

St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., SATURDAY 19TH JUNE 1920

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NOTICE.

From Monday 21st. instant, and until further, it will not be guaranteed to supply ice manufactured from rain-water. From and with the date mentioned, the bulk of the ice will be manufactured from spring-water treated according to directions from the Sanitary Department such ice being calculated to meet the purposes of refrigerators and not offered to the trade for table use.

P. L. LA BEGA.
Christiansted.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

Continued from yesterday's Avis

After recess the Council re-assembled and the Chairman laid before members item 4 of the Order of the Day.

Item 4.

Colonial Council Bill No. 36.

Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 36, Draft of proposed Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year from July 1st, 1920 to June 30, 1921.

The Chairman remarked: The Municipal Committee has had this budget before it and has made certain recommendations.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood)

remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Committee has had two sittings on this budget and has offered the following amendments which Government has accepted and which I will read to you. The Member read the amendment and said.—These are the amendments proposed by the Municipal Committee and accepted by Government.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked: Mr. Chairman. In comparing the present budget with last year's budget I find that there are some things that need explanation. The present budget is over three hundred thousand francs in excess of last year's budget, I think that's a dangerous thing. Congress is trying to make us as much self-supporting as possible and what we are doing is quite the opposite. I will just go into details: I see the Income Tax is put down at Frcs. 90,000, I fail to see how the Income Tax is put down so low considering that one party alone has to pay more income tax than the amount which is here budgetted. Export duty is put down at Frcs. 500,000 I know this sum or more is paid for sugar alone. Is there no export tax paid on syrup? Excise duty on rum does not figure on this budget. Sundry Revenues—I see that St. Thomas has contributed Frcs. 4 000 towards the support of the Leper Asylum. How is it St. Thomas contributes so little considering the total cost of maintenance is Frcs. 83,000?

Richmond Sickhouse:—The amount contributed by St. Thomas to this institution is down at Frcs. 9,000 while the cost of maintenance is Frcs. 101,000. This contribution is also small. I do not see any revenue from the Agricultural Station nor from the Municipal Properties for rent or lease of land. Coming to the Department of Health I see a Dentist put down for Frcs. 10,000, is he going to do dental work free of charge for all of us?

I see under Department of Public Instructions Frcs. 12,000 for maintenance of Public Libraries it was understood when the Libraries were established by the Council the other day that no expenses were involved, all that was required was to find three public spirited men. May be it has not been possible to find these men.

Subsidy to West India and Panama Telegraph Company—We are now three years under the American Flag and I think it would be more interesting to have American news instead of English news. Speaking of subsidies, I think it would be a good idea to make a con-

tribution to make it financially possible to keep a power boat in operation between the islands. I fail to see how the U. S. Shipping Board can help in this matter.

I think the amount allotted to the Agricultural Station is an unnecessary contribution in view of the fact that the Station now is a Federal Station. We have a Station in this island from which we hear very little. I looked up my records and found that we have not had any printed reports from the Station since 1915 and no verbal report since the fall of 1916: we do not know anything about the renting of land at the Station; so long as we are making contributions towards the upkeep of the Station we should hear or know something of what is going on there.

Further I see two Police Judges, one down for a salary of Frcs. 9,000 and the other for Frcs. 7,500, it is a surprise to me to see a difference in the salaries of the two Police Judges as I thought it was the office that was paid for and not for the man holding it. I still think one Police Judge is sufficient. The maintenance of the Doctors car is put down at Frcs. 2,333, so with one Police Judge and a car we would save about Frcs. 6,000. Again I see a good many Deputy Clerks, Reporters etc. and for Maintenance of Courts Frcs. 15,000. I think that is too much. Then comes the Police Department, that is terrible considering that the police force has no detectives. In regard to the Hospitals I don't think I have anything to say; it is necessary to have a well equipped hospital running along efficient lines.

Sanitary Department—I see Frcs. 4,500 for a Veterinarian, that's something new to me; they are asking for a Ford car too, what is that for? The town is small they can walk from one house to another.

Public Works Department—There is a big amount under this item. You have under this item Inspector, Building Division and two Inspectors, Street Division at Frcs. 4,500 and Frcs. 4,200 respectively for the two small towns, but Road Inspectors are put down for Frcs. 160 each only. Also I see Frcs. 7,000 for each town for slaughterhouses.

If we sum up the whole thing we will find that Revenues from taxation amount to about Frcs. 1,000,000 and Frcs. 900,000 of that amount comes from the Country Estates and only Frcs. 100,000 from the two towns, while the expenditures are benefiting the towns about Frcs.