

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegeta) (Chairman of the Municipal Committee) remarked: It is my high privilege as head of the Municipal Committee of this Municipality to extend to you the Officers of the Navy, the Representatives of the United States Press a most cordial welcome. Gentlemen, we are delighted to see you and it is with unfeigned satisfaction that I bid you welcome to St. Croix in the name of what I may call the Cabinet of our Council and in the name of the people of this island. Let me add that it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here in Christiansted, the Capital of the Virgin Islands, in whose interest if you would turn and devote just a little attention, her harbor would, at very little cost, be made productive of much benefit to the inhabitants of the island, and would have enabled us to receive you at the threshold of our island, her main landing place, instead of at her back door. As I have mentioned this just let me say in passing that although we are aware that estimates of this improvement have been made, the great disparity between those estimates and that made by our former administration is what keep our hopes alive in this respect, and we trust soon that efforts will be again renewed tending towards this much needed improvement.

This gathering is unofficial. But you are here, if I read the times aright, in the fullest sense as the accredited representatives of your fellow country men and women, and in this capacity you are entitled to express with authority attaching to no other force, the conscience, the reason and the sentiments of a large portion of the people of the Continental United States. Accordingly yours too now is the opportunity of interpreting the feelings and sentiments of the people of the Virgin Islands to those whom you represent. In addressing you then I feel that I am speaking to you not as individuals, but as the exponents of principles and hopes that are common to us all and without which our life on earth would be a life without horizon or prospect. It is our hope that your visit this afternoon would do much to promote a closer understanding of our conditions here and the problems with which we are confronted.

I am not going to lay down any programme, resolution or memorials, we have just had with us a Federal Commission sent out to investigate our conditions, the result of whose efforts we all

are anxiously awaiting. We have already presented our views to them, but let me say here that while we want to associate ourselves too with your mission here this afternoon and knowing what has come from all the Commissions, Memorials, Resolutions and promises of the past we want you to express the sentiments which I think is dominant in the minds of all of us at this moment. Tell the people of the United States what we of the Virgin Islands would like you most to tell them "Example is better than precept, and action speaks louder than words." Entreat them to turn an ear to the Virgin Islands. Our wants are not many and none too exacting.

We are glad to welcome you as we all value the presence among us of a body of men who we hope will faithfully represent what they find to be the feeling, who are in a position to send out to the Nation of which we form a part a true picture of this island, who we trust will speak the truth, and if you can succeed not only in speaking the truth which is comparatively easy, but in striving to know and express the truth, you will be rendering us the greatest possible service we can ask of you this afternoon.

Admiral (Coon's) remarked: Mr. Chairman, His Excellency, Representatives of the Press and Citizens: This is my second speech for the day and I will make it very short. The Navy Department is interested in the Virgin Islands. The appropriations for the Virgin Islands are charged against the United States Navy Department; perhaps many of you do not know that like Guam we send down here Naval Officers, Doctors and men and they ask us to appropriate for these islands; and the Naval Department is willing to have these appropriations charged against it. We have to furnish a number of governors and officers for these islands. When the United States Government takes hold of a territory it starts right out on sanitation. Our Government believes that when a man is well he is willing to work; we try to cure yellow fever, typhoid fever and elephantiasis, we try to cure the people so as to enable them to become better citizens. At present it is pretty hard to get appropriations; I have handled your appropriations; this time it is something like \$351,000. The quicker you try to get on your feet the better it will be for you. If you want your harbor dredge you will have to find the money and do it yourself.

Secretary Denby was here last Spring and through him we heard of your wants and within 48 hours after his return we were on the job devising way and means to help you upon that problem. I know you have had some rain, because I have some mud on my clothes, and I am glad to have it. Your water situation will be carried through. You must not ask for too many things at once, you must ask for what is most necessary; put your im-

portant ones down first. I know the Navy Department is going to help you although it has its own troubles. It is one of the departments that gets action. I am glad that these Newspapermen have come here. We didn't conquer these islands, we paid \$25,000,000 for them and like the other territories of the United States they have their ups and downs. From now on your island and the neighboring islands are going to have some ups.

To be continued.

LOCAL

The s s "Surinam" arrived at this port at noon yesterday, landed 29 bags mail and sailed for St. Kitts at 4 p. m. after discharging general cargo and taking in mail for the Leeward and Windward groups.

Our leading turf man Mr. H. MacKay has just purchased a new thoroughbred racing mare from Porto Rico. This sprinter is understood to be ahead of the best seen here and the prospect of good interesting races is again assured.

With the favorable weather the island has been having at the present time the cane crop for 1925 is looking very encouraging and will probably surpass earlier expectations.

Frederiksted is being graced by a few units of the fleet; small boats which are anyway giving shore liberty to their crews. The people over there are much disappointed at what they fear will prove only "air castles" so far as the prospects of the visit of the fleet is concerned. Merchants and private folk who prepared supplies in anticipation are facing losses they claim. This is rather unfortunate although not unavoidable. Meanwhile the British Islands get the "rakeoff", and dry St. Croix remains dry and unattractive.

SERMONETTE

Self-confidence

Those who have the deepest experience in the things of God, are the farthest removed from pride or self-exaltation. It is when men have the most exalted conceptions of the glory and excellence of Christ, that self is abased, and they feel that the lowest place in his service is too honorable for them.

Gospel workers, p. 323.

Let all christians give glory to God and not to finite man who is like a flower of the field and will soon pass away.

F. HALL, Pastor.