

Knocks Romance Out of Tropic Dream of U. S.

VIRGIN ISLANDS JUDGE CONDEMNS THEM.

Eighty miles east of the Porto Rican shore, where the languid Carribbean enters the aqua jungles of the Atlantic, where St. Thomas lies enchanted under a sleepy tropical moon, where pirate lore is purveyed by the natives, and the sea gull waves a wing in dolce far niente—

"It's not fit for a white man to live in."

In these words Federal Judge Lucius J. M. Malmin, chief justice of the Virgin Islands, knocked all romance from the insular group for which the United States government paid Denmark \$25,000,000. Back in Chicago on a vacation, the Supreme pontiff of justice for some 25,000 persons was telling members of the Lawyers' Association of Illinois about our newest possession.

"Only three of the Islands—St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. Johns—have any human inhabitants," he said, "and most of them are black. It was the Dutch who first occupied this group, 250 years ago, and they abandoned it in favor of New Amsterdam, later New York. Then the Danes came in, but lost the islands to the British. Later they were given back. Now you know what they must be like if England didn't want them."

Our islands, according to the judge, are only good for a naval coaling station. They are too far away to afford any protection to the Panama Canal. In 1917, when we acquired them, it was feared that Germany would make a submarine base of the Virgin group and thus imperil our transports and commerce fleet.

"Why did you give so much money for them?" Judge Malmin once asked Secretary of State Lansing.

"I would have given \$50,000,000 if necessary," was the reply. *Chicago Sunday Tribune, Jan. 23rd.*

TELEGRAM.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Feby. 2nd.—Unrest continues among the peasants of the United Provinces of Agra and Gudeh, India, according to a despatch to the Times from Alahabad. Agitators are reported to be carrying a violent Campaign against the Govt, despite the fact that legislation had been promised to remedy their grievances. In the latest instance of disorder, a thousand persons lay down upon the railway lines in order to halt a train on which they believed their leader, who had been arrested, was being transported. When persuasion failed the police were ordered to clear the track. The crowd then made an attack with stones whereupon the police opened fire with buck shot.

Berlin, Feb. 2nd.—Germany does not consider the terms of reparation decided upon by the Supreme Allied Council at Paris last week, as being the final settlement of the indemnity question but the basis of future negotiations. This was indicated by Dr. Simons, Foreign Minister, who spoke on the reparations question before the Reichstag yesterday.

Berlin, Feby. 2nd.—The Press, without regard to party affiliations, approves the Govts. declaration which Dr. Simons, Minister of Foreign Affairs submitted to the Reichstag, to the effect that the Entente reparations demands are not feasible of execution. The only criticism of the foreign representation of the Cabinet attitude is contained in the Nationalistic organs, which are impatient of Dr. Simons failing to make the refusal more emphatic. Editorial comment generally assumes that further developments lie in the direction of the Govt. ability to formulate counter-proposals, which will pave the way for amicable solutions.

St. Johns, N.F. Feby. 2nd.—The Newfoundland coast is icebound as a result of the severest cold of this winter. The Northern bays and Conception bay, ten miles north of this city, are solidly frozen over, and the mail steamers have abandoned their service. St. Johns harbour has a thick coat of ice, which makes the movement of shipping difficult.

Paris, Feby. 2nd.—The Temps commenting on the attitude adopted by Germany with reference to the decisions of the Supreme Council at Paris, suggests that the Allies adopt the following measures: First, that the Allied Govts. immediately seize the German customs in their respective zones on the left bank of the Rhine. Second, that the Allies establish immediately in their respective zones customs cordons which would separate the German occupied territory from that already there. Third, that the Allies unite without delay for the purpose of establishing a customs administration, including tariff distribution of receipts and similar provisions. The Temps concludes, "Germany proposes to talk, we intend to act, and French opinion will appreciate this."

Athens, Feb. 2nd.—It has been definitely decided that Premier Rhallis and War Minister Gounaris shall represent Greece at the London Conference on Feby. 21st, when the Supreme Council will consider the Near East situation.

London, Feb. 2nd.—The Duke of Connaught, who is on an official visit to India, formally inaugurated the Bengal Legislative Council of State on Tuesday, says Calcutta despatches to the Times. The ceremony was simple but impressive. He received the political programme of India, and referred to the difficulties and dangers besetting the Councillors under the reform scheme,

which placed unaccustomed tools in their hands. The Duke enumerated three problems. 1st. Improvement of education and industrial opportunities. 2nd. Relief for the natives on the land question, and 3rd, improvement in the standards of health and vitality. With sobriety of language and freedom from passion or prejudice the Duke said, "The British Parliament ten years hence will be justified in enlarging the scope of their administration activities". This is regarded as an answer to the rumours that the powers of the Ministers and the electorate would be extended within four years.

London, Feby. 3rd.—While offering determined objections to the Allied reparation demands, Herr Severing, the Prussian Minister of Home Affairs declared in a speech at a meeting of majority socialists, that Germany, should not decline all of the demands in an angry fit, but should try to convince the Allies that Germany was doing what she could to satisfy reparations requirements, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Cologne early today. The Minister declared the present demands of the Allies meant the economic strangulation of Germany.

Berlin, Feb. 1st.—The Reichstag, through their leaders, yesterday, seconded the Govt's attitude on the Paris agreement. The debate which lasted three hours was dispassionate, barring interruptions during the Communist leader's speech, the sole dissenting note in the parliamentary chorus of approval.

Buenos Aires, Feb. 2nd.—As a measure of retaliation for the Fordney Tariff Bill now before the United States Senate, Deputy Saccone announced today his intention to introduce a bill in the Argentine Parliament on all goods imported from countries increasing their import duties in such a manner as to affect Argentines exports. He declared the real purpose of the bill was to make the United States the creditor of the South American republics, raise a tariff wall against their imports and then forcibly decrease South American gold holdings by requiring the debtor republics to pay their balance in gold. Deputy Saccone asserted the time had come for the Argentine to assert herself and let it be known she is not depending on the United States for imported merchandise. With our great supplies of raw materials, he said, we can go to any market in the world on a firm footing.

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EM. E. SV TZER.

Lt. Princess, 20th January 1921.