and currency depreciation and you have the situation in a nutshell.

No place has been more extensively advertised or kept more in the lime-light in the American press and books than St. Thomas, with glowing accounts of its beautiful harbor, splendid geographical situation, and incomparable strategic position for a fortified naval base. When the United States entered the war and big guns began to be mounted on our hills, it seemed as if the dream of half a century had at last come true. But demobilization and abandonment of the camps and the removal of hundreds of marines showed it to be transitory, and abruptly shattered our expectations.

That was a heavy blow. But what now greatly alarms us is the probability of seeing the naval administration withdrawn. It is to consider this and other matters that you, Honorable Gentlemen, have journeyed here. Needless to say we shall remain in a state of the deepest anxiety until we know what your report and Congress' decision will be, for, if the Navy ceases connection now, or in the near future, leaving us in our present helpless state, disaster will result; to repeat a familiar phrase, it will mean crape on the door knob. Whether the decision will evoke a Requiem or Te Deum remains to be seen.

The Navy's support is presently, and for a considerable time to come must remain, the mainstay of the island, and instead of its withdrawal, we desire to see it better represented by ships. We want to see more men in uniform on our streets. Not that we love militarism so much, but because it means more money. That to us is what the Navy stands for. It is our life-line, our daily bread, the reliance alike of burgher, bootblack—all. Both in value and influence it is a precious tie. Sever it and we suffer. It is to partly offset the loss of trade that the outlay from the Navy is most helpful. So poor is the island, so lacking in resources, so peculiar our condition and circumstances, that it should be dealt with differently from other rich national home or outlying territory. When this is done, and the island put upon strong financial legs, the Navy may retire gracefully and with our warmest gratitude.

I had the honor close on three years ago to address a welcome to the first American Governor, Rear Admiral Oliver, pledging the people's loyalty and co-operation. We renew that pledge today, reposing in you our trust that after hearing our petitions, you will reach a decision best suited to our welfare. Though hard times dampen our optimism, we will not be disheartened, believing that our great Mother Country, the friend and helper of all mankind, which has sacrificed so much for the world's good, will not leave us undone, but rather provide freely for our wants, not with doles, however, but in a manner that will start us substantially on the road to prosperity. If not, we shall suffer the fate of a deserted place and a sorely disappointed people.

Amid our uneasiness we recall the assurance conveyed to us in President Wilson's memorable cable message, that we, his fellow Americans, shall never have cause to regret having joined our lot with America.

So may it be. —*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Feb. 5th.*

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Febу. 4th.—According to the "Standard", the Government has taken steps to reduce the paper money in circulation by twenty million pounds.

Portsmouth, England, Feby. 3rd—Sir Robert Borden arrived here with Admiral Lord Jellicoe in the H. M. S. "New Zealand" and proceeded.

New York, February 5th.—A blizzard which occurred on Thursday, with a fifty mile gale sweeping the North Atlantic, has delayed shipping and caused minor wrecks along the coast. The storm was the worst for many years and caused high tides

Paris, Feby. 5th.—The prohibition of cake-making and pastry, wholly or partly of wheat flour, after the twentieth instant, is included in new bread regulations just issued.

Havana, Feby. 5th.—The House last night voted the ratification of the Peace Treaty without amendment. The Senate approved the Treaty in December last.

London, Feby. 5th. Despatches from Vladivostock, dated the end of January, report that after the peaceful occupation of the city by the Revolutionists, the Allied missions proceeded westward and are believed to be safe.

London, Feby. 5th.—Mr. Samuel, M. P. for Farnham, Surrey, in an interview published by the "Manchester Guardian", advocated the drastic reduction of importations of manufactured luxuries from America, deprecated the squandering of money at holiday resorts on the continent and the importation of wines. The worst effect of the exchange situation, he stated, was being felt on the continent, because payments from the countries there must be made through London. The "Manchester Guardian", in its Liverpool market reports, says the fall of exchange is putting effectively a definite stop to any ideas of importing cotton under the ruling conditions.

Paris, Feb. 5th.—A portion of the new French loan will be floated in the United States through a consort of bankers and will be placed in dollars with the view of easing the exchange situation. The bonds will bear five per cent interest, as in France, and be redeemable with a fifty per cent bonus, within sixty years. It is understood that the amount of the bonds to be placed in the United States has not been fixed, but some estimate it as high as two thousand million dollars.

Berlin, Feb. 5th—The "Tageblatt" says that the list of persons demanded by the Allies surpasses anything even the greatest pessimists considered possible, and that one now realizes what tremendous stupidity it was to offer to sign a peace treaty impossible of execution.

London, Feb. 5th.—Mr. Hitchens, Chairman of Cammell, Laird and Company, advocated a capital levy on large fortunes, in order to reduce currency inflamation and the high cost of living.

Berlin, Feb. 5th.—According to a statement made by the French Charge D'Affairs by former Minister Mueller, the Government disapproves of the attitude of Baron Von Lersner in refusing to transmit the list of persons whose surrender is demanded by the Allies.

Paris, Feb. 5th.—Dr. Mayer, the German Charge, will leave Berlin for Paris this evening and has received formal instructions to accept the Allied note demanding the extraditions, according to a despatch via Basle which also says that the Government has summoned the chiefs of the various parties in the National Assembly to convene in Berlin on Saturday to discuss the question.

Berlin, Feb. 5th.—The "Vorwaets" says that if the Government attempts to arrested the persons demanded by the Allies, severe internal disorders will occur. The Government, it adds, cannot enter into such a struggle unless its own convictions agree with the majority of the nations. There is no question of sympathy for the accused, but the method of dealing with them is purely a German affair.

London, Feb. 5th.—The "Daily Sketch" says that Mr. Roberts, the Food Minister, has resigned. His resignation, it saps, does not imply dissension in the Cabinet, but was prompted by the example of Mr. Barnes, who also resigned.

Washington, Feb. 5th.—President Wilson has approved the sale of thirty former German passenger vessels, subject to War Department requirements for the navy in case of a national emergency.

London, Feb. 5th.—The Roumanian Legation announces that the Bucharest Government has ordered the retreat of the Roumanian troops in occupation of Hungarian territory to the frontier fixed by the Peace Conference.

New York, Feb. 5th. The leading Wall Street bankers have taken steps to prevent the development of a money panic. It is understood that the necessary understanding has been reached at a series of informal conferences, but the details are unavailable. Mr. Sanders, President of the American Manufacturers Export Association, said that the present demoralization which is the result of economic factors, points to the imperative necessity of accelerating the purchase of European securities.