

S T. C R O I X A V I S

cidedly sharp depression in business all over the world.

In these United States, wages are being slashed from all ends.

Skilled laborers are told to accept fifteen to twenty five percent cut, and the unskilled who earn as much as eighty cents per hour, are only getting thirty five and forty cents.

The Labor Party is defied everywhere.

In St. Croix, I understand the field laborers are told to accept a cut of fifty per cent.

This is drastic. While it may be necessary for Capital to cut wages at the present time, yet to slash a man's means of livelihood into half, is bound to be keenly felt by him.

Now it seems that both factions can not arbitrate.

The time presents itself to offer once more as a suggestion that a Wage Board be organized on the islands, whose specific duties would be to regulate a scale of wages for the laboring factions there.

It will be incumbent on both Capital and Labor to bear the expenses of this Board, and a written agreement must be drafted and signed by both adopted by the Legislature to the effect that their findings viz: the Wage Board, shall be the decisive one.

A grave mistake on the part of certain labor groups in St. Croix is, that they believe results can be effected by bullying the Planters into submitting to all of their demands.

There are in these United States several hundred thousand young and healthy white men, who are begging about the streets, standing daily in the bread line, and are appealing in pitiable terms on the subways and elevated trains for aid with which to keep themselves warm this winter.

The brain of the officials at Washington is taxed devising ways and means with which to help the unemployed, most of whom are ex-soldiers.

Be ye not deceived. If the worse comes to the worst, the sugar canes on the island will not rot.

Be forewarned that the municipal authorities are not going to allow the industry of the island to go to ruin.

The cheapest oft times become the dearest, and an example might be made, if even at the expense of the Planters, but nevertheless decidedly damaging to the Labor Union.

The United States Government might as means of relief to their own unemployed, dispatch a transport of idle Southern farm hands, and St. Croix will be face to face with the race hatred they fear so much.

I warn also that extreme care be taken against violence.

Sugar-cane fires are not going to be tolerated like under the Danish regime, and one might as well try to throw garbage

at the moon, if the thought is entertained that any official on the islands is going to lose any sleep over what occurred in 1848 and 1878.

Many aliens who hitherto disturbed the peace of the islands, and who have been permitted to use them as a free hospital with equal rights to native born, would in such a case be deported as undesirable.

On the other hand it is a part of the Capitalists' duty to give the laborers a square deal.

Not very long ago, testimony was given to the fact the Bethlehem concern was reaping such immense profits that they could afford to pay large annual bonuses to most of their employees.

Those who belonged to the class of "Upper Tens" got the bonus, the "Lower Five" only earned one dollar a day minus the bonus.

Planters, who largely survived, without falling into the hands of a monopoly, nevertheless paid the same dollar a day to the "Lower five" class.

Yet there were strikes and sugar cane fires on estates owned by the individual planter.

If a fire ever occurred on the estates of the Bethlehem concern it was usually a mistake, and did not need Police force with which to make the laborers put it out.

There was a general smoothness of conditions between the Bethlehem concern and the Labor Union.

So if it be true that the Bethlehem concern has now assumed the initiative in refusing to pay laborers more than fifty cents a day perhaps it would serve well if a little of that affection would now wean itself over on the side of the individual planter.

Let us hope that diplomacy will help to bring about an early understanding for the benefit of all concerned.

Capital cannot do without Labor, 'tis true, but Capital can sacrifice a crop or two. Labor cannot.

We welcome Mr. & Mrs. Robt. L. Merwin who were among the passengers who arrived yesterday morning. Mr. Merwin is looking fine having recovered excellently from the treatment which he received at the Barbados Health Resort.

West End News, Oct. 26th.

[The "Avis" also adds its welcome.]

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Paris, Oct. 22nd.—M. Briand, replying to questions in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, declared that he would not go to the conference at Washington with a vote of semi-confidence and a small majority, but he repeated his resolve to represent France at the conference if the Chamber showed its

confidence in him and gave him a large majority. He declared that he would keep Parliament informed and would never confront it with a fait accompli. The International Conference would discuss formidable problems and France had not the right to be absent.

Havre, Oct. 22nd.—The S. S. "Paris" left this afternoon for the United States, having on board Marshal Foch.

Paris, Oct. 22nd.—Following the explosion of a bomb at the close of a meeting in the Wagram Hall yesterday, five men and two women have been arrested. A second bomb has been found under a bench in the place De Ternes, of the same type as that which exploded at the hotel of Mr. Herrick, the United States Ambassador.

Dominica, Oct. 24th.—The third meeting of the Dominica Representative Government Association was held at Portsmouth yesterday. The meeting demanded that the Legislature should consist of the Administrator with five officials, five nominated unofficials and five electives, the nominees to be gradually replaced by electives. The withdrawal of Dominica from the Leeward Island Confederacy was also demanded.

Dublin, October 21st.—M. De Valera, in a message to the Pope, calls attention to the telegrams exchanged between the King and the Pope and says: "The people of Ireland are confident that the ambiguities in the reply sent in the name of the King will not mislead you into believing that the troubles are over in Ireland, or that the people in Ireland acknowledge allegiance to the British King. The independence of Ireland has been formally proclaimed by regularly elected representatives of the people of Ireland and ratified by subsequent plebiscites. The troubles between Ireland and Great Britain have had their source in the fact that the rulers of Great Britain have sought to impose their will upon Ireland and by brute force to rob the people of their liberty". The message expressed the desire that the Irish people should be at peace and friendship with the people of Great Britain, but added that no consideration would ever induce the Irish to abandon their constancy through persecution and martyrdom, which it declares has proven the reality of the people's attachment to their national freedom.

London, Oct. 22nd.—A high official of the Vatican is quoted by the Daily Mails Rome correspondent as saying that the Pope is much grieved over the evident mistrust between Great Britain and Ireland, regarding which Mr. De Valera's letter, according to the correspondent is being widely discussed in Rome where it is generally felt that the republican leader was guilty of an indelicate act in referring to ambiguities in the King's message to the Pope.