

Multiply Yourself Mr. Struggling Man.

Let sympathizing, helpful ones see that you are not a dead wire yet; but quite alive; and to be found at No. 43 King's Street, Christiansted.

Thankful to R. H. A. L. who has given me a timely hint. I also wish to all my old and new friends a lucky and prosperous 1924.

J. J. JOHNSON.

"The Bonanza J." Christiansted 1st Jan. 1924.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Monday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am going to vote for this amendment because it brings out the purpose for which my amendment was introduced. When the Honorable Government Secretary said a while ago that this ordinance is introduced to help the squatters, I took that as a matter of confidence. I am in favor of the amendment and will vote for it.

3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (Robt. W. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am in favor of this amendment and will vote for it. I have some squatters that I will take pleasure in recommending for a loan and I have others for whom I will not hold myself responsible for five cents.

Government Secretary (Barrett): Government would like to be informed how the squatters can be helped under this amendment. If the amendment is adopted it will limit the loan and make it applicable to the parcelists only.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): Paragraph 2 says who shall get the loan—the man who owns from one to 200 acres of land.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen): Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that the purpose of this ordinance is to help land owners to cultivate their land?

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) handed in an amendment to the amendment upon which there was some discussion.

Government Secretary (Zane) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Before this amendment is put to the vote I wish to say that what led the Government to place as a limit of not less than 1 or not more than 200 acres was to exclude the three big factories, but to include all estate owners. It strikes me then that this amendment is placing the restrictions on the

larger estates. I feel that Government should not be placed in the position of having to accept this amendment without due consideration for the sake of passing this ordinance today. I do not know what may come from this amendment. I therefore feel that this ordinance should go over to the next meeting or remain as drawn.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry): Mr. Chairman. I wish to withdraw my amendment. There is sufficient safe guard in the ordinance to take care of the loans. This ordinance has been kept back too much. I suggest that we put the amendment as it stands to the vote.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen): Mr. Chairman. I wish to object to the remark made by the last speaker that this ordinance has been kept back too much. As a member of this Council it is my privilege to know who is going to be benefitted by this ordinance.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I agree with the last speaker. My policy is to legislate over the table and not under the table. That's what I come to this Council for. If there is any ulterior motive behind this bill it will not meet with my approval.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District that the amendment be put to the vote as it stands. I am not sure that the purpose for which this ordinance was created is going to be carried out in its present text. I am going to vote for it trusting to the good judgement of the Municipal Committee. The speech made by the Honorable Chairman of the Council has deeply impressed me. The illustration he gave about the two calves is applicable to the situation. We are here legislating to help the squatters and put the island under cultivation and he should be safeguarded in some way. It should be definite and it should be clearly stipulated whom this ordinance is to take care of. Often an ordinance is brought here and passed and then afterwards executed quite different to the spirit of it.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) proposed that 2nd discussion be closed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) seconded the motion.

Despatching Secretary (Barrett) remarked: Mr. Chairman. There seems to be some misunderstanding. There are some members who spoke here who forget it is necessary to have land to put the tops in and to have planttops. This loan is intended for the squatters and parcelists. The Government is simply safeguarding itself and trying to secure the cooperation of the land owners. Government wishes to impress upon this Honorable Body and all those who are

here today that the Treasury is not inexhaustible nor unguarded.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Berg) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The matter of security is all passed upon and settled. That's covered in the other paragraph.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I consider it fair that the man who owns two acres of land should have a chance just the same as the man who owns a factory. Three men may come along tomorrow and ask for a loan of \$5,000 each. If such loans are granted where will the squatter come in?

3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (Robt. W. Skeoch): Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the Honorable Member forgets that the Municipal Committee and the Government have to pass upon the applications.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. We may run the risk of having the same experience we had some time ago. A man went to the Despatching Secretary and borrowed some money and invested it in an estate that is not worth anything. He was unable to pay back the money and the property had to be taken over.

3rd Member for Christiansted District (Robt. W. Skeoch): That matter did not come before the Municipal Committee but in this case Government is using the Municipal Committee as an Advisory Board and will be guided by its opinion.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen): That's very well and good, but you cannot change the ordinance after it is passed.

To be continued.

LOCAL

Midnight religious services in all the churches and private entertainments in the home wound up the old year, and ushered in the new. Yesterday there was masquerading made up of stilt walkers, and pole-plaiting.

Today opens with a heavy north easter blowing and appearances of approaching rains.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Dec. 28th.—The Daily News speaking of Rome's attitude with regard to the conferences on church reunion which were held at Malines and were initiated by Cardinal Mercier and some few Anglicans as referred to by the Archbishop of Canterbury in his Xmas message from Lambeth Palace says that a high prelate of the Vatican declared. "Those discussions are quite unofficial, so far as the Vatican is concerned. The Vatican, while wishing well to such efforts remains outside. The