

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

And again the same author describes his journey from Christiansted to Frederiksted travelling over the same road upon which we went to Christiansted this afternoon. His narrative is interesting and reads as follows:

"After becoming well acquainted with particulars of Bassin, it was natural to pay a visit at least to West End, the general resort of Americans. On leaving Bassin, which is situate nearly on a level with the ocean, and passing over the plantations situate under the lee of the hills, and still elevated several hundred feet from the shore, it was immediately observed from the appearance of everything that it was impossible the frequent showers we had lately had in town could have reached here. The air was pure, dry, and elastic, beyond any thing before observed. Gentle breezes found their way through all the valleys, and over all the plains, banishing excessive perspiration, increasing the strength and enlivening the spirits and giving a brisk motion to the windmills stationed on almost every hill top like so many valorous defenders of the high places; the heavy rich growth of cane was gently waving in the breezes, with a slight rustling murmur; beautiful rows of ornamental trees bordered the splendid road we were passing; the warbling of birds was heard among the branches; small fleecy clouds were floating in the heavens alternately varying every view, from the brightest sunshine to the deepest shade; and everything combined to impress me with the idea of passing through some enchanted land of the wildest romance, rather than any reality of the earth. After a ride of two and a half hours through scenes constantly varying but everywhere beautiful, with a range of cultivated conical hills on the right, and a view of the ocean over miles of cane fields and groves of palm trees on the left, the village of West End suddenly burst upon the view. One of those slight momentary showers which are common here, was hanging over the village throwing all the colours of the rainbow over a scene which is *always* surpassingly beautiful. The effect was at once beautiful and sublime beyond description. The imagination of Mahomet could not supply its equal with which to adorn his Paradise.

"This village is situate on open ground, gradually rising from the shore, not hemmed in by hills, like Bassin, but with plenty in perspective, to give grandeur as well as beauty to the scenery, and is bounded on every side, except the shore, with highly cultivated sugar plantations. The streets are wider than those at Bassin, and the buildings less compact, in a better state of preservation, and more in American taste. There are also more gardens and shrubbery about town; and, what is observable at the first view, neither the buildings nor the soil show such indication of frequent rains. As near as I can judge, there are about one thousand inhabitants in the village, nearly, half white. The amount of mercantile business is as much or more than that of Bassin, and the number of vessels in the harbor about the same."

And as to the climate he writes being an invalid at the time:

"This frequency of rain together with the rank growth of vegetation would make a very unhealthy climate were it not for the nature of the soil (which does not retain the water, the elevation of the land keeping it always dry), and the fine cultivation of almost every acre of ground except the steepest and roughest hills. The rain washes away every impurity. There is no low land nor stagnant water; and there is scarcely any sickness except from direct exposure to rain, night air or sunshine. With proper care, therefore, it is a good climate for invalids from the North who need evenness of temperature and elasticity of atmosphere."

Evidently our invalid visitor experienced a very unusual and wet January in 1839, to speak so positively of excessive moisture. The average rainfall recorded for January month over a period of sixty years is 2.38 inches though it has been excessive at times notably January 1879 when the precipitation recorded for that month was over 9 inches. However, the period from December 1st to May 1st for over half a century has not averaged more than 2.15 inches per month and this distributed in light showers, while the month of March is particularly dry every year with an average of only 1.70

As the first sight of the village of West End suddenly burst upon the view of our friend of last century, so today, as we approach the town concluding our trip to Christiansted the same view presented itself with the exception that instead of a number of sailing craft in the harbor busily engaged discharging their outward cargo or awaiting to load their homeward cargo, we behold from the high lands just south of the town (such a charming picture that from this elevation any real estate developer would call this suburb "Duena Vista") Uncle Sam's greyhounds awaiting their passengers.

(To be continued.)

DIED at her residence at 9 o'clock yesterday morning after a long illness, Miss HILDA ABBOTT, aged 22 years. The funeral took place at 4.30 p. m. To those bereaved by her death we offer our sincere sympathy.

EDITORIAL.

Perhaps we were not quite clear or the Herald has missed the point from which we argued in regard to the disruption in the Christiansted Cooperative Dairy in our editorial of Monday last. The fact is not that we are opposed to any move that has for an object improvement of living conditions, reduction of cost of the necessities of life, or the like, but in this case we confess we have not, at least not yet, the confidence in the projected benefits which the public is to derive from the plurality of dairies to enable us to perceive the advantage, if there is any. We believe in order and organization. To us the Cooperative Dairy represents organization and that is why we believe it should be supported. That the public gains by the reduced price of milk there can be no question, and in our supplementary remarks on this point in Monday's issue we said as much. That the price of milk has been too high for some time and ought to have been lowered before we feel perfectly convinced. We believe that since milk sold for as low as 2½ to 4 cents a bottle in 1912 without competition, there should be good room for a drop from 10 cents today when expenses are NOT 100% percent above what they were then; they are not 50%. It is also our opinion that with a cheaper price of milk there will be greater demand for the article so that it would be only up to the dairymen to supply more milk and clear the same profits at a reduced price as they gain at a higher price. That more milk will be consumed if the price is low is shown in the increased sales at the Cooperative Dairy in these days. Although we don't think there is any loss we wouldn't say that the drop to 6 cents indicates that profits are so ample as to allow of it; this is mainly force of competition and we hold that it will not last when it has attained its object. Just wait and see. Already one of the dairymen who started selling milk at 6 cents was charging 8 yesterday. The people must simply watch and corner any advantage that is opened to them while they can get it, but they should not deceive themselves into supposing that either the Cooperative Dairy or the other dairies are selling milk with the sole idea of doing the public a favor. It is a business matter and the public must reap the benefits without committing themselves.