

Publication.

WITH reference to an Ordinance passed by the Colonial Council of St. Croix, 19 April 1919, in view of the fact that the 4th day of July, this year, falls on a Sunday, the Governor has declared Monday 5th July 1920, a holiday for the purpose of observing "INDEPENDENCE DAY."

C. C. TIMMONS,
Government Secretary,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

Continued from Saturday's Avis

Item 5.

Colonial Council Bill No. 37.
Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) providing that no charges be made for cranage except in cases where the crane is actually made use of.

The bill reads as follows:

Colonial Council Bill No. 37.

2nd Council 2nd Session 1920--1921.

DRAFT OF ORDINANCE

Concerning The Payment Of Cranage In Christiansted.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council of St. Croix that no cranage on produce and other Merchandize shipped from the public wharf or any private wharf at the port of Christiansted shall in future be charged, except where the crane is actually made use of.

MOTIVE.

According to the existing regulations cranage in Christiansted is only charged, when the crane is actually used.

When in years passed the St. Croix Sugar Factory (then "St. Croix Fællessukkerkogerier") sought permission to ship its sugars from the wharf at the factory, the permission was granted on condition that the Factory, notwithstanding that it did not make use of the crane on the public wharf, should

pay the cranage usually charged, say 2 cents, per bag.

Later the Factory found, that if it had to pay these 2 cents cranage, it could, with less cost, cart its sugar to Christiansted and ship it from the wharf there without use of the crane, and thus save the expense of cranage, which it had to pay for the privilege of shipping from its own wharf.

The carting of sugar through the town for shipment from the wharf has always been a nuisance to the town people, and as the Factory is willing to ship its sugar from its own wharf if it be relieved of the charge for cranage, and as the Treasury will not lose any revenue, seeing that no cranage is at present under existing circumstances derived from the shipment of the factory's sugar, this draft of ordinance is laid before the Council, in order to relieve the town people of an unnecessary nuisance.

A. E. STAKEMANN,
1st Member for Christiansted
Country District.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] introduced the Ordinance and said, Mr. Chairman. The reason for this Draft of Ordinance, as Honorable Members have seen, is fully explained. The first thing that will come to your attention is whether the crane belongs to the Federal Government or not. The Act of Congress says "that customs and laws shall remain in force and effect until changed". As the Custom House collects the fees it would seem that the crane belongs to the Federal Government, but that is not so. The Danish State ceded all the properties they possessed, but they were not possessed of the crane, such properties as the Custom House, Government House and other buildings belonging to the Danish State, but the crane is a municipal property, it has been put up and kept by the Municipality, therefore I do not think there could be one question as to whom the crane belongs. Some years ago when the factory was started here we all know that Government gave leave to load its sugar at its private wharf, but the Government was in poor circumstances then and tried to get some fees so the Factory agreed to pay the fees, but later it was found out that it was easier to cart its sugar and save the fees, consequently by shipping from this wharf it saved the cranage. To rectify this, this Ordinance is introduced to permit the Factory to ship its sugar without having to pay cranage. The Colonial Treasury will suffer no financial loss by

the passage of this Ordinance and therefore I hope the Government and the Council will give their sanction.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked. Mr. Chairman. One question I would like to ask—Are we sure that the Factory will ship its sugar from its own wharf? It would be ridiculous if the Factory don't pay wharfage up here. Must the shippers at the other end of the island keep the wharf up here in condition for shipment of sugar and pay wharfage.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) remarked: Mr. Chairman. 1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) dwelt on the saving that would be effected if the Factory ships its sugar from the private wharf and also the nuisance created by the carting of the sugar through the town. Certainly, for the sake of the public let us get rid of the nuisance of carting the sugar through the town for shipment.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) proposed that 1st Discussion be closed.

The Chairman remarked: My first duty is to take a vote as to whether the bill should be furthered.

It was put to vote and unanimously carried that the bill be furthered.

The Chairman put to the vote the proposal made by 2nd Appointed Member (Noll).

13 members voted for; none against.

With Government and the Council's consent 2nd Discussion opened.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) proposed that 2nd Discussion be closed.

The member's proposal was put to the vote.

13 members voted for; none against.

With Government and the Council's consent 3rd Discussion opened.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson) remarked: Mr. Chairman. If the idea is to stop carting sugar from the Factory to the wharf what would become of the cartmen? They are taxpayers and should not be barred from earning a livelihood.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] remarked: Mr. Chairman. I wish to inform the Honorable Member that the low carts are not used by the Factories any more, they are using their own carts.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) proposed that 2nd Discussion be closed.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) seconded the Member's proposal.

3rd Discussion closed and the Secretary [Canegata] read the bill and the Chairman put same to the vote.

11 members voted for; none against.

The Chairman remarked: The bill is adopted and goes to Government.

After the Order of the Day had been exhausted 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) requested