

NOTICE

is hereby given that no charcoal can be supplied by this Institution from date to October 1st. a. c.

Richmond Penitentiary, St. Croix, V.I.,
September 17, 1919.

C. ESPERSEN,
Director in Charge.

The Revd. H. M. Pigott, M. A., rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in this town, completed his third year of work in the parish yesterday, on which occasion he was the recipient of many floral and congratulatory tokens of goodwill from the congregation.

The mail-schooner Creole arrived here yesterday at 11 a. m. and will be dispatched for St. Thomas at the same hour today. According to notice at the post office mails close at 10.30 a. m.

The schnr. Vigilant from Porto Rico in ballast, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon after a passage of 3 days.

The S. S. Parima from New York via St. Thomas arrived at Frederiksted last evening and is expected to leave again for the Islands this p. m.

A well-recommended programme is being offered for tonight at the Christiansted Theatre where a large audience is looked for and promised an unusual treat.

The congregational meeting in the Anglican School House last night, was largely attended. It is learned that the chief object of that meeting was to lay before the congregation matters in connection with the tiling of the chancel, the material for which is expected shortly.

The Sanitary Question.

Not long ago we discussed many details of the sanitation question and dilated upon imperfections of the service and consequent inconveniences which were affecting the poorer classes, mainly property owners, who represented many burdens heaped upon them as a result of sanitary measures with which they were called upon to conform. Like in most matters where two factions conflict, there are of necessity two versions, and in the present instance while there has been no attempt at minimizing defects in the system,—and no system is perfect; while the reactions have been brought forward and subjected to the most rigorous criticism; and let it be understood that there is no doubt but that criticism should be encouraged in all departments

and branches of a prospectively successful administration,—there has been little if any mention made of advantages derived through the introduction of the sanitary steps taken in the island. We have to admit, and few will disagree on this point, that the sanitary proposition is primarily designed to better conditions along the line of general living, and must take in consideration, features that obtain elsewhere and achieve the best ends. We have therefore to take it for granted that the best intentions are behind the work in this island and when we have amicably settled any doubts here, let us proceed to see whether it has altogether failed to fulfil in any respect, the plan upon which it is based. Taken as one question, the sanitary rules providing for the reconstruction of W. C.'s and cisterns, however they may be open to correction, do strike at calling attention to these matters where for lack of means or other reasons, no notice would be paid to them, and we have it from good authority that where the persons have been unable to bear the financial strain entailed in such work the Sanitary Department has always exercised a spirit of consideration and executed the work at such charges as the parties were in a position to meet. 'Tis true the former charges for work in this line were considerably less than at present, due to the high cost of materials and labor, but it is also positively emphasized that the poorer people have not suffered on this account, and where the methods of any of the sanitary staff have been likely to defeat the principles of the Department, such officers have been dismissed.

We are glad to have this opportunity of showing up the other side of what is an important question among us all, and feel glad to promulgate it for the benefit of those who may have the occasion to prove the correctness of it. We are assured that the poorer classes will not be embarrassed nor put to extreme measures where their worthiness and pecuniary inability are established. Personally we are acquainted with the Sanitary Officer in Christiansted, Mr. H. Rydeen and happen to know that his interest in the Department's work is genuine and takes into account the public circumstances as well as mere material execution of programmes. We would therefore advise the public to communicate with Mr. Rydeen when they face difficulties in the sanitary movement; he will be sure to investigate matters thoroughly and do something to assuage the trouble.

At the opening of the Cattle Dip at the Experiment Station on the 15th. inst. the Director of the Experiment Station made the following remarks:

"The raising of cattle is an industry which is becoming more and more important in this Island and it therefore

behooves us to do all we can to stimulate and improve it. I do not know of any one measure which can be taken to help forward the industry which will give greater returns for the trouble and money expended than the eradication of Cattle ticks by the use of Cattle Dips.

The Dip erected at Anna's Hope is for the purpose of demonstrating the practical value of dipping as a means of tick eradication and I hope that it will be the forerunner of others, and that we shall soon have Dips sufficient erected on the island to take care of all the cattle raised.

Ticks are not only dangerous to cattle because they disseminate disease but also because they lower the vitality and general condition of the animals, wherever dipping is practised a marked improvement is observed in the appearance and general health of the stock.

If sufficient dips were erected in the Island to take care of all the stock and if stock raisers were compelled by law to dip their stock, then in less than a year after starting such measures the island could be practically freed from ticks. Besides Cattle, Dogs, Mules, Horses and all animals that harbour ticks would have to be dipped.

Probably 10 or 12 Dips would be sufficient to take care of all the stock in the island. The Dip at the Experiment Station has cost \$600 to erect. Probably by the use of less expensive lumber and by importing cement in bulk direct from the States this cost could be reduced to about \$400 per dip.

To understand the method of using a dip, some knowledge of the life history of the cattle tick is necessary.

The large ticks plainly visible on cattle are the lugged females. These when full grown drop from the stock and hide among the grass and bush and in a few days commence laying eggs, each female lays from 200-5,000 eggs. The egg laying is completed in a few days. After egg laying the tick dies. The young ticks called "seed ticks" hatch in about 3 weeks time and at once crawl up blades of grass and bush waiting for a chance to attach themselves to a passing animal. If they cannot reach an animal they die of starvation but it takes in the tropics some four to six months to starve a seed tick out. On reaching an animal the seed tick sticks in its proboscis and commences to suck blood. In some 21 to 60 days the females are ready to drop off the cattle to lay more eggs. It is important to remember this length of time because it is taken advantage of in the method of using the dip. The smallest length of time needed to reach maturity is 21 days. If the cattle are dipped every 20 days for a period of 6 months all the ticks in the vicinity will be completely eradicated, since none will have a chance to reach maturity and lay more eggs. The solution used at the Dip is arsenate of soda and pine tar. 20 lbs.