

IMPORTANT.**DR. J. R. MAYHEW,****EYESIGHT SPECIALIST**

WILL take his clients at Christiansted up to Monday, 7th, inst. and will be at Frederiksted from Tuesday to Friday, 8-11th., respectively, hence, all clients may consult him at his usual office, King Street, Frederiksted on above dates.

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Hours: -9-1 and 2-5 p. m.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked, Mr. Chairman. If any man here should know anything about the working of the Municipal Committee it is the Chairman Captain Blackwood and the Secretary of the Council. You must remember that the commissions in existence prior to that law were quite different to the commissions existing today. The By Laws which governs the affairs of the Municipal Committee were also passed and sanctioned by the King. The law goes on to say that the Municipal Committee partakes in the affairs of the Hospitals, the Schools, in other words all the department have two members from the Municipal Committee. Now we come to the Rules of Business for the Municipal Committee—After the first meeting of the Council those members elected by the Council as members of the Municipal Committee, the first thing they do is to elect their Chairman, then they proceed according to the ordinance which the Honorable Chairman has quoted. Now then who is responsible for communicating to the head of the various departments? The Chairman. He is to instruct the Secretary to send a communication to the various heads. Now comes the vital question—Has the Municipal Committee in its last election elected the commissions? If that has been done has it been communicated to Government? I thank you Mr. Chairman.

5th Appointed Member (Lunney) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I have acted on the Municipal Committee for some time and that mode of procedure as quoted by Member Coulter is correct.

1st Member for Frederiksted (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I only wish

to state that there is not much use in prolonging this matter; the Government side of it is quite clear. The Honorable Member states that if the commissions are existing and will function, he would withdraw his ordinance. Government have made their position clear, and one thing left to be done is for the Municipal Committee to admit their fault in not sending the result of their election to Government. I see no use in continuing this discussion any longer.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Certain things have turned up by which I do not care to withdraw the bill. I propose that 1st discussion be closed.

The Chairman gave a recess of 20 minutes.

After recess the Council reassembled and Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. Just a word about Committees and Commissions, the Government may have received the wrong impression. Since it stands out that the commissions are hardly in existence and not functioning the Government would not like any one to have the impression that the Government has failed to make the appointments, to the contrary the Government is just willing to co-operate in any way. With regard to remarks made by Member Stakemann about Police Commission in St. Thomas and how well it is working, I wish to state that there is a Commission working at the present time.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am very much pleased to hear the remarks made by the Government Secretary, that the Government will be pleased to work in harmony with the commissions. I also at the same time, beg to state that the ordinance of 1907 has not been brought to my notice before. I am willing to give the Chairman right and take the wrong. If the Government will issue instructions to his officers that they are to work in conjunction with the commissions, then I find no reason to continue with my proposal. As far as I understand from the Government Secretary, Government will give instructions and the Chairman of the Municipal Committee will elect the various commissions and the matter rests.

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Honorable Member is correct in his understanding. With reference to the remarks regarding the Police Regulations and the law, the Government is anxious that the law be complied with. The Honorable Member admits that he was a member of the Committee who drafted the law and that he has made a mistake, so it is right that we be generous.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As far as I understand the situation I think

the Municipal Committee has the right, according to Par. 63 of the Colonial Law, to elect the commissions, consequently that matter is settled. I want to remind you that there are going to be only one more ordinary meeting of the Council and half of the members are to retire. I think as we are so close to election, the Municipal Committee should wait until after election to elect the commissions. The law provides that these commissions should meet but once a month.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. As the last Speaker has proposed that the commissions be appointed after election, I ask that all the sanitary laws be postponed until after election.

Government Secretary (Timmons) remarked: Mr. Chairman. In reply to the last Speaker, the Government cannot suspend the operations of any law, and therefore cannot stop proceedings for any violations of the law. One thing more, the commissions, when appointed will function according to the law passed by the Council. The law says "Provided, that any such Board, Commission or Committee which shall have been divested of Administrative and (or) Executive functions as herein provided may thereafter act in advisory capacity to the Governor etc."

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. If that is so then it would be unnecessary to appoint the commissions. It is a question of assisting the poor people; the heads of the departments do not know the poor people; I do not see that it is right, if it is against my feeling of justice towards the poor people. There is a good deal of money that is being spent for useless things, that money could just as well be spent in behalf of the poor people.

The Chairman would like to know if 1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) would like to have the committee appointed to receive and report on his bill?

Member Stakemann: No, I wish to withdraw the bill.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that if the commissions are not to function according to rules laid down there should be new rules (The Speaker read from the By-Law a paragraph wherein the duties of the Committees and Commissions are defined) and continuing said, Those are what we are supposed to do. If the commissions are to be appointed as advisory boards, they should have legal power or none at all.

The Chairman would like to know if 4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) would like to take up the bill?

Member Blackwood answered no.

The Chairman remarked: The discussion is closed.