

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

Continued from yesterday's Avis

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the information given by the Government Secretary. I have very little to say in reply, except on the income tax; the Secretary says that the income tax budgetted is only an estimate and that the Government did not know what the amount would be when the budget was prepared, but if we go as far back as the time when the Congressional Commission was here, we will find, as stated in their report, that the Despatching Secretary said the right figure for 1919 would be about forty thousand dollars. May be he did not speak with authority, but then he should not have been brought to testify before the Commission. I think myself that the income tax for this year will be pretty close to two hundred thousand Frcs.

The then Despatching Secretary in not making it clear what year he was talking about gave the Commission the impression that some of us were paying too little income tax and the Commission has recommended to send a tax Inspector down here to investigate. I shall welcome an investigation.

However Congress intends, as far as we have learned, to make us as much self-supporting as possible, and may make use of the Budget figures. Should that be the case it is necessary that the figures for the taxes are as nearly correct as possible.

Personally I should prefer to see a budget made up with the total expenditures exactly the amount of our revenues, and in addition have each department give an estimate of what it thinks would be necessary to carry it through the fiscal year on modern American lines. Then the appropriation from Congress can be allotted to the various Departments by the Government accordingly.

I fully agree with Member Stakemann that so long as we can get appropriation from Congress we should try to get as much as possible for this island.

In regard to libraries, I do not wish to go on record as being in opposition. On the contrary, I am in favor of a library. May be the amount proposed is too small, may be it should be doubled or trebled; the Council had no time to look into the matter when the libraries were established.

In regard to detectives, I think it would be a wise thing to have one or two detectives and eventually do away with some of the Chiefs, Inspectors or Sergeants of Police, from experience I know

that not one of the robberies committed on our concern has been detected; I think we need a detective even if we have to pay him a good salary. In regard to the other matters I have nothing further to say; I am sorry to see that the slaughter houses are proposed for the two towns; the proper place for a slaughter house is in the country, the animals are killed in the country and we see cattle drawn on the roads and through the towns with their throats cut, and the blood dripping out, these things are not pleasant to look at.

Government Secretary Timmons remarked: Mr. Chairman. About the Income Tax I do not think the argument is well founded, for the reason, a copy of the budget is not even sent to Washington. An annual report is made every year and that gives all the figures.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman I understand that if any Congressman asks for a copy of the budget he would get it and that is as good as having it.

Government Secretary Timmons remarked: Mr. Chairman. I only mean as far as Government is concerned; as far as the official report is concerned the budget is never sent.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Our expenses are running up daily and there is no doubt that we are taxed to the limit at present, let us take our Land Taxes, our Income Taxes and our Horse and Carriage Taxes, and our Road Taxes, cost of labor and material, all these amounts to a good deal, and unless we are sure of a good crop we are bound to suffer loss. At present we are short of labor and one of the first things our Government should do is to rectify the provisions we have made so that we can have laborers. At present many of the Planters are sacrificing their estates for want of labor, that seems to be a pretty hard condition I never expected to see such conditions as are existing today under Old Glory, but on account of the action Government has taken on our Immigration Fund, we are going through very hard times. We have imported machineries and agricultural implements into this island, but machinery cannot do it all, we must have manual labor to help, and unless we have manual labor, we will not be able to pull through. We are trying to work in harmony with Government, yet we must take things into consideration.

Despatching Secretary (*Commander Colby*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. For the benefit of those interested Frcs. 191, 283 is the amount of income tax for the Callendar Year 1919.

There are several questions that have not been covered. The Public Works Officer Lieut. Pettigrew will answer those relating to his Department.

Public Works Officer (*Lieut. Pettigrew*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In regard

to the three Inspectors referred to by 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*), one is for Christiansted, one for Frederiksted and the other for the Building Division to carry on the work in that department, in the two towns and the country districts. An Inspector for the Building Division is down for Frcs. 400 per month, carpenters and masons are earning two dollars and more per day today and I do not think we can find workmen for less than the amounts budgetted here. I do not think it is possible to combine the two Street Inspectors.

In regard to increases on the budget for the different departments, if you go down to new constructions you will find that the price of cement is raised, and lumber is selling today at one hundred to one hundred and thirty dollars per thousand feet.

Street Division—Labor has been raised from sixty cents to one dollar, price of oil has been raised; we have these increases in price and it would be impossible to accomplish what we have been accomplishing before unless the budgetted amounts are increased.

Despatching Secretary (*Commander Colby*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. One more question is left to be answered,—Veterinarian—Dr. Mink will answer this question.

Dr. Mink remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Veterinarian is necessary to protect the health of the animals here, more especially to prevent the introduction of diseases among animals of these islands. The Veterinarian is sometimes looked upon as an enemy of the Dairyman but when the Dairyman gets acquainted with him he will find that he is his best friend. The Veterinarian will give him advice which will cause an increase in his outfit.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The reason why I compared the salaries of the Street Inspectors with the salaries of the Road Inspectors is, because I believe more road inspection is required. I am a member of the Road Commission, and have been all over the roads in my Section, and I believe if the Public Works Officer had occasion to spend a little more time here he would see the necessity of having a Road Inspector to see that the recommendations of the Road Commission are carried out. I think the amount budgetted for the Road Inspectors is too small; I would like to see five thousand Frcs. budgetted for him as any of the Street Inspectors.

In regard to Veterinarian, I see he is budgetted for a salary of Frcs. 4,500. May I ask if the amount budgetted is going to be paid to the man from Antigua?

Despatching Secretary [*Command Colby*] in reply to the last speaker said,—The Veterinarian from Antigua is the one we are budgetting for; in the year