

LOCAL

In this issue we reprint from the Detroit Free Press the substance of a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Grant M. Hudson of Michigan, looking toward the solution of the problems of the Virgin Islands. The attention of our readers is invited to this measure which embodies good constructive interest in the welfare of these islands that if carried out should prove of real benefit to one and all. At this time the movements on foot for new legislation and government for these islands as engineered locally, have impressed us as starting at the top of the ladder instead of at the bottom, and the clipping appearing today indicates that we are not singular in our conception of how the islands' affairs should be handled if the prosperity we aim at is to be gained.

The Barbados Agricultural Reporter carries a deserved complimentary comment on the brochure entitled "U. S. Press Representatives' Visit to St. Croix" which was originally published in our columns under the pseudonym of Bumble Bee. There were unfortunately many imperfections of printing and setting which have been eliminated in the bound copies of the little work which it gratifies us to note is receiving a hearty welcome abroad. It is believed that serving the purpose of a short historical sketch of the island of St. Croix in sprightly form, a better or more appropriate production is yet to be found, and we would induce the author, our esteemed friend the Hon. R. L. Merwin, to publish a second edition to meet the demand which is sure to arise after the first has been somewhat circulated. It may be remarked that this book could fetch a price, but so far has not been sold.

The Native Brass Band entertained the public with a popular concert on the wharf last night.

ST. CROIX.

We have to acknowledge with much appreciation the receipt of a copy of a brochure recently published in St. Croix the contents of which were reproduced from the *St. Croix Avis*, giving in an interesting and concise form a descriptive and historical account of that island, for the special benefit of a large number of Press representatives from the United States of America who visited the Virgin Islands in February last. The author is Mr. Robert L. Merwin, whose work in this connection merits the appreciation not only of his countrymen, but also of foreigners scattered over the wide world. The tale delivered is interesting and given in a simple and attractive style, which enhances its value to a great de-

gree. We compliment the author on the success of his talented effort.—*Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, 26th April.

Hudson Proposes Virgin Islands Aid

MICHIGANDER ASKS FOR EXPERTS TO DEVELOP RESOURCES.

By Free Press Private Leased Wire.

Washington, April 25—Representative Grant M. Hudson, of Michigan, today introduced a measure in the House looking toward the economic and industrial development of the Virgin Islands. Under the bill, the president would be directed to name a commission of three experts to undertake this task.

One expert would be required to be versed in trade, manufacturing, shipping and transportation, the second would be expert in the various ramifications of agriculture, stock raising, marketing and allied subjects. The third would be qualified to advise in questions pertaining to labor, vocational training, economic questions and similar matters.

It would be their duty, under the Hudson bill to develop the agricultural resources of the islands as well as industries, and to provide profitable employment for the inhabitants. They would be required to gather and disseminate information concerning the agricultural and industrial possibilities of the Virgin Islands and to endeavour to draw to the group interests that would aid in the economic development.—*American Paper*.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, May 8th.—There was a great deal of talk about armaments and the limitation of armaments in the House of Commons today, when the Navy estimates were being considered. The Singapore base project bobbed up again in the discussion and there were expressions of pleasure that the United States Congress had under consideration further conferences on armament limitation. The Admiralty "subvention" of 90,000 pounds a year to the Cunard Company, in respect to the *Mauretania*, was also mentioned, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty explained that it still had some years to run, but that he had made inquiry as to acceptance of a similar sum by the Company. The attitude of the United States House and Senate, said Mr. Ammon, had been noted with very great friendliness and pleasure by the Govt. and he added that the Govt. would do all in its power, so far as this country was concerned, to show a reciprocal desire to enter into any negotiations or discussions, no matter by who started. "We particularly want them," he added, "if they are started by the

Great English speaking nation across the Atlantic, nothing will be left undone that is in the power of this government in that particular direction." Mr. Ammon said work would be quickly started in two cruisers let out to private builders, and Lieut. Col. Amery, ex-First Lord of the Admiralty Staff was in favor of concentrating on the question of improving and bringing up to date the dockyard at Singapore. He contended there was an overwhelming case for modernization at least one dockyard east of Suez and once that was decided, there would be no doubt which dockyard would be chosen. Lady Astor declared that the world was not ready for peace, saying, "the people who talk the most about it are often the most quarrelsome. When you get amongst them they talk about a better world and they knock you down when they get you in the lobby. The worse thing in the world you could have at this moment would be total disarmament. The greatest enemies of the peace are the pacifists. If we had the peace some of them wanted we would all be doing the goose step." The House took the naval estimates under various headings, but did not reach them all. Among other appropriations 5,000,000 pounds was voted for contract shipbuilding, 7,045,000 pounds for naval shipbuilding and the maintenance of docks and 3,985,000 pounds for naval armaments.

London, May 9th.—Following is the result of the one thousand guineas stakes run at Newmarket today. Plack 1st, Mumtaz Mahal 2nd, Straitlace 3rd.

Calcutta, May 9th.—Flying eastward, Lieut. Doisy, French airman, left Calcutta today for Bangkok. The aviator took off at 5.40 a. m. on what will be one of the last legs of his flight from Paris to Japan. Bangkok is 1,840 kilometres distant and Doisy said he might stop at Ak-yab, 645 kilometres from here.

Washington, May 9th.—The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Panama and Columbia is announced. Official relations between the two Republics had not existed since Panama acquired its independence in 1903.

London, May 9th.—Russian troops are concentrating on the Bessarabian frontier and throwing up fortifications along the Dneister, while the Roumanian population flees southward panicky, according to the Paris correspondent of the London Daily Express today, who alleges confirmation of his despatch has been obtained from Sofia. Train loads of Roumanian troops, he said, are being rushed to the threatened points along the border. There is no confirmation of the report from official sources.

Athens, May 9th.—Jugo-Slavia is secretly concentrating troops in readiness to invade Albania and take advantage of the chaotic internal situation in that country, according to reports from Tirana, which are quite unconfirmed and taken with considerable re-