

Publication.

IT is hereby brought to public notice that the Government has, this date, authorized the Reverend GEORGE L. J. SCHNEIDER, C. S. R., to perform civil-religious functions in the Municipality of Saint Croix.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, St. Thomas, 2 June, 1924.

WM. S. ZANE,
Government Secretary.

Mails Close

for St. Thomas, V. I. by the "Ranger" and for the Leeward and Windward Islands, by the s. s. "Bridgetown" at 4 p. m. today.

MALCOLM ØGAARD'S FUNERAL yesterday afternoon was a large one composed of people from all parts of the island who gathered together to bestow their last kind attention and to sympathize with the bereaved. The procession consisting of some twenty automobiles from Christiansted town and district started from Barten Spot at 4.45 and reached Frederiksted town at 5.15. The numerous friends from Frederiksted joined at the church there which was well filled by the time the funeral arrived. The pall bearers were members of the Christiansted Literary and Debating Club of which the deceased was an active member. The procession was led by the Rev. H. M. Pigott and was met in Frederiksted by the Rev. A. Banks of St. Paul's both ministers performing the burial ceremony. Amid a sea of flowers they laid Malcolm away among other members of his family gone before.

R I P.

Correspondence

Christians' ed St. Croix,
5-5-24.

To the Editor of the
"St. Croix Avis"

Sir:

Kindly allow me space in your esteemed columns, to say a few words on the "hasty dreams and no accomplishments," that we read and hear so much of in the daily newspapers. I mean the "Civil form of Government that our politicians are trying to introduce in the Islands."

I wish to state that it will be a very good idea if these newspapers and politicians will let the people know their future views of the benefits to be derived

from the form of govt. that they are trying to introduce in the islands. If they will throw some light on the subject, they will be doing the people a great deal of justice. The present way of handling the business will not, and cannot work.

The people have been misled and fooled so very often that under present circumstances they are quite right to keep quiet on the subject. They have never been given a fair chance of choosing; comparison of present and future changes has never been made for them to choose, therefore they have been feeding on the dry fields their shepherds dream to be green, and finding they are no better off from their hailings, they have decided to stop and make up their minds for the worst, and under present circumstances the worst is death.

At the beginning they came out in large crowds to the different mass meetings when the islands were to be sold, at these meetings they cried "SALE," what have they benefitted by it? Nothing. Next they wanted a new code of laws, the code was put before the Legislative Body for framing, the "whip and spur" was quickly accomplished; what good have the hailers received? Conempt being popular of course. Next came the death blow to the islands "PROHIBITION," the same way they went to the mass meetings and cried "prohibition;" here came the final smash of industry in the islands, and now every day looks like Sunday. The people are tired of empty dreams, and are trying to emigrate as fast as they can, and of those that remain, will rather go to church and funerals than attend political meetings.

Here comes the question, "Will a Civil Form of Govt. help or improve conditions in the Virgin Islands?" Will it help industrially and financially? These two items are the most essential handicaps in the islands; industrial and financial difficulties. At present the form of govt. we possess is not the trouble, a form of govt. should not account for bad legislation. Will a new form of govt. dissolve the Legislative Body and give us men that have the islands' welfare at heart that will see the people justified and not look in their personal benefits first? I should say no, because that lies within the power of the electorate, and the majority that make up the electorate are a set of easily bought fools, and when the electorate becomes more open to voters, it will be the same old "John Charles," it means more liberty and new hardships for a new form of govt. will bring new grievances. The first step will be the cutting down of expenses, for if you want a new form of govt. you must expect to pay for it, the first place they are going to start with is the govt. departments, where they have two persons they will use one, and of those that they keep their salaries will be cut down; will that be improving the islands? With the new form of govt. we may be granted citizen-

ship, but what does that amount to, we will be subject to the same protections we are subject to at present, we will be termed the same Virgin Islanders, taxation will be raised, and of course we expect rents to raise also; then comes the question, will the laborers pay raise also? How could we expect the laborers pay to raise when we leave the study of industrial and financial difficulties and study a form of govt. that will surely bring high taxes in an almost bankrupt island. Comparisons have been made between these islands and Porto Rico, these comparisons are as foolish as anything; Porto Rico is filled with all kinds of modern improvements that affords her to look out for her rights, she is capable of supporting herself, her harbors are always filled with ships, while scarcely sailing vessels come here, on account of not having a good harbour, and nothing for export but a few bags of sugar and for the past four years that is so little that it is hardly worth while mentioning, then she has her millionaires who control big business houses, while the whole of St. Croix put together cannot equal one. There's no comparison between the Virgin Islands and Porto Rico.

Don't look at the large salaries that some are receiving, that is not coming out of our treasury, you can't kick about a place bringing one hundred thousand dollars while her expenses are three hundred thousand. Study the different ways by which the islands will be able to help themselves, get help and accomplish your plans and then you can look around and say, we are fully deserving of our rights; but at present you are not thinking of the ways and means. The United States Congress know the people's wants more than the representatives who live in it, from a clipping in the "Avis" of the 31, May, we see what the home government is doing, they are appropriating the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of sending down three experts for the purpose of improving conditions in the islands both financially and economically and industrially. Here we are not thinking of these things, we are thinking of something far different. The form of govt. we now possess is not responsible for present conditions, the govt. cannot send rain to flourish the one little industry we possess when we can get rain. We are governed by the Navy Department, we receive our appropriations through this department, they send down men who they think capable of the duties they are supposed to perform. The men sent down here have tried their best, lots of improvements have been made: The Schools have been improved one hundred per cent, the Hospitals have also been improved wonderfully and lots of other things too numerous to mention. What has the Legislative Body done in connection with the improvements that have already been made? We don't want the days to return when the hospitals had