

LOCAL

A select programme was rendered in the usual masterly style by the Navy Band last night and received the appreciation of a large gathering. The band returns to St. Thomas tomorrow it is understood and we take this opportunity of thanking Bandmaster Adams and his men for the many enjoyable evenings they have afforded the public here during their stay. It is hoped that they have also found their visit a pleasant one, and that it will not be long before we have the pleasure of welcoming them to St. Croix again.

We have been asked to mention that the Native Brass Band will give a concert on the wharf tomorrow night.

The s. s. "Catherine" is due on schedule time, having 31 tons of cargo for this island.

THE RACES. A LITTLE TALE,

1. This is a little tale of the races
Where thoroughbreds numbered seven,
And the fleetest horse that covered the course
Did not come down from heaven.
The "Eagle" flew as fast as she knew,
But still could not draw level
For the "Bullet" sped three lengths ahead
And in front of all was the "Devil."
The "Little Button" was "good for nought"
And quite unfit for the show.
Quo Vadis? you ask, tis a difficult task
To say where he ought to go.

2. When the cats were away on the second day
And the mice had a chance for a cup,
Black Eagle won, but the "Tale" wouldn't run
So the "Lass" snatched a second prize up.
But the tail that all the horses saw
And the tale that all the horses tell
Is not the tail of the "Fairy Tale"
But the "Devil's" that gave them hell.
—St. Kitts Nevis Bulletin.

GOVERNOR ENDORSES WORK OF RED CROSS IN VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The full cooperation of the new administration in the Virgin Islands in the various activities being carried on there by the American Red Cross is promised in a letter just received at National Headquarters by Ernest J. Swift, Assistant to the Director of Foreign Operations, from the new governor, Philip Williams. The letter follows:

"I wish to thank you for your letter of November 15, 1923, in which you bring to my attention a resume of the present

and past activities of the American Red Cross in the islands of which I have just assumed the Governorship.

"Please be assured that I fully appreciate the good work which your splendid organization is doing in these islands, and that the activities of your Chapters here will meet with my wholehearted cooperation and support."—The Red Cross Courier.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Paris, Jan. 15th.—The cabinet, acting today in the financial crisis caused by the fall of the franc, decided to increase all taxes, direct and indirect, by 20 per cent. It also decided to reduce the recoverable budget in 1924 to 5,000,000,000 francs, which will be met by this new taxation. The Ministers agreed also to adjourn discussion of all bills before the Parliament involving additional expenditure, such as the pending measures for increases in pensions, etc. The Government likewise decided to put before the Chamber on Thursday a bill balancing the budget, putting the recoverable budget, heretofore met solely by loans, into the ordinary budget and getting all this by actual Government income. The Government will ask immediate discussion of its measures and a vote on the question of confidence.

Athens, Jan. 15th.—Great Britain has recognized the Greek Government, the British Charge here was officially advised by the Foreign Office.

Paris, Jan. 15th.—The committee of experts began this morning its task of examining the resources of Germany. The members met promptly at ten o'clock.

Paris, Jan. 15th.—Dr. Schacht, President of the Reichs Bank and Germany Currency Commissioner, has been invited by the Experts Investigating Committee to come to Paris immediately, it was announced this afternoon. The committee desires to avail itself of Dr. Schacht's knowledge of the present currency situation in Germany and receive his suggestions as to measures which could be quickly applied to improve the status of the mark and stabilize it.

Tokio, Jan. 15th.—Fifty persons are believed to have been killed in Tokio, Yokohama and the outside districts in an earthquake today, while many persons were injured. No casualties among foreigners have been reported. The statistics were given out by the police. One report stated that 600 houses had been demolished in Yokohama. Odawara, a city on Kyatsu Bay, about 75 miles south-west of here, suffered the greatest damage, as it did last September, when vast sections of both Yokohama and Tokio and surrounding cities virtually were destroyed. Water mains were broken by the earthquake and water flooded the streets, big buildings of modern con-

struction, which were badly damaged in many instances, still, in partial ruins from the disaster of last September, were further damaged. The cabinet went into session immediately after the earthquake to consider relief measures and to obtain information regarding the extent of the damage. The stock market suspended operations, owing to the failure of communications. The centre of the earthquake is believed to have been near Tanzawa Mountain, in the Sagami province, according to officials of the Central Observatory, where its duration was recorded as 12 minutes. Its intensity was estimated as half that of last September.

London, Jan. 16th.—The sessions tonight of the new triangular parliament did much to clear away the clouds of doubt which have overhung it. For the first time in history, the House of Commons listened attentively to pronouncements of a Labour leader while the heads of the two older parties could only be rated among those who also spoke. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's exposition of the aims of labour and whatever gleams of light he cast upon his party's policy was the important feature of the day. Mr. Lloyd George spoke for the Liberals, for Mr. Asquith was not yet recovered from his illness, although he was able to appear in the House and seconded Mr. MacDonald's criticisms of the Conservative Government. Mr. Baldwin made the best defence in the way of explanations he could on behalf of his government. Mr. MacDonald furnished no ammunition for his opponents, who had held up the Labour Party as a menace to the nation's dignity and prosperity. He carried the war into the enemy's camp and charged those he termed scare-mongers, with having in their attacks on Labour damaged the nation's credit and interests. No party, he said, would willingly undertake to govern the country with the present conditions of foreign and domestic problems and he appealed for British fair-play, without which no party could carry on. Lord Haldane was the spokesman for Labour in the House of Lords. Rising in response to an appeal from Marquis Curzon, Lord Haldane had no fears concerning a Labour Government and declared, "there is a desire on the part of the masses of the people to get a better chance in life for themselves and their children. For years Parliament looked on and did nothing. This is a great movement which has to be put into shape and given a chance." Marquis Curzon and Viscount Grey made specific speeches. Any hopes that the Baldwin Government might continue for a time on sufferance were killed when the announcement was made that the Labour Party had decided to propose an amendment to the reply to the King's speech. There will be two more days for speeches in the House of Com-