

30—Daniel Artely, died at the Hospital, age 22 years.

BURIALS

in the Public Cemetery of Frederiksted.

January 1920.

5—Gwendolen Simmonds, died at the Hospital, age 1 year and 3 months.

13—Richard Rodgers, died at the Hospital, age 50 years.

18—Mary Isaac, died in Town, age 72 years.

24—Cecelia Holmes, died at the Hospital, age 44 years.

28—Still born in Town.

30—Rebecca Williams, died in Town, age 86 years.

30—Still-born male at Bethlehem Factory.

31—Stanley Nurse, died in Town, age 6 months.

GRAND JURY STARTS

COST OF LIVING PROBE

Evidence in Alleged Cases of Profiteering Presented as Probable Cause for Indictment.

Under instructions from Judge Hamilton and with the guidance of the United States District Attorney Martin, the grand jury yesterday commenced an investigation of the high cost of living in Porto Rico and charges of profiteering.

For almost one hour during the morning the grand jurors were in the court room listening to the charge of Judge Hamilton who explained the terms of the Lever Act, commonly known as the Food Control Act, and then retired to the jury room to consider specific charges of profiteering which were presented by the District Attorney.

In explaining the Lever Act, Judge Hamilton told the jurors that while the war was at an end that war conditions still prevailed and that because of that fact the Food Control Bill was still in force. He explained that the law was intended to protect the production, transportation and distribution of all necessities and to provide punishment for the crimes which might be employed to prevent or interfere with the production, transportation and distribution of any articles as necessities by the law.

WAR CONDITIONS STILL EXIST.

"Some people think the war is over", said the Judge, and while that is technically true, it is a mistake to think that war conditions do not still prevail. When we get into a war there are conditions which develop of which we have no control. If the president should sign a peace proclamation, or if the Senate decided to ratify the peace treaty, that would not put us back into peace habits."

Classified as necessary by the Food

Control Act are all articles of food, clothing, fuel, tools and machinery necessary for production, manufacture and transportation of necessities and fertilizers. **LAW NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS.**

The Judge said that broadly speaking there were two classes or elements chiefly affected by the Food Control Act, insofar as production was concerned, and they were capital and labor. He said the law was impartial and that it applied to both the laborer and capitalist, to the individual or a corporation, and to all persons regardless of nationality.

"If you find a sugar central on a merchant keeping back goods from the market in order to increase their value, or if they are selling at an excessive profit," said the Judge, "that is a crime under this law. If either a laborer or a capitalist commits a crime he must be brought here regardless of whether he is a peon or the head of the biggest undertaking in this island.

"If you find, for instance, that a manufacturer is making something that costs him 5 or 10 cents to produce and that he is selling it for twice that amount, he is violating this law, he is profiteering."

The Judge said that the Lever Act provided three different methods for carrying out the purpose of the law or exercise control of the production and distribution. The first method was that the President was authorized to take over any business for the Government and to fix prices. The second method was for the establishment of trade commissions to control prices and practices in a given business, while the third method was the punishment of violators of the law which could be brought about only by the action of the Grand Jury. He said that the law was designed to prevent profiteering and hoarding of necessities or the monopolization of necessities or their destruction in order to increase prices.

"If you find the law is being violated, you will discover that a few punishments will prevent many others," said the Judge.

In addition to specific cases in which indictments will be asked on evidence to be presented to the Grand Jury by the District Attorney, the Grand Jury is expected to go into the whole general subject of high prices. The investigation has been brought about by specific instructions from the Attorney General at Washington and is expected to be similar to investigations in the United States — *Porto Rico Progress Jan, 16th.*

THE GUINEA FOWL.

In Cuba Guinea fowls are as plentiful in places as black birds are in Porto Rico. They are seldom entirely wild, but usually semi-domesticated so that they will come at dusk and be fed. It is an interesting sight to watch a farmer feed his flock of

chickens in the evening and see Guinea fowls come running and flying from all directions to share in the feast. The writer has tried to count at such times but that is impossible for there are literally thousands. In the central part of the island when starting out one morning before sunrise large flocks were seen to leave the cleared land around the settlement going toward the forest where they evidently spent the day.

As Porto Rico is much more thickly populated and as the negro is so much more destructive here, Guinea fowls have no chance to breed to the same extent as in the more thinly populated sections of Cuba, but considering that they are hardy and healthy and thrive with very little care, would it not be well to have more of them? — *Agricultural Notes. — Ibid.*

SUGAR NOTES.

Die Deutsche Zucker Industrie reports the liquidation of the German sugar companies in Hawaii. The American government has confiscated nine sugar companies of which one is H. Hackfeld and Co., which had a capital of \$7,500,000. The aggregate capital of these companies amounts to \$34,000,000 — *Louisiana Planter, 17th Jan.*

It is reckoned that the average of 272 pounds of sugar is taken from every ton of beets which means a return of \$27.00 of which the grower gets \$10 and the factory retains \$17.20 for marketing, manufacturing and dividends. — *Ibid.*

LOST

Between Company, King's and Queen's Cross Streets, TWO GOLD SAFETY PINS, one containing ten small diamonds and a pearl set in the middle and one with a coral.

Finder will be suitably rewarded on bringing same to this office.

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