

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

AT one o'clock p. m., Monday, December 13, 1920, the Colonial Council of St. Croix held its 4th Ordinary Meeting for the elective period in the Colonial Council Hall at Christiansted.

The following members were present: The Chairman, (Merwin), G. B. Fleming, A. J. Blackwood, Robt. W. Skeoch, D. S. Armstrong, W. S. Abramson, F. Andersen, A. E. Stakemann, F. Coulter, Thos. Ramsay, F. Lunney, M. M. Skeoch, D. Noll and K. Henderson.

Member G. Nordby sent in excuse of his inability to attend the meeting. Furthermore were absent Members W. L. Pentheny and W. E. Mac Kay.

His Excellency, Governor Oman, Government Secretary (Timmons), Despatching Secretary (C. W. Fox) and Lieutenant Robt. L. Pettigrew attended the meeting.

Owing to the absence of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary the Chairman asked 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) to act as Secretary to the Council.

After prayers had been said the Chairman remarked: Honorable Members the minutes for the last meeting have been published as customary in the "St. Croix Avis" and if members have no objection I will declare same tacitly adopted.

There being no objection the Chairman declared the minutes as published tacitly adopted.

The following communications received since the last meeting were then read:

1. Letter from Government of November 5, a. c., requesting the Vice-Chairman of the Colonial Council to elect, by circular letter, the Tax Commission for the present year.

Messrs. A. Conrad and W. L. Pentheny for Christiansted.

Messrs. R. E. Higgins and K. Henderson for Frederiksted.

2. Letter from Government to Chairman of the Colonial Council of November 22, a. c., reading.

1. There is forwarded herewith, for the information of the Council, a copy of a letter addressed by the Governor to Lucius J. M. Malmin, Esq., revoking his temporary appointment as a District Court Judge in the Virgin Islands, effective November 20, 1920, for abandoning his duty without proper leave.

COPY.

November 20, 1920.

Sir:

Referring to previous correspondence and conversations upon the subject of your proposed trip to the United

States, inasmuch as you have already made preparations to sail from the Virgin Islands to New York on the Steamer "Guiana" today, and thereby abandon your duty in the Virgin Islands without proper leave, I feel that it is necessary to, and do hereby, revoke your temporary appointment as a Judge of a District Court in the Virgin Islands, effective this date.

In my letter of November 9, 1920, I plainly told you that I would not "stand in your way" of going to the States, but also told you that you could not go on any mission pertaining to this Government with my approval. Therefore, I cannot see how I can permit you to leave the Virgin Islands against my wishes and still be clothed with the office of a judge of these islands.

Check No. 37828 on the National City Bank of New York, for \$253.95, U. S. currency, in full payment of your salary as a judge in these islands to date, is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully,

J. W. OMAN,

Governor.

Lucius J. M. Malmin, Esquire,
St. Thomas.

The Chairman then laid before the House item 1 of the Order of the Day and remarked: This matter is before the House on 2nd Discussion

Item 1.

Colonial Council Bill No. 50.

2nd Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 50 Draft of Additional Money Bill to the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921. Introduced by Government, authorizing the payment of Fres. 60,000.00 from funds in the Municipal Treasury, not otherwise obligated, to the Telephone Fund for the purpose of effecting repairs and new installations.

1st. Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I understand why this Money Bill was held over at the last meeting is because the Council was to have some information as to the nature of the repairs. If Government is prepared to give the information we would be glad to listen.

Lieutenant Pettigrew elucidated that in a letter forwarded to the Municipal Committee under date of May 8, 1920, the first item thereon is installation of three additional trunk lines between Christiansted and Frederiksted.

(b) Replace deteriorated poles and cross-arms.

(c) Replace all present lines made of old cables with line of iron wire; and
(d) Installation of a new switchboard at Christiansted.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chair-

man. I, for my part, am satisfied. I recommend the Money Bill to the favorable consideration of the Council.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) would like to know if sixty thousand francs is spent whether the public is going to have an up to date telephone system? Furthermore the Member said, Under present conditions while one person is speaking through the telephone five or six other voices could be heard talking at the same time. There are many business transactions that cannot be spoken over the telephone, or else the whole island would know the next morning. When such a large sum of money is spent the public should be informed whether those who are executing the work will thoroughly improve the telephone system. I should like to know if there will be given any guarantee that we will get a modern up-to-date system?

Lieutenant Pettigrew elucidated that the great portion of the trouble in connection with the present system of telephone is due to the trunk line and a single line between the two towns. The metal circuit will do away with that. To say that this amount will be sufficient to make the necessary repairs would be incorrect. The condition of the telephone and the guarantee depends upon the maintenance of the system. Therefore, it is impossible to guarantee that this amount will give an entire change. It must be taken into consideration that the lines will have to be kept clear and the crossing of lines will probably occur between two parties that have their lines on the same pole; for instance, if two estates have their lines along the same road, only those lines will cross, but no other person will be able to hear the conversation between them.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am very much pleased with the explanation given by the last speaker. Now I see that there will be some improvements made, and there will be more privacy between communications. There is another thing, the local manager promised that whenever the line is occupied the operator in the office will so inform parties who ask for connection, and also notify them when the line is clear; sometimes it is done, but mostly it is not done. I draw attention to this fact hoping that some regard will be paid to it and some remedy found. I also hope that after this money is voted we will not have frequent information that the line is occupied.

To be continued.

LOCAL.

The December holidays are over and Xmas being as far as ever is again true. It has been a quiet season generally speaking Xmas eve opened rainy and wet and continued that way until night;