

St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 1920.

No. 97

Increased Efficiency Of Postal service In St. Croix Under United States Post Office Department.

By B. R. Larsen

From the beginning of time men have shown a disposition to criticize; they have criticized each other personally; have criticized institutions, governments, and in short any and everything which the critic himself had not invented, formulated, or developed. Perhaps this has been an outcome of the peculiarities of human nature. At first, criticism was discouraged and maligned, but as it became manifest that genuine criticism prompted by actual, though not necessarily obvious, discrepancy in the thing criticized was conducive to improvement and progress, it came to be tolerated, even sought, and often compensated. There has nevertheless been much abuse of the privilege to criticize and in many instances criticism has thus done more harm than good; in many instances it has positively been instrumental for evil where ignorance, lack of ability to judge or purely prejudicial motive has elicited criticism of the sort now analysed to be hypocritical criticism or that based upon imaginary defects; malicious criticism aimed at persons instead of principles; and non-progressive criticism or that which resents changes and denounces anything new. I have come in contact with many different forms of criticism and especially since the acquisition of these islands by the United States I have encountered among certain elements a superabundance of non-progressive criticism, which had for its object the disparagement of things because they were no longer Danish. The very things which had been in operation throughout the Danish regime and tolerated (in many cases the things were all right) were now to be criticized because they were being administered by another Government. In other words a spirit of clannishness appears to have crept in and clouded the vision of many, and the ability to look at things fairly seems to have been dulled. There seems to be also a very artful phase of this non-progressive criticism which is disclosed in the fact that lest its purely anti-American character should be detected, it is aimed at departments or institutions conducted by natives; or so couched as to

CHRISTIANSTED THEATRE 8.30. THIS EVENING 8.30. "Mary Mac Laren"

IN
"The Petal On The Current"

Mary Mac Laren gives effective portrayal of a girl in night-court in film-adoption of Fannie Hurst story.

This Picture contains a wealth of human interest and treats a subject of vital importance—the predicament of the girl in the night-court, sentenced by the testimony of the police and secret service men.

MARY Mac LAREN puts over in good style a number of emotional scenes, portraying splendidly the character of the unsophisticated girl to whom the drinking of a couple glasses of beer proves fatal.

CAST:

STELLA	MARY Mac LAREN
Her mother	Gertrude Claire.
Cora	Fritzie Ridgway.
The man	Robert Anderson.
Gertie Cobb	Beatrice Burnham.
Skinny Flint	Victor Potel.
Ed Kinaly	David Butler.

The desire to do as others do leads Stella to yield to the persuasions of Cora and other members of a beer party to drink with them.

Under the influence of the liquor she wanders into the street and is taken by a detective to the night court, where she is sentenced to ten days in jail.

ADMISSION:

Reserved Seats	40c.
Two first and two last rows of reserved seats	30c.
General Entrance	20c.
Children	20 and 10c.

reflect discredit on the natives concerned.

My attention has just been called to certain criticism of the local postal system advanced at the meeting of the Colonial Council of Monday 26th instant by 1st member for Frederiksted Country District Mr. Folmer Andersen, one of the directors of the West India Sugar Factory, a Danish concern. I have not had the time to investigate, or pay any special consideration to what Mr. Andersen's motives may be for coming forward with the alleged defects in the postal service, but considering that his complaint has been directed against the "post offices", which is practically speaking the postmasters who are represented as being so feeble in the discharge of their duties that they should have some marines to help them, I feel attacked, and think I am justified in defending myself. If I don't who will, or can say whether the charge is deserved or not? I propose to refute the inference that the service is inferior to what it was under the Danish admin-

istration; in short to present the facts as they really are. Nearly fifteen years connection with the postal service under the Danish and present administrations give me the peculiar advantage of being able to judge the situation and to disprove allegations which might be pawned off on people less informed. Mr. Andersen said that he would suggest that the Governor make representations to Washington to get a better mail service, and claiming that we had a very good service under the former administration added that we ought not to have a poor service under the American flag.

In reference to the Government's reply on this question to the effect that the postal service was under control of the Federal Government and that the Governor had represented to Washington such complaints as had been received by him, Mr. Andersen asked whether the Governor could not do something

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