

Lenten service tonight at 7.30 in the Lutheran Church in Christiansted.

All are cordially invited.

J. P. CHRISTENSEN.

68TH CONGRESS,
1ST SESSION.

S 2786

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 10, 1924.

Mr. MCLEAN (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Territories and Insular Possessions.

A BILL

to provide a civil government for the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

SEC. 11. That the following executive departments are hereby created: A department of justice, the head of which shall be designated as the attorney general; a department of finance, the head of which shall be designated the treasurer; a department of education, the head of which shall be designated the commissioner of education; a department of agriculture and labor, the head of which shall be designated the commissioner of agriculture and labor; and a department of health, the head of which shall be designated the commissioner of health. The heads of departments shall be appointed by the governor, and shall hold office for three years unless sooner removed by the governor.

The heads of departments shall perform, under the general supervision of the governor, the duties hereinafter prescribed or which may be hereafter prescribed by law, and such other duties, not inconsistent with law, as the governor, with the approval of the President, may assign to them; and they shall make annual and such other reports to the governor, as he may require, which shall be transmitted to the executive department of the Government of the United States, to be designated by the President, as herein provided.

SEC. 12. That the attorney general shall have charge of the administration of justice in the Virgin Islands; he shall be legal adviser of the governor and the heads of the departments and shall be responsible for the proper representation of the people of the Virgin Islands or its duly constituted officers in all actions and proceedings, civil or criminal, in which the people of the Virgin Islands shall be interested or a party; and he may, if directed by the governor or if in his judgment the public interest requires it, represent the people of the Virgin Islands or its duly constituted officers in

any other court or before any other officer or board in any action or proceedings, civil or criminal, in which the people of the Virgin Islands may be a party or be interested. He shall also perform such other duties not inconsistent herewith as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 13. That the treasurer shall give bond, approved as to form, by the attorney general of the Virgin Islands, in such sum as the council may require, not less, however, than the sum of \$10,000, with surety or sureties approved by the governor, and he shall collect and be the custodian of public funds and shall disburse the same in accordance with law, on warrants signed by a head of department and countersigned by the governor, and perform such other duties as may be provided by law. He may designate banking institutions in the Virgin Islands and the United States as depositories of the government of the Virgin Islands, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the governor, after they have filed with him satisfactory evidence of their financial condition and have deposited security satisfactory to the governor in such amount as may be indicated by him; and no banking institution shall be designated a depository of the government of the Virgin Islands until the foregoing conditions have been complied with. Interest on deposits shall be required and paid into the treasury.

SEC. 14. That the commissioner of education shall superintend public instruction throughout the Virgin Islands; and all proposed disbursements on account thereof must be approved by him, and all courses of study shall be prepared by him, subject to disapproval by the governor if he cares to act. He shall prepare rules governing the selection of teachers and the appointments of teachers by local authorities shall be subject to his approval, and he shall perform such other duties, not inconsistent with this Act, as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 15. The commissioner of agriculture and labor shall superintend all works of a public nature, have charge of all public buildings, grounds, and lands, shall have general charge of such bureaus and branches of government as have been or shall be legally constituted for the study, advancement, and benefit of agricultural and other industries, and shall foster, promote, and develop the agricultural interests and the welfare of the wage earners of the Virgin Islands, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 17. That the commissioner of health shall have general charge of all matters relating to public health, sanitation, and charities, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 18. That there shall be appoint-

ed by the governor an executive secretary at an annual salary of \$2,000, who shall record and preserve the laws enacted by the council and all acts and proceedings of the governor, and promulgate all proclamations and orders of the governor and all laws enacted by the legislature, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Governor of the Virgin Islands. In the event of a vacancy in the office, or the absence, or illness, temporary disqualification of such officer, the governor shall designate some officer or employee of the government to discharge the functions of said office during such vacancy, absence, illness, or temporary disqualification.

SEC. 19. That the Governor of the Virgin Islands, within sixty days after the end of each session of the council shall transmit to the executive department of the Government of the United States, to be designated as herein provided for, which shall in return transmit the same to the Congress, copies of all laws enacted during the session.

SEC. 20. That the President may from time to time designate the head of an executive department of the Virgin Islands to act as governor in case of a vacancy, the temporary removal, resignation, or disability of the governor or his temporary absence, and the head of the department thus designated shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the governor during such vacancy, disability, or absence.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 21. That all local legislative powers in the Virgin Islands shall be invested in a council which shall be designated "the Virgin Islands Council."

(To be continued.)

LOCAL

There was a caucus meeting of the Colonial Council yesterday afternoon, the matter under discussion being the bill for civil government just introduced by Senator Mc Lean, and which is the subject of an extraordinary meeting of of the two councils here tomorrow. Among the features of this bill is a provision for a single council for the Virgin Islands to consist of seven members from St. Thomas, five from St. Croix and one from St. John. The odiousness of the disparity is only too apparent. This island with a larger population than the island of St. Thomas, with greater internal resources, greater possibilities of its own for development, and even now more self-supporting than St. Thomas, and a larger island too, seems to be entitled to greater representation than St. Thomas apart from the fact, which is an important one, that the affairs of this island are so different to those of St. Thomas that they should always be considered separately by those familiar with them and who are de-