read by the Secretary.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Coulter*) asked to speak. Mr. Chair-

man. As the bill reads the decision as to the type of road is left entirely with the Public Works Officer and the Road Commission. They can decide to build a macadam or concrete road or one mile of each. I would like to know definitely the type of road we are going to have so that I may be able to explain to my constituents whether they are going to have a patchwork road or whether they are going to have a macadam or concrete road.

2d Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): If 3rd Discussion is to come on today on this bill I propose that the Secretary be given time to redraft the bill before the vote is taken on it.

2nd Appointed Member (*Noll*) in reply to Member Coulter said,—The bill as amended reads: to build a road with concrete or macadam. I think the section is clear, the Public Works Officer will decide.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): The Public Works Officer should have a free hand in the building of the road.

The spirit of the explanation given by the Honorable 2nd Appointed Member is that the Public Works Officer and the Road Commission will decide the type of road we are going to have.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, it is going to be left with the Public Works Officer and the Road Commission to decide whether we are going to have a concrete or macadam road. I contend that the Public Works Officer has already expressed his views on this matter. Why not make it clear what type of road we are going to have.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (*Stakemann*) proposed that the question as to the type of road be settled before the vote is taken on the bill.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL.

The Raporel Steamer "Fackler" sailed from New York on Friday evening, having 46 tons of cargo for Frederiksted and 55 tons for Christiansted.

The next boat sailing will be the S. S. "Tupper" on the 20th of May.

Christiansted, St. Croix, 3rd May 1921.
Editor "St. Croix Avis".

Dear Sir:

After all that has been said and done, one cannot fail to see that the official organ of the Labor Union, the "Herald", has become a planters' paper. It is now engaged in wholesale criticism abuse of the Union's legal officers—men who helped to build up that Institution in harmony with its founder. What position does Jackson take in this state of CONFUSION that is now evident? His name still stands as EDITOR of that paper, (now not fit for children to read) and I presume that he is responsible for

all that trash, called "Pen Pictures", which appears in the editorial columns. The intelligent classes of this community (not necessarily members of the Union) have expressed how shocked and horrified they are at the language in late issues of the "Herald". Is it possible that any decent minded man could have written them? Are not the words foreign to Jackson? Was he ever such a low cur as to descend to such mean adjectives? Was he a Caiaphas, a Pontius Pilate, or a Judas in disguise? O where is his genealogy? From whence did he originate? And right here I may be permitted to ask, what was Jackson's financial position when he left this island? Did he own two automobiles? Properties? Estates? A chauffeur, butler and a retinue of servants? Was he belonging to that class known commonly as a religious hypocrite? NO SIR! Did he think that we should be more "spiritual", that is to say, willing to live upon the labour of others, willing to ask alms, saying in the meantime "it is more blessed to give than to receive"? (If this latter is correct, why not give the money back.) It is the habit of some so called ministers(?) to abuse the men who support them, to slander the spirit by which they live. It is as though the mouth should tear the hand that feeds it", holding the honest people of this island in contempt, and yet are so contemptible themselves that they are willing to live upon their labour. I repeat that this class of hypocrites, pretending to be spiritual guides, look with contempt upon the men who make it possible for them to live.

Now about myself, I'd like to make it clear that, I am no Jacksonite. I belong to no Church nor Society, No union, No Institution of any kind. I hate hypocrites and parasites. I despise the man, who dresses himself in "BORROWED GARMENTS" of another. I do not believe in loving my enemies. I have pretty hard work to love my friends. I am the friend of every human being who has been the friend of man, and every man who is endeavouring to enslave his fellowmen in St. Croix, I hate with all my heart and soul. I am a native of this Island. I protest against any assuming the right to abuse the young men of this community. Words of abuse proceed from men of questionable reputation. For myself I had rather be robbed, than to be a robber, and I had rather be of such a disposition that I would be driven to suicide rather than to live in splendour and contentment on the organized labour of others.

I am not resenting for the Labour Union or any of its officers. They are at liberty to do so themselves, but I protest against any one (especially an alien) casting aspersions on the men of this town. It is a breach of hospitality and gross ingratitude.

Respectfully

A NATIVE.