

with one of its excellent concerts last night, and a tramp up town afterwards.

The sloop "Mizpah" has probably been held up in St. Thomas by this windy weather we have had the past few days.

The s. s. "Catherine" will be one day behind schedule time. Minimum cabin passage rate from Frederiksted to St. Thomas and vice versa will be \$6.00.

United States Fleet Sails for These Waters on its Winter Cruise.

Washington, Jan. 2nd.—More than one hundred warships, constituting the greatest armada ever to be gathered under the United States Flag, left their stations yesterday for the winter manoeuvres at Panama. When assembled in Southern waters the fleet will consist of 15 battleships, 4 light cruisers, 63 destroyers, 11 submarines, one airplane carrier, one airplane tender, four destroyer tenders, three submarine tenders, five mine layers and 33 train vessels, including repair, fuel and hospital ships. The fleet will be under the command of Admiral Robert Coontz and attached to it will be 87 airplanes.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Brussels, Dec. 30th.—Cardinal Mercier fears public discussion may impede the progress of the negotiations for a reunion of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches and refuses to make any statement with regard to the private conferences, which the Archbishop of Canterbury recently disclosed had been held at Malines. Cardinal Mercier says that discussion of the subject at this time would involve too great a danger of misrepresentation, interfering with the conferences, which he points out are dealing with a most delicate subject. His secretary, Dean Dessart, in making this known, explained further that the Cardinal was not authorized to disclose the proceedings of the conferences.

Washington, Dec. 31st.—The Government has agreed to sell a quantity of war material to the Obregon Government in Mexico. The decision was reached after a request for such action had been received from the Obregon Government, which is faced by an armed uprising. Although details of the transactions are still pending before Secretary Weeks the material involved is said to include military rifles now stored at Fort Sam Houston, or other army depots near the border and ten military airplanes. It is probable that ammunition for the rifles and other equipment are included.

Paris, Dec. 31st.—The Foreign Office at the beginning of 1924 finds itself in

the presence of two grave questions. First: Whether the British policy is to remain moderately passionate toward French aims in Germany, or become actively hostile, and the second, the economic and political decomposition.

London, Dec. 31st.—It is not because my eyes have failed me that I am relinquishing the Ambassadorship at Washington, but because physicians have informed me emphatically that if my eyes are again subjected to the intense strain which is unavoidable in carrying out diplomatic work I may lose the use of them completely and permanently. Sir Auckland Geddes thus informed the Associated Press correspondent at the home of a relative in Wimbledon.

London, Dec. 31st.—The King has telegraphed President Millerand of France a message of sympathy on the loss of the Dixmude.

Marseille, Dec. 31st.—The Greek s. s. Andros, flying the British flag with M. Venizelos aboard, sailed yesterday for Greece, notwithstanding the bad weather prevailing. M. Venizelos who is returning to his homeland in an endeavour to straighten out the political situation, went aboard last night. He decided to see any persons except intimate friends.

Hankow China Dec. 31st.—It is reported here that bandits have captured three Lutheran Missionaries at Tsyang. Mr. Hoff his wife and Mrs. Killen. Mr. and Mrs. Hoff are said to be wounded. Another report says three missionaries were killed.

London, Dec. 31st.—With approximately 600,000 acres which came on the property market in 1923, slightly over 6,000,000 acres in Scotland have changed hands since the beginning of the big land sliding campaign at the close of 1918, representing almost one third of the land area of the country and involving something like £70,000,000 in sales. Sales for one year 1923 will show an increase of about 100,000 acres on the total of 1922 and almost double the 1921 total. Prices, however, have declined considerably since 1920.

London, Dec. 31st.—Great Britain is closing the year 1923 with her foreign trade larger in amount both as to imports and exports than for the year 1922. Imports in eleven months of 1923 exceed imports in the same period of 1922 by 80,000,000 pounds and exports were more than 55,000,000 pounds greater in value. In two features of this year's foreign trade Great Britain has surpassed, not only last year but has gone ahead of pre-war figures. Coal exports during the present year (January-November) have amounted to 73,575,713 tons, or 175,000 tons better than the best record, which was 73,400,118 tons exported in 12 months 1913. Tonnage of shipping entering and leaving British ports as cargo was also larger this year than in either 1912 or 1913.

London, Dec. 31st.—Mr. Baldwin is expected to return to London from his Xmas holiday in the country today and an early meeting of the Cabinet to complete the King's speech for the opening of Parliament a week from tomorrow is foreshadowed. The rival political writers affirm and deny that the speech will include a declaration of the Conservative Party's adhesion to a protectionist programme, but the Conservative leaders give no clue to their plans. Papers whose avowed object is to prevent, if possible the installation of a Socialist Government, renew stories today to the effect that a considerable section of the Liberals is dissatisfied with the attitude of Mr. Asquith and other leaders and is working for an arrangement amounting to a fusion of the Liberals and Conservatives to support the Baldwin Ministry on some agreed non-party programme to keep the Socialist out. The Times professes to be able to correct these points, the gist of the newspaper's editorial being that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald will take over the Premiership before the end of January with the full consent of the Conservatives and with the assistance of the Liberals.

London, Dec. 31st.—Assuming that a Labour Government will be in power next March, when the budget statement must be presented to Parliament it is generally announced that one of the greatest difficulties for the new ministers, inexperienced in the art of Government, will be connected with the nation's finances. There have been statements that the Baldwin Government in the last budget were unduly optimistic concerning the coming year's revenue and that there is likely to be a large deficit in the next budget statement. Returns issued by the Treasury tonight seem to bear out these fears, for they show in the first nine months of the financial year a decrease of more than £50,000,000 in the nation's revenue, as compared with the same period last year. Under the peculiar circumstances, as the Labour administration will only have been in office at the most about one month before presenting the budget, the new Government will necessarily be compelled to present a statement largely prepared by its predecessors and the permanent officials, there being no time to draft an entirely new budget.

London, Dec. 31st.—Lord Inchcape, one of Great Britain's noted merchants, is made a Viscount in the list of New Years Honours, made public tonight. The Rt. Hon. Frederick Geo. Banbury, member of Parliament, Sir Charles John Darling and Sir Herbert Jessel, who was connected with the Ministry of Supply during the war, are made Barons.

London, Jan. 3rd.—Sugar in stock on the 29th ulto was 52,000 tons. Last year 125,000 tons.