

CHRISTIANSTED THEATRE

8.15. THURSDAY EVENING 8.15.

Tonight At Bethlehem 7.30.

THE LAST 6 REELS OF

"THE SKY RANGER"

Episode No. 13: "AT THE LAST MINUTE."
Episode No. 14: "LIQUID FIRE."
Episode No. 15: "THE LAST RAID."

Bomb dropped from plane breaks up wedding. Plane set on fire by searchlight plunge to earth.

Episodes 11 and 12, the 4 reels of "The Sky Ranger" exhibited Monday Evening, will be repeated at this performance; thus in all 10 reels of the serial will be shown at the final exhibition of "The Sky Ranger" in Christiansted Thursday Evening.

MONDAY EVENING

The Famous ELMO LINCOLN in "UNDER CRIMSON SKIES."
A ONE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

THURSDAY APRIL THE 19.

GEORGE CARPENTIER, the Well-Known French Heavyweight Champion, in "THE WONDER MAN".

A Stirring Society Drama. — A One Evening Entertainment.

A D M I S S I O N

Reserved Seats.....25c.
General Entrance.....15c.
Children 15c. and 10c.

Quebec Steamship Co.

THE S. S. "GUIANA"

for New York is due at Frederiksted at noon on Saturday.

ROBT. L. MERWIN & CO. INC.,
Agents.

WANTED TO BUY

ONE CARD TABLE STANDING ON ONE LEG.

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EDITORIAL.

Supplementary to its editorial of April 5th, in which the position was taken that a civil administration is necessary for the progress and development of the Virgin Islands, and that such a form of government could be maintained on the local revenues without any federal aid as now received through congressional appropriations via the navy department, the Herald of Monday 8th presented certain figures from the budgets of 1915-16 (prior to United States occupation) and 1922-23 (during the incumbency of this government) purporting to show by comparison of the revenues and expenditures of these years that an efficient form of civil government did obtain and may again be established on the strength of internal revenue. We have before us

the budgets for the years named and find that the figures adduced are essentially correct and they are, therefore, taken as our basis for the contention that this island, in fact, the Virgin Islands as a whole, could not undertake to maintain a civil administration at this time except at a sacrifice of advancement and efficiency which we shall find it probably impossible to dispense with.

Before entering into any comparison of figures it should be made clear that these islands never paid the salaries of the governor, the government secretary, the despatching secretary, nor in fact any of the staff of the government proper. We are not paying these now even with the big deficit to be found in our yearly budget. As to how they are to be met under the form of government the Herald has in mind we are not advised. To actual figures, however; the following represents the main amounts to be taken into account:

Revenues 1915-16.

Direct Taxes.....	Fr. 156,000
Import and Export Duties....	447,000
Excise Duty on rum.....	70,000
Postal Dept.....	28,000
Other indirect taxes.....	70,825
Int. from Reserve Fund....	13,500
do. from Tel. Fund.....	2,400
Other sundry revenues.....	10,900

798,625

Expenses 1915-16.

Col. Council and Mun. Comm. Fr. 8,460.00	21,871.00
Judiciary, Pri- son & Police Dept.....	138,477.50
Pilot and Har- bor Dept.....	10,700.00
Fire Dept. (mi- nus Militia Fr. 1500)....	4,870.00
Dept. of Health	197,975.00
Poor Dept.....	56,700.00
Dept. of Educa- tion.....	38,785.50
Public Works.	44,500.00
Pensions.....	19,436.00
Other expenses	278,565.25
	798,469.25

The difference shown in the budgets of 1915-16 and 1922-23 as itemized indicates a deficit of Fr. 808,668.85, or more than \$160,000.00. And when it is taken into consideration that the figures for 1915-16 as refer to the Department of Health, Dept. of Education, and the Dept. Public Works, include salaries to doctors, the assistant director of education and the public works officer (formerly building inspector), not now on our budget, it will be appreciated that the deficit will be still greater. To make this situation worse, it should be pointed out that the estimated budget for 1922-23 taken as a guide by the Herald showing a total revenue of Fr. 662,000, is only approximate and has already fallen short of Fr. 125,000 through the income tax being entered as Fr. 150,000 as against Fr. 25,000 actually paid in. There will then be some 285,000 Francs, roughly calculated, it is indeed much more, that this island will have to furnish in addition to paying the expenses of a governor and staff and employees if these are not paid by the federal treasury. We have purposely cited the differences in the particular items of expenditure in order that our cotem may have the opportunity of pointing out where the reductions will take place as this will surely interest everybody. It should be borne in mind too that these expenses are not only due to increased elaboration and usefulness of the various departments, but to the fact that labor and material have advanced accordingly and the cost of operating the government as in former years would never be possible anyhow. The cost of government expenses in Denmark have gone up in proportion to this state of world conditions.

Inasmuch as we all are agreed that there should not be any increase of taxation at this time, and the Herald proposes to reject federal aid in balancing the budget under the civil government of the stamp desired, then it is plain that