

entered the meeting during the recess.

After recess the Council reassembled and the Chairman laid before members a Resolution introduced by Government.

The Resolution reads:

Colonial Council Bill No 38.

Second Session 1920-21.

RESOLUTION.

Be it resolved by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix in Session assembled:

That the Governor be and he is hereby authorized to sell the lot No. 10A, situated on New Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I., for the sum of \$75.00 or Three Hundred and Seventy-five (375.00) Francs.

Introduced by Government.

It was put to the vote and carried that the Resolution be furthered today and passed at one Discussion.

The Chairman remarked: The Municipal Committee has viewed this matter. It seems that the adjoining lot to the lot in question was purchased and by mistake, a foundation was built on this lot. The Municipal Committee after viewing the circumstances recommends that the lot be sold to the applicant for \$75.00.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Chairman The applicant for the purchase of this lot claims that he made a mistake by building on this lot; the Municipal Committee investigated the matter and found out that he owns the adjoining lot. As a corner lot this lot is more valuable, and as he has already built his foundation on it we thought it best to recommend that the lot be sold to him for \$75.00

To be continued.

MARRIED last evening in St. John's Church by the Revd. H. M. Pigott, Mr. W. ETHELBERG MESSER, Assistant to the School Director, to Miss DAPHNE LANGE, both of this town. To the young couple we beg to offer our congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy union.

The Industrial Band rendered a popular concert on the wharf last evening.

OFFICIAL NEWS.

June 30, 1920.

Governor Oman issued an order yesterday to officers and men of the Naval Service that no firing of fire-arms or use of fireworks will be permitted to be engaged in by the men on July 4th and 5th, within the limits of Charlotte Amalie.

This will practically limit the use of fireworks by persons in the Naval Service to the Municipal display that is being arranged and is following the practice adopted throughout the States of endeavoring to avoid fire and injuries and to make a safe and sane 4th of July.

Correspondence.

Christiansted, June 30, 1920.

Editor St. Croix Avis:

I have today's issue of the Avis before me, and as a subscriber and one interested in your paper, I can not forbear writing you a few lines in reference to that piffle signed "Friend". I venture to believe that you understand the spirit which actuates me to denounce the contribution in question and I trust the writer will be advised and never impose on the literacy of this community with further such rot.

Now, first of all, whoever in your paper said they wanted light on whether marriage is or is not a sacrament? Sometime ago I wrote rather showing up that *marriage is not a sacrament* and has never been so regarded by the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and practically challenged the advocates of the new theory that it is, to come forward and defend their position. So far, only one signing himself A. T. made any move in the matter, and what he wrote was such a dismal failure that the subject dropped, and the old adage "silence gives consent" has been applied to the attitude of the high church scholars who, it is alleged, would not stoop to reply. In fact, it has been said that if any one expected to see an answer from the clergymen concerned, that anticipation would not be realized. Perhaps in this enlightened age it has become to be regarded as contrary to clerical ethics to write in the newspaper, if even in defense of the truth, or what is represented as truth. However, some of the most edifying contributions that have appeared in newspapers in these islands have emanated from the pens of clergymen. Many still remember the Lutheran clergyman, Mr. Lawaetz, certainly a man of letters, who would not coolly permit any misrepresentation [if it be misrepresentation in the case in mind] to be ascribed to his position. The late Canon Watson, a good and popular man who truly showed what is called a Christian spirit, has honored the St. Croix Avis with writings that "glorified" the man. I would like to refer the advocates of parsonic silence to an issue of the St. Croix Bulletin of November 1915 in which Canon Watson, finding it expedient to defend a position, wrote what was considered one of his ablest contributions to the newspaper; and that in answer to a pseudonymous letter to boot. Other learned clergymen in this town have written in defense of their position and will, doubtless, do so again, if occasion requires; therefore, so much for whether silence is in any way creditable after all. The purpose of today is to inform "Friend" that nobody has asked, in the newspaper at least, for a definition of the sacredness of marriage, nor has anyone, to my knowledge,

attempted to disparage marriage which I maintain is one of the most important and solemn *civil contracts* into which human beings can enter. That this subject is to be taken up in the Lutheran Church as "Friend" informs us, does not alter the fact that if marriage is a sacrament, it will remain one, and if it is merely a civil contract (which every thinking person knows it is), its character will not be altered one iota by anything that may be said at the special service to which "Friend", apparently without authority, invites us.

What people should appreciate is that they ought to respect the opinions of those who differ with them, especially on matters concerning which there is no indisputable authority. In the question of marriage (whether sacrament or not) my position, like that of those taking sides with me, is that it is not a sacrament, but it is not for us to prove that it is not a sacrament, for ours is a mental conclusion arrived at in the absence of justifiable and logical affirmation to the contrary. In other words, we have no proof that it is a sacrament and believe it is not. When proof is forthcoming we may change our belief. Therefore, the burden of clearing this matter rests with the supporters of the sacrament theory; and as regards previous correspondence on the subject in the Avis, that was directed at the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, only.

FOLLOWER PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF U. S.

Christiansted, St. Croix, V.I.U.S.A.,
30th. June, 1920.

Editor of the St. Croix Avis,

Dear Mr. Editor:—

A correspondent in your esteemed paper of even date is encouraging attendance at the Lutheran Church on the evening of the 4th. of July to hear a sermon on the "sacredness of marriage". I have been married the last sixteen years and my wife and I are very devoted to each other and have the highest regard for the bonds of our union, although we do not believe marriage to be a sacrament. We would like to hear the sermon all the same, and if the pulpit of the church, which is now never used, is to be the platform from which the marriage sacrament is to be preached, we will go. Please find out and let us know.

Yours

UPHOLDER OF SOUND DOCTRINE.

APPLIED ANATOMY.

"The human anatomy is a wonderful bit of mechanism," observed the Sage. "Yes," agreed the Fool. "Pat a man on the back and you'll make his head swell."—Cincinnati Enquirer.