

Treasury. I think the Member should amend his resolution.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. I am perfectly willing to amend the resolution. But the letter which I referred to in my previous remark was read in the Municipal Committee and the member got the information there.

Despatching Secretary (*Birrett*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The occasion for the letter from His Excellency the Governor stating that all accounts must be closed and the books balanced by July 20, 1924, is due primarily to the recent visit of the two men from the Comptroller General Office in Washington. The Governor has been informed by those two gentlemen that they are going to recommend that all unexpended balances from money appropriated by the Federal Government for the Virgin Islands remaining over at the end of the fiscal year go back into the Treasury. The Governor is trying to avoid this. If the resolution introduced by the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town can be made to produce the same effect as the law now prevailing in the United States which provides that all amounts not spent at the end of the fiscal year must revert to the Treasury he will be establishing a precedent for which Government will be thankful.

I believe that if this project of building a cistern was given out to a contractor it would be binding, but as it is being built by the Public Works Officer I doubt very much that it will be considered as binding. This question was brought to the attention of the two gentlemen and they said we will hear from them. I doubt that the Governor will approve this resolution inasmuch as he has already requested that the work be completed by June 30.

To be concluded.

LOCAL

The s. s. *Parima* from New York is due at Frederiksted at 1 o'clock this afternoon and will sail at 4 o'clock p. m. for the islands.

Rev. Allen of the Friedenstal Moravian Church will speak in the Lutheran Church this evening. All are cordially invited.

OFFICIAL NOTES.

The President has signed the Revenue Act of 1924 (Income Tax Law) which provides for a reduction in the 1923 taxes of individuals and trust estates amounting to twenty-five per cent of the tax correctly computed. Where the 1923 tax was paid in entirely on March 15th, a refund of twenty-five per cent in all be made before June 30, 1924. Application for this refund need not be made.

Where one-fourth of the 1923 tax was paid on March 15th, the reduction will be made as follows: Only one-half of the installment due June 15th will be payable on that date; one-fourth of the installment due September 15th will be deducted and one-fourth of the installment due December 15th will be deducted. Application for this deduction need not be made.

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

By C. C. FISHER, Engineer,
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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

26. Regarding the question of ground water supply, Dr. Vaughan states that the newer formation is rather porous and will absorb water, there is no overlying impervious strata that could serve as a retaining layer, and that artesian water supplies are therefore not to be expected on the Island. On this question Professor Kemp states "we lack, so far as my observations go, good porous, permeable beds. I would not therefore look for a copious flow, even if water were struck in in the Kinghill Series. Pumping wells suitable for watering stock seem to be the ones which, were water encountered, would be the most probable expectation. I cannot bring myself to believe that any supply abundant enough for irrigation would be encountered".

27. From the above and also from studies on the ground, it is the conclusion of the writer that there is no possibility of ground water sufficient for irrigation on the Island. It is believed, however, that the problem of stock water can be largely solved by the digging of wells and perhaps also by drilling wells in suitable locations, the best probable location being in the newer formation overlying the trough or "syncline" in the older rock in the central portion of the Island to which Professor Kemp calls attention.

SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY.

28. The lands proposed for irrigation on the Island, and in fact the agricultural lands in general, have a gentle slope, ranging perhaps from 20 to 120; they are generally fairly smooth and are especially well suited to irrigation. The soils range in depth from 15" to 24" and are generally overlying the recent limestone formation. They are generally a rather heavy clay loam with a considerable admixture of decomposed limestone. Such soils should be capable of irrigation without excessive loss of water on condition that the irrigation "runs" are made short enough to avoid the percolation of water through the soil cover and into the limestone. No

analyses of the soils were made for this report, though it is claimed by the local planters that the fertility is high. This claim, however, is somewhat questioned by the writer, on account of the fact that the land has been in continuous sugar cultivation for many years—possibly 200—without rotation of crops and without the use of fertilizer; and also because of the fact that they are now producing less sugar cane per acre than at Porto Rico with a similar rainfall. It is stated that artificial fertilizer cannot be used without irrigation as it would burn out the crops during the dry months, but that it could and would be used with material benefit under irrigation.

IRRIGATION POSSIBILITIES

29. From the standpoint of a practical water supply for irrigation there are no perennial streams on the Island of St. Croix, though it is said that during normal years of rainfall there are several small washes—locally known as "guts"—that do not go entirely dry. The only surface water supply sufficient to consider for irrigation are the floods of considerable magnitude but of short duration which run off from the principal catchment basins during heavy rains. The topographic map of the Island (See Plate A) and also the Island itself were carefully examined for catchment basins sufficient in area to consider and in which suitable reservoir sites may be found where such floods may be impounded and conserved for irrigation. Only three such catchment basins were found, namely, the Jolly Hill basin, the River or Manning Bay basin, and Salt River basin and in these the effective drainage areas, and therefore the runoffs, are very limited. By "effective" area is meant the mountainous area, as the flat or valley areas are known to produce but little if any runoff except during unusual rains. The drainage areas above the dam sites of the four possible projects (the Manning Bay is an alternate plan to the River project) are as follows:

Project	Drainage Area		Total
	Mountains (sq. mi.)	Valley (sq. mi.)	
Jolly Hill	2.08	0.00	2.08
River	3.31	0.00	3.31
Manning Bay	3.70	6.15	9.85
Salt River	3.00	1.62	4.62
Including feeders from east and west— (see plate 6.)			

(To be continued.)

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Tokio, June 9th.—Belief that the peak of the agitation in Japan against the United States enactment of an Immigration Law barring Japanese had passed was expressed in well informed circles today. The active phase of the agitation it was agreed, cannot continue more than two or three weeks.