

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORT No. 42

Week Ending June 27, 1924.

Municipality of St. Croix.

School	Class	Percent of Pupils not tardy.	Percent of Attendance.
Christiansted	Jr. High	100.00	100.00
La Vallee	Rural	100.00	100.00
Frederiksted	Public	98.65	99.87
Peter's Rest	Rural	100.00	99.28
Diamond	Rural	100.00	99.10
Christiansted	Public	96.25	98.73
Frederiksted	Jr. High	100.00	97.44
La Princesse	Rural	100.00	94.44
Friedensfeld	Rural	97.20	90.29

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman, I had intended to explain this budget before the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town rose. I will try to alleviate his anxiety. Those members who are unacquainted with the details of this budget will have no difficulty in coming to an understanding of it after an explanation is given.

As Honorable Members will remember, at the time the Press Representatives visited this island Admiral Coontz made the statement that the Naval appropriation for these islands would be \$351,000. Subsequent to that word was received that the Federal appropriation was cut to \$270,150—May I state that this amount was the estimated revenues of both islands—Owing to shortage of crop the revenues of this Municipality is put down at Frs. 499,100.00 and the deficit in our budget is Frs. 711,529.85. We know now that the Federal appropriation had been cut and St. Croix share of it will be \$116,000 instead of \$150,000 as originally estimated on the basis of a Federal appropriation of \$351,000. We will, therefore, have to find the difference between \$150,000 and \$116,000 or \$34,000. Government has offered from the amount allocated to the Central Administration \$9,500 and under General Contingent the amount originally estimated was Frs. 25,000 but has been reduced to Frs. 15,000. The problem before us now is either to follow the plan of utilizing the amount necessary to balance the budget from the Reserve Fund or find some way to reduce the budget. We find that the time was too short to make any adequate cut without seriously affecting some of the departments so we tried to get as near to the balance as possible. By making such reductions as we believe could ade-

quately be done we have got the figure necessary to balance the budget down to \$14,000, and have allowed the matter to rest with the hope that revenues might come in or a different policy might be adopted. I call your attention to Section 56 of the Colonial Law where it is incumbent upon the Colonial Council to balance its budget. Consequently the balancing of the budget rests with the Colonial Council which I believe is competent to do so.

The revenues have been estimated at Frs. 499,100. I think we all will agree that the estimates are conservative, but even at that, for what we have seen in the past years, it might be a bit high, but we allow it to stand as submitted.

Turning to the expenditure side of the budget which is most interesting to members you will see general headings of consumable articles and non-expendable articles. That's a new departure. The Municipal Committee suggested to Government that any item under these headings calling for more than Frs. 1,000 should be specified in detail, but I believe the time has been too short for them to have done so. However, I have been informed by Government that a central purchasing office will be established and all expenditures over \$10 will have to be approved by the purchasing officer so as to insure a more economic and stabilized system.

Take the Colonial Council and the Municipal Committee, there has been a ten percent reduction in all department estimates as originally submitted on the basis of last year's budget, there was a specific reason why no reduction were made...

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): Mr. Chairman. Is the budget not under 1st discussion—general discussion—?

The Chairman: Yes.

2nd Member for Christiansted town (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. If the Honorable 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District thinks it is best to give a detailed explanation under 2nd discussion I can take my seat until 2nd discussion come up.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*): Mr. Chairman. I do not wish to interrupt the Honorable Member but it is very hard to swallow all the explanation he is giving. I wish to draw attention to the fact that no vote was taken on the budget in the Municipal Committee.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. If the Honorable Member had remained and not left before the meeting was over he would have been better informed on this matter.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Committee decided to recommend to Government a new item to be called a special tax fund in which the Immigration Fund should go. Let us be frank and say that we are paying a di-

rect tax and calling it Immigration Tax.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Why I rose to ask for an explanation of the Chairman of the Municipal Committee is because I thought it most proper seeing there are some new headings and sub-headings, such as expendable and non-expendable articles. In past years the budget was generally recommended to the Colonial Council but that is not done this year. I don't think any body will vote for this budget today in its present form. I don't know how members can vote for a budget that is not balanced. I don't think it fair to us legislators who are responsible to the people. Government ought to inform us what portion of the Federal appropriation we are going to have and that should be made a part of our revenues. I don't see how this budget can be voted on today considering it has not the recommendation of the Board of Estimates—The Municipal Committee—upon it. I am surprised to learn that no vote was taken on the budget by the Municipal Committee.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Mr. Chairman. That statement is wrong. I have corrected that statement already.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Last year the Municipal Committee made some recommendations on the budget in writing. Those recommendations were printed and circulated among members. This year the Municipal Committee has made no such recommendations; and therefore the budget is before the Council for discussion and it is subject to amendment by members of this Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. What is happening today is, the budget is drawn up different to how it was drawn up under Danish administration. During the Danish administration, when the Municipal Committee was first organized, the custom was for the Governor to appear in person before the Municipal Committee and hand in estimates submitted by the different departments and after those estimates were passed upon by the Municipal Committee the budget was printed and presented, and the budget then was as presented by the Municipal Committee. During the past few years of American administration the budget was presented so late that we have had no time to do that. Take last year for instance, the Government Secretary received the recommendations of the Municipal Committee at one o'clock, a few minutes before the meeting of the Council commenced. We received the budget which is now before us some time in the month of May in the form of three columns. The first column shows the figures recommended by the heads of the various departments, the next by Government and the other as recommended by