

Member for said District (M. M. Skeoch) 1 vote.

Item 4.

Election of Members of the Public Cemeteries' Commission.

The election took place in this manner: 4 names were written on the ticket, the first two signified the members for Christiansted and the other two members for Frederiksted.

13 voting tickets were handed in.

Elected were:

For Christiansted: D. C. Canegata and W. S. Abramson with 9 votes respectively.

For Frederiksted: Robt. L. Merwin with 9 votes and F. Coulter with 8 votes.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) received 3 votes; 3rd Appointed Member (Armstrong), 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson), 3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander), 2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) and 3rd Member for said District (Robt. W. Skeoch) received 1 vote respectively.

To be continued.

LOCAL

We are publishing today the first installment of a report by Mr. C. C. Fisher, engineer, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, on the irrigation possibilities in St. Croix. This subject will doubtless be very interesting to many readers. Maps, charts and tables attached to the report may be seen by interested parties at the office of the Assistant Public Works Officer who has been kind enough to furnish us with a copy of the report.

The s. s. "Guiana" is expected to leave New York on Thursday, the 19th inst.

The s. s. Romanita made her weekly call here on Saturday last arriving at 3:15 p. m.

The schooner "Roma" arrived here on Sunday morning with a party of excursionists from St. Thomas.

The baseball match played on Sunday morning between the St. Thomas team and one from Christiansted resulted in a victory for the visitors, the score being 16 to 1.

The football match started in the afternoon was drawn in the course of the second half of the game up to which time neither side had scored. The St. Croix players showed skill in keeping the game at the enemy's goal all the time. The game was stopped on account of one of the St. Thomas men being sick.

The Moravian Church held a Sunday School picnic at the Moravian ground

yesterday accompanied by the Native Brass Band.

There was some masquerading in town yesterday afternoon, otherwise there was no public amusement whatever except a cricket match between a local and a St. Thomas team which won by 79 runs.

The Grebe called at this port yesterday for passengers for St. Thomas to attend a ball at Government House last night.

Rev. Oehler, of the Moravian Church at Sharon, Barbados, will speak in the Lutheran Church of this town this evening. All are cordially invited.

A sad accident occurred on the street on Sunday night when a car chauffeured by a drunken man known as Buckra Johnny ran over a child inflicting injuries to the face. The doctors were at the operating table putting the unfortunate little sufferer right till late the night. From afternoon this driver had been seen in a state that indicated the danger of his being at the wheel and he damaged a car of Mr. W. S. Abramson, which was well known; still he was at large in the evening and up to after the child had been run over he was operating a car. The public life is in its hands with a condition of this kind; drunken people should be forcibly removed from cars if they persist in jeopardizing public safety. Here is an opportunity for imposing a deserved hard sentence that will discourage reckless driving on the whole of which there is a great deal all the time.

The s. s. Paria from New York is scheduled to arrive at Frederiksted today.

REPORT AND ESTIMATE ON IRRIGATION POSSIBILITIES ON ISLAND OF ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS, U. S. A.

BY C. C. FISHER, Engineer,
Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

INTRODUCTION.

1. By letter dated December 5, 1923, from the Honorable Secretary of the Navy to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, request was made for the assignment of an irrigation engineer to make an investigation and report on the irrigation possibilities of the Island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and by reply of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, dated January 16, 1924, Mr. C. C. Fisher, Engineer, was assigned to this duty. Accordingly the writer proceeded from Denver, Colorado, and arrived via the transport "Kittery" on February 26th. Approximately three weeks were spent

on the island in making field studies and in collecting data. These data were then brought back to Washington, D. C., where the following report has been prepared.

2. Sincere appreciation is expressed for the courtesies extended the writer by the planters on the Island and by the Naval officials both at Washington and on the Islands, and also for the assistance furnished in the way of draftsman, stenographers, etc.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. The conclusions reached and the recommendations made as to the possibility and the feasibility of irrigation development on the Island of St. Croix, as resulting from a three weeks visit to the Island by the writer and a subsequent study of the data there secured, are summarized in the following paragraphs 4 to 22.

4. The geological formations of the Island are not favorable to an artesian water supply or to a sufficient ground water supply for irrigation.

5. The topography and soil conditions are favorable to irrigation development.

6. The ultimate possibility of irrigation development will not exceed 15% to 20% of the arable land of the Island.

7. The major solution of the farming problem on the Island must be diversification of crops; the raising of crops that require less water than does sugar cane; and the adoption of better dry farm methods.

8. The value of irrigation based on the net value of the increased cane production is estimated at \$420.00 per acre.

9. The mean annual rainfall of the Island is 46 inches. The lowest of 72 years record was 1922 with 26½ inches. There are periodical dry cycles of several years duration, the low average of record being the last few years, but the average annual is not decreasing.

10. There are practically no records of runoff on the Island. The estimated annual runoff is very low—about 25% of the rainfall. The most vital need on the Island in connection with irrigation studies is the securing of runoff data, and it is recommended that steps be taken to this end, and that no irrigation construction be undertaken until at least a few years runoff records are obtained.

11. The normal annual rainfall, if properly distributed, is sufficient for the production of a fair yield of sugar cane. A high duty (low use) of water is essential on account of the scant supply. The duty adopted is 60 inches in depth per annum on the land, including beneficial rainfall, or a rainfall of 5 inches per month or less.

12. Distribution losses are estimated at 25% of the diversion from the reservoir.

(To be continued.)