

LOCAL

There was a public lecture on the wharf here last night by Lawyer D. Hamilton Jackson, the subject of which was a discussion of Senate Bill 2876, its constitutional features as involving civil government for these islands, and its being based on the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Independence which was read and deliberated upon by Mr. Jackson. Hon. H. Berg, member of the Colonial Council, also spoke on the subject of civil government and so did Mr. Ralph J. Bough, a native of St. Croix, residing in Santo Domingo and here on vacation. There was a goodly gathering of people who cheered the speakers, while the auto horns tooted approval. Commenting on the fact that there may be need for amendments in the bill, Mr. Berg conceded that there are discrepancies in it, "but we are not going to look at the hole in the doughnut" said he, "we are going to look at the doughnut."

It will be remembered that today is known as (Holy Thursday), formerly a holiday. To keep up the regular custom church goers will assemble in their respective places of worship this evening to receive the Holy Communion.

Tomorrow, known as Good Friday and a legal holiday, there will be no issue of this paper.

The sloop "Mizpah" from St. Thomas has not arrived up to time of going to press.

The postmaster asks to give publicity to the following:

In accordance with authorized practice to close the post office on holidays, local or continental, on which there is no demand for post office service, the post office in Christiansted will be closed on the 18th instant, known as Good Friday, and on the 21st instant, known as Easter Monday. The receipt of the bulk of this week's New York mail by the "Parima" sometime Thursday, should so lessen the regular dispatch from San Juan that there could be an unusually early delivery of the same on Saturday evening when the post office will be kept open a reasonable time to meet the public need in that respect. If full advantage is taken of this it will not be necessary to request service on Sunday morning which could have been obtained the previous day. The demand for post office service on Sunday morning is often so continuous as to become a nuisance to the employees who are on duty expressly for the making up of the outgoing dispatch and for no other purpose. The purchase of stamps, money orders, etc., the registration and insurance of mail and business of that kind should positively be expedited by Saturday 4.00 p. m.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, April 14th.—The first session of a conference called to settle the outstanding questions between Great Britain and Soviet Russia, was held today at the Foreign Office, with Mr. MacDonald presiding. The Russian delegation arrived at the Foreign Office under special police protection and went into session with the Premier at 11.30. After formal opening speeches by the Premier and M. Christian Rakovsky, the chief Soviet representative, plans were made for the formation of the various economic and political committee which will carry on the work. The delegates then adjourned to Number 16 Downing Street, where the Russians had luncheon with the Premier. Police were present throughout White Hall district and the vicinity of Downing Street, as a precaution against any untoward incident. It was understood before hand that the meeting would be more or less formal, actual business not beginning until tomorrow, when the permanent officials of the Foreign Office take over the conduct of the British side of the negotiations. Although newspapermen will not be admitted, a report of each day's proceedings will be furnished officially. According to the Daily Telegraph, the Soviet Delegation has two sets of instructions, one of a formal nature, from the Moscow Government, and the other from the Communist Internationale. The latter, the paper says, stresses among other things, that no treaty must be concluded unless very favorable to the Soviet, but that every effort be made to strengthen the existing ties between Moscow and the Communist organizations in Great Britain. It is stated from the same source that the Communist Internationale warned the delegates that the British police are not to be trusted and that while asking protection against counter-revolutionaries the delegates should themselves organize a guard of their Communist friends. The attitude of the British Press toward the delegation can scarcely be called cordial, even where Mr. MacDonald's action in seeking an agreement with Russia is concerned, and there is a thinly veiled strain of suspicion in most of the references to the Russian aims, in some cases this suspicion is outspoken.

Paris, April 14th.—The Ministry of Marine announced yesterday that it had officially given up as lost the steamer Port De Brost, which sailed from Bordeaux on February 8th for Dakar, Senegal. It is believed that all on board including 37 officers and men, went down with the ship, when she foundered, probably on February 13th, in a hurricane off Cape Finisterre.

Warsaw, April 14th.—Archbishop Zepliak, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Russia, arrived here today from Riga on his way to report to the Pope regard-

ing conditions in Russia. The prelate was met at the station by prominent churchmen and delegations from various societies. Outside the station the people took the horses of the prelate's carriage out of the harness and dragged the carriage to the palace of Cardinal Krakowski, where Monsignor Zepliak is a guest.

New York, April 14th.—The Davis Cup Committee of the United States Lawn Tennis Association on Saturday took the first step toward defence of the International team trophy this year, when it was announced the selection of a squadron of ranking stars as eligibles for the 1924 United States Team. The players selected are, William Tilden, Philadelphia, William Johnson, Howard Kinsey and Robert Kinsey, San Francisco, Vincent Richards, Yonkers, New York, Carl Fischer and Wallace Johnson, Philadelphia, Francis Hunter, Frank Anderson, Dr. George King, Watson Washburn and Hugh Keleşher, New York, Harvey Rodgers, Los Angeles and Clarence Griffin, San Francisco. The committee made it plain, however, that while the defending team in all likelihood will be chosen from among the players named, its selections are not necessarily confined to the list.

Toronto, April 14th.—A few minutes after he had refused to give evidence before the public accounts committee of the legislature early this afternoon, Mr. Peters Smith, Provincial Treasurer in the Drury Government, was arrested by the provincial police on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the Ontario Government.

Ottawa, April 14th.—It is learned from official circles that Mr. James Robb, Minister of Finance, will announce that a change will be made in the collection of Income Tax, whereby the amount of exemption, for each child under eight will be raised from \$200 to \$500.

Washington, April 14th.—The Immigration Bill, as passed by the House of Representatives, does not apply the quota law to Canada, but makes a change in the present law in that it requires that any person admitted to the United States from Canada shall have resided in Canada for ten years or more. The present law requires five years residence. The House made no serious attempt to apply the quota law to Canada and rejected amendments to the bill which would have made the quota law applicable to the countries of the Western Hemisphere. The Senate, however, is expected to give the question serious attention this week, when it reaches the amendment to the Senate Immigration Bill which would apply the quota law to all the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Even if the Senate accepts the amendment, there will be opposition by the House, which it is said will reject it.

Washington, April 14th.—The Senate answered Ambassador Hanihara's protest against Japanese exclusion legislation today by voting 76 to 2 against re-