

St. Croix Avis.

80TH YEAR.

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The Editor St. Croix Avis,
Dear Sir:—

The following data concerning the operation of the well drilling rig in connection with the drilling of the first well at estate Boetzberg, will no doubt be of interest both to yourself and to your subscribers.

As far as this department is able to determine this is the first well which has been drilled in the Virgin Islands by the aid of any such mechanical equipment as that recently purchased by the municipality. The success of its operation and cost should therefore be of particular interest to many of the local inhabitants.

The first well was drilled in the field belonging to estate Boetzberg located to the south of the cross roads at what is popularly known as Jackey Market. It is in the immediate line of the natural drainage from Samuel Hill, Lowry Hill, and Maria Hill, and is dug through a formation which seems to have been deposited on the valley floor by washes from all of these hills. The surface of the ground at the top of this well is approximately thirtyfive to forty feet above sea level. The total depth of the hole is seventy feet below the surface of the ground. For the first 35 feet a clay gravel containing a large percentage of clay matter was encountered. From 35 feet to 48 feet this clay gravel persisted with a gradually decreasing percentage of clay. From 48 to 70 feet there was encountered a rotten rock which gradually became more solid but which appeared to be fissured to a considerable extent. The rock had a shaly nature and seemed to belong to

the older series of rocks. Water was first found at a point somewhere between 23 and 42 feet below the surface. Its natural level is about 26 feet from the surface, giving a total depth of water when undisturbed of approximately 44 feet.

A pumping test in three stages was made with the following results:

First stage 500 gallons delivered in 15 minutes, or at a rate of 44 gallons per minute. The water level was lowered from 29 feet to 65 feet.

Second stage, one half hour later, 525 gallons pumped in 15 minutes, or at the rate of 45 gallons per minute. The water level was lowered from 30 feet to 50 feet.

Third stage, 20 minutes later, 3800 gallons were pumped in 153 minutes, or at the rate of 24.8 gallons per minute. The water level was lowered from 32 feet to 63½ feet.

During this third stage it was observed that the water level remained practically constant for over one and one half hours, at a level of 62 feet below the surface, and at no time was the hole pumped dry. Twenty minutes after stopping the water rose from 63½ feet to 30½ feet. The water was sweet to the taste, clear, and of no odor, and slightly warm.

The maximum depth drilled in any one day was 19 feet. Fortyone feet of standard 8" steel pipe casing was lowered into the hole. Of this the lower 29 feet was drilled with ¾ holes, placed three inches to four inches apart. The total time consumed in placing the drill and drilling of the hole was nine days, and that for test pumping etc, one day, making a total of ten days. The total cost amounted to approximately \$230.00, which was divided as follows:

Labor and fuel etc. \$2.00 per foot,
8" well casing drilled, \$3.50 per foot,
8" well casing, undrilled, \$1.80 per foot.

The overall total cost amounted to approximately \$4.00 per foot of hole drilled.

It must be understood that the above figures hold true for this first well only and they will vary with the location of the hole, the nature of the material drilled, and many other factors; and while the results of this rather shallow well are encouraging, it must not be expected that other holes will produce the same yield and the same quantity of water.

Very truly yours,

JOHN C. GEBHARD,
Asst. Public Works Officer.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, April 7th.—The Government was defeated in the House of Commons today on the unemployed tenement bill by a vote of 221 to 212.

London, April 7th.—The Government's defeat by a vote of 221 to 212 was the result of an amendment offered by Mr. Neville Chamberlain to the rents bill opposing its second reading. The Government will not resign as a result of the vote. Mr. Macdonald will make a further statement on the subject tomorrow.

Southampton, Eng. April 7th.—The striking shipyard workers here have rejected by a large majority the advice of their union leaders to resume work. This means, according to the recent decision of the federated employers, that the men in all shipyards of the country will be locked out on Tuesday.

London, April 7th.—A Central News despatch from Capetown says that the Government headed by Premier Jan Smuts has resigned.

Capetown, April 7th.—(Reuter's). A general election in South Africa has been brought nearer as a result of the bye-election at Wakkerstroom, Transvaal, where the Nationalist candidate Naude defeated Robertson, the Government candidate by a substantial majority. The seat was formerly held by a ministerialist, who died. The Wakkerstroom bye-election is regarded as pivotal as regards the feeling in the country districts where the Nationalists on the whole easily predominate.

Brussels, April 7th.—The King is suffering from an attack of the grip, and it was announced today and his physicians have ordered him to remain in bed.

Rome, April 7th.—Martial law has been proclaimed in Albania, following the murder of two United States merchants, waylaid on the Tiranascutari highway.

Rome, April 7th.—Premier Mussolini scored a tremendous triumph in Italy's elections, his Fascist leaders today claiming 40 per cent of the entire vote. It is certain that the Fascists polled more than 25 per cent of Sunday's total vote, thus ensuring them the election of a solid parliamentary majority of 356 delegates. With the victory thus won, Fascism reaches a constitutional basis and Mussolini is assured of remaining in power virtually indefinitely, unless spats

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