

on the increase since and no doubt it has become a recognized fact, that rubber tires and high speed are expensive, and require well built and smooth roads to save excessive wear and tear. It is therefore obvious that if St. Croix is to be kept in sugar cultivation, that we need better constructed roads for the future, and it would seem that we should try our best to own and operate at least one road roller to help put our roads in the desired and much needed shape to stand the changed method of road traffic. Unfortunately our present conditions are the reverse of those in Porto Rico, here we see fine sugar estates being turned out and a general decay taking place, no market for anything, in fact at present one can hardly sell a pig at a living profit. Production is decreasing and expenses increasing what is the reason? the answer is written all over the island and can be easily read by those who desire to do so. Porto Rico has the advantage over us by having a diversity of crops and an abundance of labor, also a market both local and foreign for all they can produce, and every one there including the laborers seem keen on keeping up the production of the island to a high state of efficiency; if a rabbit had to live on the grass and weeds to be found in their cultivated fields he would starve to death.

In conclusion permit me to say, that I still have a strong hope that local conditions will so shape themselves for the better, that in the near future we may see our little island increasing its production, decreasing the cost, and become such a desirable place to live in, that some of our wealthy Americans who wish to escape the cold winter months and enjoy a fine climate will choose this island for that purpose.

A. J. BLACKWOOD,

Member of the Road Commission

St. Croix, V. I. February 2, 1922.

A TOPER'S FAREWELL TO HIS BEER.

Alas! In awful anguish do I see
The dawning day approaching that I fear

When evermore for me will vetoed be
My brimming bumper bright with bubbling beer.

How oft' in blissful moments of the past
I've quaffed my beer with unalloyed delight

But now the time is coming, coming fast
When joy for me is fled and midday night.

Who can describe my grief when first
The news

Arrived that Congress had decreed us dry.

All day I sang "The Alcoholic Blues"
And even now I almost want to cry.

For neither word nor pile of maiden fair
Could touch this stony heart of mine
as when

With heart so light and mind that knew
no care

My foaming glass I seized and said
"Amen".

On summer days when I felt warm
and dry

And my bouffet, if anything, was drier,
Two francs, at least, to borrow I would try

To send out for a quart from good
Hans Bøje.

Farewell dear friend, the time has come
to part

E'en though in this world we may meet
no more.

One thought at least gives me a little
heart

I've got a bottle now behind the door.

—Contributed by A LOCAL BARK-
EAST.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Berlin, Feb. 1st. M. Charles Lauren the French Ambassador to Germany who had intended to leave today for Paris was requested by M. Poincare to remain at his post and demand explanations from Germany concerning reparations.

Bombay, Jan. 30th.—Many non-cooperationist leaders in Bombay, including Madame Sacrooi Naidu, leader of the women's movement in India, enlisted as volunteers for Ghandi's Civic Disobedience Campaign at a meeting held here yesterday, under the auspices of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee. A number of speeches were made at the meeting, urging the enlistment of volunteers of whom it was claimed ten thousand were required for Bombay. Advices received here from Bardoli in the district of Surat, announced that a conference of representatives of Bardoli and Talqua, which Ghandi selected for the inauguration of mass civil disobedience, unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that Talqua was ready for such inauguration. Ghandi explained the conditions necessary for civil disobedience and the conference declared that unless a round table conference was held or the working committee of the congress decided otherwise, mass civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes would commence forthwith.

London, Feb. 1st.—Field Marshal Prince Yamagata, one of Japan's elder statesmen, died today, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Tokio. He was 84 years old.

Belfast, Feb. 2nd.—The formal conference on Irish soil between Sir James Craig Premier of Ulster and Michael Collins, head of the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State, will be held this afternoon in Dublin. Sir James Craig, accompanied by his secretary, left this

morning for Dublin where the conference will be held. Following the meeting, Sir James will proceed to London.

Rome, Feb. 2nd.—The Government of Premier Bonomi has decided to resign, the semi official staff agency announces. The Cabinet Council met this morning to discuss the situation created by the attitude of the Parliament, says the statement, and as a result the Government's decision to resign was reached.

Belfast, Feb. 2nd.—Michael Tobin, Belfast correspondent of the Dublin Freeman's Journal, was arrested today by officers of the Irish Republican army in Westport, County Mayo, and is detained in a local barracks for reporting a sermon Archbishop Gilmartin denouncing the recent outrages in Belfast. Tobin, who is prominent as a newspaper man has been ordered to be sent to Dublin.

London, Feb. 2nd. High appreciation of the approval by the Washington conference of the naval treaties and the Shantung agreement is voiced this morning by the newspapers which have been giving the proceedings of the conference much attention during the last few days. News of yesterday's development is displayed prominently by the "Times", which says editorially "yesterday promises to be a great day for all time in the history of the world."

Paris, Feb. 2nd.—France will be officially represented at the international conference in Genoa early next month. The assurance of France's attendance was given in a communication from the foreign office which does not say in so many words that France will be represented but lets it be known that he is already committed as a member of the Supreme Council. The statement is in the form of a denial that Premier Poincare had telegraphed yesterday to Premier Bononi of Italy accepting his invitation to the conference. The announcement reads: "Contrary to the account published in certain newspapers, it is inexact that the French Government made known yesterday, by a telegram addressed to Rome, that she accepted the invitation to participate in the conference at Genoa. As the Premier explained in the Chamber of Deputies, Premier Bonomi in convoking the conference merely executed the decision taken at Cannes by the Allied Powers, including France. It is in the name of the Supreme Council that he sent the invitation and it was also at Cannes that the programme was adopted. Therefore there is no occasion for the French Government to give formal acceptance on either point". In political circles it was explained that the communication was intended to establish that France was already bound under M. Briand's action at the Cannes conference of the Supreme Council.

Washington February 3rd.—Mr. Hoover, Secretary of Commerce, speaking of South American trade conditions stated that they were much improved.