

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

And now for the last lap of our journey. First thanking our genial host for the most pleasant diversion so tastefully supplied and then into our waiting automobiles which in a few minutes carried us to the centerline road where at this point we rejoined and proceeded down the road due west, we re-pass the plantations and scenes we reviewed upon our upward journey. Our guest then took the opportunity to ask questions as to some characteristics of the island, as follows:

P. R: What is the size of the island?

B. B: Twenty-two miles long, five to six miles broad at the west end and middle and tapering to a point in the east. In area about eighty-four square miles.

P. R: What is the population?

B. B: About 12,000.

P. R: How much of the island is arable?

B. B: Nearly all is arable. In 1790 the whole island was under cultivation even to the tops of the mountains we see before us, but gradually this extensive cultivation has decreased for various reasons in which the question of labor and population enters largely.

P. R: What is the price of land per acre?

B. B: It is not a custom here, as yet to sell land by acre, the plantations are held as a whole, generally ranging from seventy-five acres up, and are sold as plantations with buildings, stock, implements, etc., an estate of about 150 acres would be valued today about \$20,000, equipped.

P. R: But cannot land be sold by the acre?

B. B: There is no law to prevent selling estates in parcels as a whole with buildings, stock, implements as described; however, no doubt in the near future a dismemberment of estates as a whole will become the custom of the day rather than the system I have just mentioned. As to the value of the land it ranges from ten to fifty dollars per acre, according to locality and fertility, and in rental it is quite customary now of five to seven dollars per acre per annum.

P. R: I notice that each plantation seems to have a group of buildings like a village upon it.

B. B: Another old custom and which will not be seen in any other island in the West Indies, except possibly in Jamaica. Twenty-five years ago and previous, each of these plantations we are now passing had individual set of works for the manufacture of sugar and back in the "forties" each had a windmill upon it before steam was introduced as power to grind the sugar cane, so that each of the groups you see was a small beehive of industry with the owner for the manager and his family, domestics and laborers all working harmoniously and happily together.

P. R: I understand there is some investigation on to procure water for the island.

B. B: Yes, I am glad to say there is. By the courtesy and genuine interest that he has shown in the Virgin Islands we have to thank Mr. Denby, the Secretary of the Navy, who has sent out an Engineer, Commander Warfield, to devise ways and means to supply water for the towns, and already Christiansted's plans have been worked out and in the near future that town will have its water supply and Frederiksted has also the assurance that it will have a good supply for domestic purposes in the near future. As to the greater problem Mr. Denby has sent our Mr. C. C. Fisher, kindly assigned by the Department of Interior of the Reclamation Service, who is studying the problems of a possible irrigation system and who assures us after a first study of the situation that it will be possible to impound water of sufficient quantity to carry a considerable acreage over the partial dry spell we have each year and which will be so beneficial in allowing the use of artificial fertilizer not possible now as the application tends to burn out vegetation unless supplied with moisture.

(To be continued.)

LOCAL

The s. s. "Bridgetown" sailed from New on Saturday evening, have 10 tons

of cargo for Frederiksted and 37 tons for Christiansted.

The postmaster requests us to make

Eight Days More At Christiansted.

FROM WEDNESDAY 26th.

CALL and see me at No. 4 Hospital Street, Christiansted, and get the right Lenses fitted to your eyes before I leave.

JOHN R. MAYHEW, Opt. Dr.

"What Wives Want"

WILL BE REPEATED AT THE
WEST END MOVIES

TONIGHT AT 8.15

An obvious tale finely directed and staged in keeping with the manner of smart society.

Ethel Grey Terry is at her best in this familiarly worked triangle.

ADMISSION:

Front Seats.....10c.
Back Seats.....05c.

THE Lenten services in the Lutheran churches this week:

FREDERIKSTED

Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in Bethesda.

CHRISTIANSTED

Thursday evening at 7.30.

"WITH THE MASTER IN GETHSEMANE".

J. P. CHRISTENSEN.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORT No. 30.

Week Ending March 21, 1924.

Municipality of St. Croix.

School	Class	Percent of Pupils not tardy.	Percent of Attendance.
Frederiksted	Jr. High	99.79	100.00
La Vallee	Rural	100.00	100.00
Frederiksted	Public	99.02	99.37
Christiansted	Jr. High	98.21	98.86
Diamond	Rural	100.00	98.75
Christiansted	Public	99.12	98.05
Peter's Rest	Rural	100.00	97.27
La Princesse	Rural	100.00	97.25
Friedensfeld	Rural	96.98	90.19

remark that bills for rent of post office boxes have just been issued for the coming quarter, April 1 to June 30, and urges the settlement of the same before the close of the present month. Invariably box holders give a lot of needless trouble in the closing of the box rent account through failure to pay in time. It will be much appreciated if due attention will be given to this matter.