

for the most important reason that, because of lack of time for the adequate consideration of amendments, it may well be that amendments would so weaken the whole document that the Government would find itself unable to utilize it as a whole in representing matters to the Home Government.

Gentlemen, while I am not with you in the flesh I am most certainly with you in the spirit, and I wish you most earnestly, a successful conclusion of this most important matter before you.

PHILIP WILLIAMS,
Governor.

The Chairman (Merwin) on behalf of the Council thanked His Excellency, Governor Williams for the interest he is taking in the islands.

The Secretary of the St. Thomas Council (Nolte) read the following communication received by that Council from His Excellency the Governor:

February 5, 1924.

The Honorable,

The Chairman of the Colonial Council,
Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John,
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Sir:—

I have the honor to inform you that the Municipal Committee of the Colonial Council of St. Croix, at 5.30 p.m., Monday, February 4, 1924, adopted unanimously a resolution resulting from the letter of His Excellency, Governor Hough, dated October 20, 1923, in which he recommended that the Municipal Committees of both Municipalities hold public hearings for the purpose of developing concrete ideas as to what should be done to better the economic condition of the Virgin Islands.

The resolution adopted is identical to that unanimously adopted by the Municipal Committee of the Colonial Council of this Municipality, and I feel that this opportunity of establishing the basis for greater coordination between the two Municipalities should not be lost, and I accordingly recommend that the two Colonial Councils meet in joint extraordinary session in the Municipality of St. Croix at 2.00 p.m., Thursday, February 7, 1924, for joint consideration of the two identical resolutions.

The presence of the Federal Commission in the Municipality of St. Croix at this time, will, in my opinion, greatly add to the value of this joint session and should the joint resolution be adopted, I am convinced that the Federal Commission can greatly aid in its successful prosecution.

The U. S. S. Grebe will be placed at the disposal of the Colonial Council to convey it to Christiansted, St. Croix, and return with the Colonial Council on the evening of the same day.

In view of the foregoing, I have the honor to postpone the extraordinary meeting of the Colonial Council scheduled

for Thursday, February 7, 1924, until Thursday, February 14, 1924.

Respectfully,

PHILIP WILLIAMS,
Governor.

The Chairman (Merwin) remarked: Honorable Members of the Colonial Councils of St. Thomas and St. John, and St. Croix before proceeding to the memorable duty before us today we should first show respect to the Honorable Woodrow Wilson who has just died and whose corpse is now laying in Washington. He was the man that negotiated for and put through the transfer of these islands to the United States Government and as a result of which we are sitting here today as American Legislators. Mr. Wilson was mainly successful in all he undertook. He, like our late President Harding was our war President and did much, very much, toward keeping our country free. Mr. Harding, hastened the end of his life by his untiring devotion to duty in the Nation's cause. I ask everyone here to rise from his seat as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Wilson. All the members rose.

Item 1.

Colonial Council Bill No. 17.
Fourth Council, First Session, 1923-1924.

Introduction of draft of resolution embodying recommendations to better the economic condition in the Virgin Islands.

forwarded by the Municipal Committee of St. Croix
forwarded by the Municipal Committee of St. Thomas and St. John.

The Bill reads as follows:

Colonial Council Bill No. 17.

Fourth Council, First Session 1923-1924.

RESOLUTION.

Be it resolved by the Colonial Council for St. Croix in session assembled:

PREAMBLE:

The Virgin Islands of the United States passed from the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark to that of the United States of America on March 31, 1917. The three major islands comprising the group, namely, St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John lie at the eastern edge of the Caribbean Sea and form a natural outpost to the Panama Canal.

To be continued.

THE MAILS

Regular, parcel post and other mails for St. Thomas, Porto Rico and the United States, etc., by s. s. Catherine will be closed in Christiansted at 10 00 a. m. Saturday, February 16th INSTEAD OF SUNDAY. Registered mails close at 9 00 a. m.

LOCAL

Report has it and doubtless it may be so, that various units of the fleet have been ordered to the French and British West Indian ports. Probably four destroyers will go to Frederiksted is the opinion now being aired.

The s. s. "Guiana" for New York is due at Frederiksted on Monday morning at 6 o'clock from Windward Islands.

For intent to evade the prohibition enactment Milton Dowdy of Frederiksted was sentenced in the police court there yesterday to 10 months imprisonment and \$50 fine. In his testimony it is reported that he implicated himself and others in incendiary fires set in the store of the late R. E. Higgins.

Referring to the inhumane handling of cattle imported here, as much and more could be cited concerning the mistreatment of animals, chiefly horned cattle, exported from this island. The cruel methods practiced in the shipping of cattle have been touched upon again and again, and they are so revolting that there should be no necessity for bringing them before the eyes of the public through the medium of the newspaper since they are only too well known. A few examples are sufficient to show that something should be done by way of correcting a situation which is positively a disgrace to a civilized community. Usually preparatory to making a shipment of cattle the poor creatures are brought to town and kept indefinitely without food or drink until they sometime collapse when blows dexterously administered bring them struggling to their feet and in this half-starved, halfdazed condition they are shuffled to the boat their tails deliberately broken to effect control, their horns nearly rooted out, their hides lacerated with savage lashes from sticks, or the whole torn, bleeding objects of distress that would make the stoutest heart shudder. The writer has seen the cattle herders sink their teeth into the tails of the unfortunate animals as a means of getting them under way. Indeed the tails of most the cattle shipped from here are broken in several places and almost pulled out of place. That things like this could be carried on with impunity in a civilized community is regrettably a fact that calls for merciful if not other attention, and that right now. It is no wonder many of the cattle die en route, because after being bullied the way they are on land they are strung up on the vessel by their horns into a position from which they cannot budge. The way they tie bulls in Martin Pena, P. R. is different to this and yet Porto Rico is only a hundred miles away from us, and once had bull fighting as the national sport.