

FRANK N. CORTINA

WILLIAM H. FLEMING X

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

At one o'clock p. m. Tuesday, September 4, 1923, the Colonial Council of St. Croix, at the request of Government, convened in extraordinary session in the Council Hall in Christiansted.

Present were: The Vice-Chairman, (Robt. W. Skeoch, A. J. Blackwood, F. Andersen, D. C. Canegata, M. M. Skeech, D. Hamilton Jackson, Holger Jessen, F. Coulter, D. S. Armstrong, Thos. Ramsay, A. R. McIntosh, Joseph Alexander and Jno. L. Curry.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (Abramson) sent in excuse of his inability to attend the meeting.

The Chairman (Robt. L. Merwin) absent from the island. 2nd Appointed Member (Noll) was also absent.

The seat of the 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District was vacant.

Government Secretary (Zane) and Despatching Secretary (Barrett) were present at the meeting.

The following prayers were offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Father Francis W. Clair:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O God from Whom proceed all holy desires, right counsels and just works, we adore Thy supreme majesty and praise Thy divine wisdom. Make known to us Thy holy will so that we may fulfil all our obligations toward Thee and our fellow citizens, and having done our part to secure peace on earth; may we merit to enjoy the same for all eternity in heaven.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

May the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost descend upon us and remain with us forever. Amen.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) entered the meeting at this stage of the proceedings.

The following communications received since the last meeting were then read:

(1). Letter from Despatching Secretary (Barrett) reading:

24 August 1923.

The Honorable,

The Chairman of the Colonial Council,
Municipality of St. Croix,
Virgin Islands of the U. S.

Sir:—

I have been directed by His Excellency the Governor of the Virgin Islands to request that you convene an Extraordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix, on Tuesday, September 4, 1923, at 1 o'clock p. m.

Respectfully yours,

R. E. BARRETT,
Despatching Secretary.

(2). Letter from His Excellency the Governor reading:

24 August, 1923.

Sir:—

With reference to Colonial Council Bill No. 6, Fourth Council, First Session, 1923—1924, An Ordinance providing a special commission to revise the code of general and special laws for the Municipality of St. Croix, to amend, repeal, and continue in force and effect all ordinances existing in the Municipality prior to the change of sovereignty and for other purposes, introduced by first member for Frederiksted Town, and at once withdrawn by him for correction, the following may be of interest to you:—

About one month ago I instructed the Legal Aide to at once undertake and unceasingly push the work of translating the old Danish Laws applicable to these Islands as a preliminary step towards determining what laws are now obsolete, what laws are obsolete in part and what laws are still in force.

The actual work of translation of the old ordinances is an extensive one, and as this translation must be done before any further steps can be taken, I consider that it is not, at this moment, necessary to decide what the future steps shall be to extend the present code to cover legal matters not now covered by it.

The actual work of translation is, in my opinion, an executive matter and as I have stated, it is my intention to push it forward as rapidly as possible.

I may add that if it is considered that the existing code is faulty in specific cases, the remedy lies in the submission to the Colonial Council of drafts of Ordinances designed to correct them.

Very respectfully,

HENRY H. HOUGH,
Governor.

The Honorable,

The Chairman of the Colonial Council,
Christiansted, Saint Croix.

(3). Letter from Despatching Secretary (R. E. Barrett) reading:

28 August, 1923.

The Honorable,

The Chairman of the Colonial Council,
Municipality of St. Croix,
Virgin Islands of the U. S.

Sir:—

You are hereby informed that the Ordinance to amend Title III, Chapter 71, of an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance providing a compiled Code of General and Special Laws for St. Croix and altering, amending, repealing and discontinuing existing laws", which was passed by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix on August 20, 1923, has been sanctioned and approved in whole by His Excellency, the Governor, under date of August 25, 1923.

Respectfully,

R. E. BARRETT,
Despatching Secretary.

(4). Letter from Despatching Secretary (R. E. Barrett) reading:

31 August, 1923

The Honorable,

The Chairman of the Colonial Council,
Municipality of St. Croix,
Virgin Islands of the U. S.

Sir:—

You are hereby informed that the Additional Money Bill to the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year from July 1, 1923 to June 30, 1924, granting the sum of Francs 5,400.00 to the Department of Education to provide for the maintenance of ten boys from St. Croix in the Reform School, Leinster Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands, which was passed by the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix on August 20, 1923, has been sanctioned and approved in whole by His Excellency, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, under date of August 27, 1923.

Respectfully,

R. E. BARRETT,
Despatching Secretary.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: Honorable Members the minutes of the last meeting have been published as customary. If I hear no objection I will consider them tacitly adopted.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I wish to correct a slight error in the proceedings. I am reported as saying "there is a crying need in this island, not only for delinquent boys, but for incorrigible boys also." I wish to have that corrected to read: "There is a crying need in this island for an institution, not only for delinquent boys, but for incorrigible boys also."

I am also reported as saying: "I don't think we should quibble over which department this school should come under. What I said was: I don't think we should quibble over which department this grant should come under."

It was ordered that the necessary corrections be made.

(To be continued.)