

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORT No. 32.
Week Ending April 4, 1924.
Municipality of St. Croix.

School	Class	Percent of Pupils not tardy.	Percent of Attendance.
Frederiksted Jr. High	Jr. High	99.57	99.57
Frederiksted	Public	99.20	99.26
La Vallee	Rural	98.00	99.00
Diamond	Rural	100.00	98.37
Christiansted Jr. High	Jr. High	98.75	98.33
La Princesse	Rural	100.00	97.92
Christiansted	Public	98.90	97.56
Peter's Rest	Rural	100.00	95.39
Friedensfeld	Rural	97.88	91.71

LOCAL

At a depth of 70 feet the well driller punctured a water vein on Estate Boetberg on Saturday, the gush of water expelled being estimated at 1000 gallons an hour. This is of course one of the best pieces of news for this island, and it is to be hoped that similar finds will be made whereby a system of irrigation may be put into effect practically solving our drought problem once for all.

The "Grebe" paid a visit to this port yesterday bringing, as we understand officers to conduct a court martial in the case of a street brawl between natives and marines the other night in which one of the former is reported stabbed in the back.

Music lovers enjoyed the concert delivered last night in excellent style by the Industrial Band in the bandstand.

B. R. Larsen As Public Man.

By R. H. AMPHLETT LEADER.

"Promises, Like Chickens, Come Home To Roost".

Nine years ago, I started writing Character Sketches of our public men. The idea was, not to write up heads of Departments only but anyone in public life who, like Cleveland, believes that "public life is public trust". Men who are time-servers, men who are in public life just for the honor of it whose ONLY delight is to be "part of things"; men governed solely by SELF—whose creed is "What is there in it for me?"—were not to be considered.

I wrote-up Judge Poulsen, Dr. C. J. Heyn, Policeman F. C. Jackson, School Director Rubner-Petersen, Toldforvalter Marcus Andersen, Hon. Leroy Nolte and Principal Fred McFarlane. The last Sketch was published in the St. Croix Avis early in 1919, I moved from Christiansted to Frederiksted the same year and the Sketches were discontinued.

Looking over some notes on this matter lately, I found that the next public man I had planned writing up is the subject of this Sketch—the promise I made to myself in 1919 to come home to roost.

First Native To Receive Federal Appointment.

Mr. Larsen has been in public life for upwards of seventeen years. Entering the Postal Service at Frederiksted, he was, after years of service under Toldforvalter W. C. J. Bjerg, promoted to Christiansted.

He has always been efficient and reliable. On several occasions I have been at the home of Toldforvalter Andersen when a paper from Government has been handed to him and, invariably, after reading it he would write:—"Larsen, *bedes tilset*" "Larsen, please look to this"—with his name. Then he would remark:—"It is as good as done—Larsen is capable."

Acting Postmaster from, practically, time of the Transfer, he was commissioned Postmaster April 25, 1918. Mr. Larsen has the honor of being the first native of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be appointed by the President of the United States with the consent of the Senate. Were this honor many another man's, one would have heard a great deal of flummery about it. Not so Larsen. Continuing the even tenor—I am not thinking of that staccato manner of speaking, mark well—continuing the even tenor (or is it bass?) of his way, Larsen goes about his official business with the tenacity of a bull-dog.

In those days Larsen would change the entire structure of the fixtures in the Post Office overnight, just to obtain more efficiency, you know. This was done, so often that people begun to say efficiency could not be obtained by turning a printed matter case end for end—BUT LARSEN KNEW BETTER. Then Capt. A. J. Blackwood, Chairman of the Municipal Committee at the time fought in real seafaring fashion the for leasing of the building on the wharf by the Federal Government from the Municipality of St. Croix and won. Even that has not stopped Larsen from changing and changing. Evidently he believes that while it is possible for one to change for the worse, it is not possible for one to change for the better UNLESS one actually changes.

A Walking P. L. And R.

Sometimes a lawyer cites a case in court and is told by the judge that that case has been overruled. Within my knowledge, no postmaster or any Bureau of the Department has been able to point out to Mr. Larsen that such and such a section of the Postal Laws has been amended. Larsen knows all about every amendment and amendment of an amendment. He can tell you offhand that (note the italics please; Mr. Larsen speaks italics all the time) "IN CONFORMITY

WITH ARTICLE 4 OF THE PHYLLOXERA CONVENTION OF BERNE EUCALYPTUS AND CONIFEROUS PLANTS GREW AROUND THE TOMB OF KING TUT". Larsen is a P. L. And R. on two legs.

Higher Officials Pass Him Up.

As far as I know, the late Inspector Hathaway former Inspector Ryan—men of the highest type of public men—held Mr. Larsen, as a postmaster, in high esteem, and the same can be said for the genial Chief Clerk of the Railway Mail Service, Mr. Dedrick. I have no reason to believe that he is less thought of by the present affable Inspector Rice. The Department has passed him up as GOOD. And when it comes to trying to get anything (or should it be everything?) for Christiansted, Larsen remains at the bat all the time.

From all of which it can be seen that the Hon B. R. Larsen is a good public man.

The Virgin Islands.

New Possessions of the United States
that are Governed by the Danish Laws
and the Eighteenth Amendment—
Robbed of an Industrial Market
for Cane Juice—Rum and Water
—Strategic Value of a Beautiful Island-Group.

(The Troy Times, March 25th)

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.—
"Among you gentlemen from the mainland the impression exists that the Constitution follows the flag", was the remark made to the party of newspaper men who visited the Virgin Islands a few weeks ago. The speaker was the manager of the biggest sugar company on the island of St. Croix. The occasion was an al fresco luncheon tendered to the visitors. An hour before, the party had listened to several members of the Council at Christiansted as they outlined the needs of the islands in general and of St. Croix in particular.

Under Danish Laws.

"Your flag, which is our flag today," continued the speaker, "was raised on the islands seven years ago, and may it never be hauled down. But up to now we have no part of the Constitution here in the islands. None of the first seventeen amendments has been attached to the Danish colonial laws, which form our code, nor do we enjoy the benefits of the Nineteenth Amendment. The Eighteenth Amendment, and the Volstead Act, is the only part of the American Constitution which has been made applicable to these American Islands."

Rum For Denmark.

For nearly a century previous to the Civil War, Santa Cruz, or St. Croix, annually produced many thousands of gal-