

LOCAL

The s. s. "Guiana" from New York is due at Frederiksted at noon today, having 400 packages for this island and will leave at 2 p. m. for the Windward Islands. It is unlikely that this boat has much mail having sailed from New York on Saturday when the contract mailsteamers leave for San Juan and would be given the mail.

The sloop Mizpah sailed from this port for St. Thomas yesterday evening. She carried mail posted up to 5.00 p. m.

Let Us Take Action.

(Concluded from yesterday's Avis.)

This, then, gives us two alternatives to choose from. First, to cut in half the money now spent for education and thereby let our youth grow to manhood with half the education they are now receiving. To cut in half the amount now spent in the care of the sick at the hospitals and thus let them suffer in proportion. To cut in half the amount now spent for sanitation and thereby incur the risk of serious epidemics. To cut in half all other items of governmental expenditure and thereby reduce the efficiency of the Government by one half.

We must either do this or raise through taxation the money necessary to prevent it. This would mean that, to raise through taxation the equivalent amount, it would be necessary to *double* all forms of taxation. We would have to double the income tax rate, double the import duty rate, double our real and personal property taxes, double our trade and lamp tax rates, double all court and other fees, and in fact double everything ad infinitum.

What sane man believes that the existing economic situation warrants a change in the form of government, under the circumstances outlined above? It took Porto Rico 20 years to reach a point where a permanent form of government was warranted as replacing the temporary form of Government, and they had no world war conditions to contend with.

Porto Rico has some \$20,000,000.00 of insular and municipal debt, to pay the interest on which the people are taxed. It is now proposed to give the Virgin Islands the same form of government that Porto Rico has, and Porto Rico receives no direct Federal aid. On the contrary, it has incurred some \$20,000,000.00 of debt to bring it to its present state of being.

Our greatest and most vital need at present is to so increase our prosperity as to become entirely self supporting. We have already taken the first big initial step by adopting the Resolution of February 7, 1924, containing the eight

important items necessary of accomplishment as a basis for so increasing our prosperity.

Already much has been done to forward this platform. The matter of permanent water supplies for the three towns of St. Thomas, Christiansted and Frederiksted, is well on its way towards accomplishment. The matter of impounding water for agricultural purposes has been investigated and we await the report of the Irrigation Engineer sent here by the Department of the Interior. We have the assurance of the Secretary of State that the pending British-American treaty, whereby British vessels will be allowed to enter ports of the United States with liquor under seal, will include the ports of the Virgin Islands.

Therefore, our greatest danger is that our carefully laid plans may be upset by action from the outside, official or unofficial.

With regard to this bill, the unofficial action of the person or persons who requested Senator McLean to introduce it in the Senate is a direct and vital danger to the plans we have so carefully laid for increasing our prosperity. We should eliminate this danger AT ONCE.

What is likely to happen to this bill to provide a permanent civil form of Government for the Virgin Islands? It is now on the calendar of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular possessions, having been regularly introduced in the Senate by a member of this committee.

Having been thus formally presented to the United States Senate, it follows that it will receive serious consideration. How soon this serious consideration will be given it, no one can tell. It might be tomorrow, it might not be for weeks.

Is it wise, then, in view of the possibility of its immediate consideration by the Senate, for us not to delay action even for a day with such a possibility? Emphatically, No. The people of the Virgin Islands should at once take definite and drastic steps to place themselves on record as entirely opposed to this bill, and to formally repudiate the person or persons who requested Senator McLean to introduce it to the Senate.

The only manner in which the people may adequately express themselves with regard to this bill, is by formal resolution adopted by the two Colonial Councils. Such resolution to specifically declare that the people of these islands are utterly opposed to the proposed new form of government for the Virgin Islands, and specifically stating that the person or persons who secured the introduction of this bill by Senator McLean, acted purely on his or their own responsibility, and without the knowledge, sanction or approval of either the people of the Virgin Islands or of the local government officials.

We urge that immediate steps be taken to convene a joint meeting of the two

Colonial Councils for adopting such a resolution, and we declare it to be the duty to his constituents of each and every member of the Colonial Councils to vote for it.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Rome, April 1st—A violent explosion occurred in the crater of Stromboli on March 28th, shattering windows in the vicinity, according to a communique from the Royal Meteorological Bureau fifteen people were wounded.

San Salvador, April 1st—It is reported that a thousand Honduran soldiers were virtually slaughtered in an attack on the revolutionary troops commanded by General Ferrara. Dr. Davila, who was recently appointed provisional president of Honduras by the revolutionaries, has arrived at Puerto Cortez.

Munich, April 1st—Further advices regarding the treason trial state that besides Adolph Hitler three others of the defendants were found guilty of high treason and four received sentences for abetting the others. All were required to pay their costs and fines of varying amounts. The court stated that Hitler and the three would be given their freedom after six months probation, if good conduct during that period. The verdicts were received with general apathy, while the probationary decision helped to emphasize the absurdity of the whole proceedings.

Paris, April 1st—The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the government's proposal towards providing a credit for the devastated regions, the estimates covering the months of April, May and June.

London, April 1st.—The Prince of Wales plans to spend a fortnight at Biarritz, for convalescence after his recent accident.

London, April 1st.—The Newcastle Consulate affair will shortly be settled and the Prime Minister will announce the details to the House of Commons on Wednesday. It is understood that the correspondence will be published simultaneously in London and Washington at the end of the week.

Tokio, April 1st—One hundred and fifty retired officers of the army and navy have held a meeting to launch the Kofukari movement, their purpose being to render assistance to political candidates of the army and the navy and to foster military education in Japan, hoping thereby to form a strong military party.

New Wark, N. J. April 1st.—Young Stribling, the Georgia school-boy boxer today decisively beat Mike MacTigue the world's champion light heavy weight in a 13 round bout before a crowd of 13,000. Stribling battered the champion from start to finish and had MacTigue on the verge of a knockout in the 10th round.