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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

Despatching Secretary (Fox) remarked: Mr. Chairman. With regard to remarks made by 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) I would like to know what change has taken place so as to require a less number of policemen? On the 24th of February this year a radiogram was received from the Governor which reads:

VIA Direct.

GOVT. Navsta St. Thomas.

For Governor. Last night the West Indian Sugar Factory had a canefire destroying five acres of cane, this is the twelfth canefire for the past two weeks. We recommend that the Governor direct say three squads of Marines to assist the police with patrol work around Kingshill for a period of about three weeks until the harvesting of the cane will begin.

(Signed) F. ANDERSEN.

O. K.

R. D. LOWELL. Radio St. Croix.

I would like to know if there is any radical change, and if this might not occur again?

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman, continuing my remarks, I wish to express my satisfaction with the remarks made by the 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) that his only motive for criticising is to effect economy, and to help to make the island self supporting. Probably that is so, and I heartily sympathize with his views and have also been trying to do something in that way myself. I wish to draw attention to the fact that the budget estimates sent in by me for the fiscal year calls for Ten Thousand Francs less than in previous years. I took the floor especially to draw your attention to the fact that the amount for feeding the Police horses in the time of drought is included in the amount asked for under the item 3. Maintenance, "for Horseshoeing etc." Frs. 3,500 which the Municipal Committee have reduced to Frs. 1000.

At all three stations, viz: Christiansted, King's Hill, and Frederiksted, the

animals (horses) can be fed with the grass grown upon public land at Richmond, King's Hill, and the public cemetery at Frederiksted, except when a prolonged drought occurs, when it may be necessary to purchase oats and oilmeal, for which provision has been made in the amount asked for under the item 3 "Maintenance for horseshoeing, etc., Frs: 3500.00".

With regard to economizing in the expenses of the Department, I have tried to do the best I could. But what I have been able to a small extent to accomplish has been to increase the revenues to the Government as far as the Department was able to, by a careful scrutiny of the lists returned for the Horses Carriage & Boat Tax, Dog Tax, and Gun Licenses. In going over the lists sent in for the Horse, Carriage, & Boat tax, it was a revelation to me to discover how many persons suffered from loss of memory as to the number of vehicles, and horses they owned. In every one of these instances, a receipt was made out for the number we knew they had, and not for the number sent in, and in almost every instance the amount was paid in without any protest or demur. The result was that there was collected for the year 1920-1921 (to the 31st May) Frs: 34 837.00 against Frs: 25,800.50 for the fiscal year 1919-20 to June 30, an increase of Frs: 9,036.50 with one month more of the present fiscal year in which to collect some more. With regard to the Dog tax, there was collected an amount of Frs: 700.00 more than for the previous year, and for Gun licenses Frs. 270.00 more, making a total increase over the amount collected for previous year of Frs: 10,006.50 which comes pretty near to the amount of salary I got from the Government. I feel that if I have been able to do that much, I have been doing my duty, but doing it at the expense of a great deal of criticisms from many persons. I have good reasons for making that statement. If any official has good reasons for saying—Lord! save me from my friends! it is the Director of Police. He is expected to shut his eyes to somethings, to wink at others, and to be inclined to discrimination in the application of certain laws and regulations, which I have not been doing and do not intend to do. I am going to do my best for the interest of my employer. If any member of the community, or the Council, has anything against the Police Department, bring it right out to me, or to the Government. All I ask is fairplay, and a square deal. I want to make my position clear. If there is anything wrong with this Department, that I do not know about, I shall always be glad to get knowledge of it. I am glad for the statement made by 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) that there is nothing wrong with the Police Department. And

I hope that the services rendered by the Police Department will continue to be satisfactory to the community and to the Government.

The Acting Chairman (Blackwood) remarked: I think the Honorable Member has overdrawn the lines towards giving satisfaction where the community is concerned. I have never heard these complaints before. I understand that the Honorable Member holds his position very strongly. Every one has a good feeling towards him.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a short remark. I see horseshoeing, repairs to carts etc. The word "etc." in a money bill or contract is very dangerous. It may be that the Director of Police would have had oats for his horses if he had definitely called for oats and not use the word "etc."

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am very glad for the statement made by the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen). When the budget was placed before the Municipal Committee my statement was not placed before them. Here is my statement—(The Speaker read a statement) and continuing said,—If the Budget Committee had been in possession of these explanations they would not have reduced the amount for telephones.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am confused. I am talking about the Municipal Committee. The Budget Committee had no chance, it died before it could report to the Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I do not think the statement made by the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) with regard to reducing the number of telephones in his Department is correct.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter): I didn't say it is correct.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): How many telephones have you at present?

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter): Nine.

The Acting Chairman (Blackwood) remarked: The Director of Police was before the Municipal Committee when the items budgetted for his department were discussed. The Municipal Committee's work was based on economy, and it was the policy not to raise salaries higher than they were last year. I think the recommendations made by the Municipal Committee are conscientious as they could be, considering that none of the Departments are crippled by them.

With regard to remarks made by the Despatching Secretary with reference to Radiogram received from the Governor and a possibility of a recurrence, those are the times we need a trained Po-