

Bekendtgørelse.

DEN ordinære Generalforsamling i den dansk-vestindiske Nationalbank afholdes Fredag den 13. Juni 1924 Kl. 11 Formiddag i Ministerialbygningen, Slotsholmsgade Nr. 6 her i Staden.

Forhandlingsgenstandene er:

- 1) Forelæggelse af Bankraadets Beretning om Bankens Virksomhed i Aaret 1923.
- 2) Forelæggelse af det reviderede Regnskab for nysnævnte Aar med Forslag til Anvendelse af Aarsoverskuddet.
- 3) Indstilling om Decharge for det aflagte Regnskab.
- 4) Valg af et Medlem til Bankraadet.
- 5) Valg af en Revisor.

København, den 18 Marts 1924.

FR. NORDLIEN. J. WINTHER.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE COLONIAL COUNCILS

for St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

AT 2 o'clock p. m., Friday, April 4, 1924, the Colonial Councils of St. Thomas and St. John, and St. Croix met in joint extraordinary session in the Council Hall in Christiansted. Convened by request of the Chairman.

Present were: For St. Thomas and St. John: C. G. Thiele (Chairman), J. F. Kuntz (Vice Chairman), Leroy Nøke (Secretary), Carl A. Anduze, Philip Gomez, George A. Moorehead, Carl E. Francis, Knud-Hansen, Rothschild Francis, Herbert E. Lockhart, J. H. Boschulte, C. Corneiro and Luther Stakemann.

Absent: Axel Holst and Abram E. Smith.

For St. Croix: Robt. L. Merwin (Chairman), Robt. W. Skeoch (Vice-Chairman), D. S. Armsrong (Secretary), D. C. Canegata, M. M. Skeoch, F. Andersen, W. A. Fleming, H. Berg, F. Coulter, D. Hamilton Jackson, D. Noll, W. S. Abramson, Thos. Ramsay, Jos. Alexander, Holger Jessen and A. J. Blackwood.

Member A. R. McIntosh absent from illness.

Government Secretary (Zane) and Despatching Secretary (Barrett) were present at the meeting.

The following prayers were offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Father Francis W. Clair:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

We adore Thee, O Lord God, and

earnestly pray for Thy Blessing on this earth and all Thy creatures who dwell upon it. Bless in particular all those who believe in Thee, hope in Thee and love Thee. Protect us from danger and let no harm come to us from foreign foes nor from enemies dwelling in our own homes. Guide with Thy grace our Governor and all who share with him the burden of establishing and preserving our temporal peace and happiness.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost, descend upon us and remain with us forever. Amen.

The Chairman (Merwin) remarked: Honorable Members before opening the meeting I desire on behalf of the Colonial Council of St. Croix to welcome the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and St. John. We appreciate your coming to participate with us. The question before the House today as you all are aware is a resolution which has been drafted by the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and St. John and sent over with the Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Thomas, and which, after some changes were made by the St. Croix Council in a caucus meeting held last Wednesday, I understand has been adopted by the Colonial Council of St. Thomas and St. John. I will ask the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Croix (D. C. Canegata) to introduce the resolution for St. Croix and afterwards the Honorable Chairman of the Municipal Committee of St. Thomas will introduce it for St. Thomas. As our time is short I ask that members be not lengthy in their speeches, particularly as some of the members of the St. Thomas Council have expressed a desire to see some of their friends in town before leaving for St. Thomas.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In introducing the Resolution for the Colonial Council for St. Croix which I have just been asked to do at the last moment, it is not my desire to occupy much of the time of this Council this afternoon in discussing this matter, but I think it expedient to state the view which I take on this question. I am in cordial agreement with the principle of the bill, but it does not follow that it is on all occasions opportune to carry it into effect. I hold at the same time that we cannot be too jealous and too determined in guarding our privileges against usurpation. Leave intact the free privileges of the representatives of the people. And why? because it is the exercise of

those privileges by which whatever we have have been won and by which alone they will be and can be maintained in the future. The stand I take today I would if the opportunity had been precisely the same as I would have done in 1921 when behind the backs of the Councils the Administration had the Federal Income Tax, and the amendment depriving some members of these Councils of their seats effective in these islands.

I am not one of those who believe in the hopeless condition which will ensue if this bill is enacted, that belief is based on the opinion that civil government and autonomy (or self government) are synonymous terms, the difference of which anyone will take the trouble can readily see at a glance, but I oppose this bill because I believe it to be unsuitable to St. Croix. And let me draw attention to some of its provisions taken at random to illustrate my objections. This bill provides that the system of taxation in the Virgin Islands shall be uniform. I do not believe this especially with the representation is possible. St. Thomas is purely commercial, St. Croix agricultural. We have an export duty of \$3.00 per ton on sugar forming the chief item on our budget. St. Thomas having no sugar pays nothing. St. Thomas has a personal property tax, we in St. Croix do not consider such a tax feasible and are opposed to it. We have an import duty of 16 2/3% while St. Thomas pay only 6%. There are other features such as Trade, Lamp and Assessment Taxes etc in one island which are not practicable in the other, for these reasons I do not consider a uniform system a workable one.

Take the Legislative feature of the bill, a single chamber is provided in which St. Croix is allowed 5 members and St. Thomas 7 members. I cannot see how it is possible for anyone to expect in any system of government that the people of the larger, more densely populated and more self-supporting island must be made subject to the lesser, in other words how can the majority be subversive to the minority. The ultimate outcome of this will be that the people of St. Croix must be contented to be led, throttled and pay the bills for those of St. Thomas. We will never consent to such a proposition.

Again I believe we will be worse off with the biennial budget for the islands as here provided than we are with our present annual one. There are many other features which at this juncture I need not take up in detail.

Its failure to provide a Court of Appeals seems to be a serious omission. By the Organic Act the Appellate Court for these islands is to the Third Circuit in Philadelphia and when we consider that the expenses necessary to reach there is something like \$1,200 and the average daily wage down here is 40 cents I think it is a serious gap, and one which