

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 1920.

No. 27.

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HIGH COST OF LIVING HAS NOT HIT THE HAREM.

The cost of living in Turkey may be going up, but so long as wives continue to be plentiful and a Turkish man has \$1.35 in his leather wallet he can keep a couple of taps ahead of the game.

This is the gist of the report recently made by Professor J. P. Xenides, an official of an Asia Minor relief commission, when asked regarding the conditions which now prevail in that locality. Professor Xenides recently returned from Constantinople.

The professor went on to say that no Turk will be forced to go to work so long as polygamy continues in the Kingdom of the star and crescent. We may set all our anxieties at rest; the true Moslem has no fear that he must hunt a job. The market value of wives—good, strong husky ones—is only \$1.35, and they are a great deal cheaper and better to keep than mules.

So the poorer classes of Mohammedans are dispensing with their mules, donkeys and other beasts of burden, says the professor, in preference for wives.

Dr. Xenides has spent years in the Orient and has studied social conditions there.

TURKS INCREASE HAREMS.

"The Turks are not relinquishing their harems," he says. "If anything, the number of harems is increasing. In many quarters expensive draft animals are being replaced with wives who are expected to do the work and may be had for a mere song in the matrimonial market."

He then added that in the agricultural regions of the Ottoman Empire the cost

of donkeys, horses and oxen is so high that the Turks have found it far more economical to stock up with brides.

Notwithstanding this, Dr. Xenides explains that polygamy is decreasing.

"Figures show," he said, "that the average wealthy Moslem finds his domestic happiness varies in inverse rates with the number of women in his household. The high cost of living does not cause a Turk to cut down his harem. Quite the opposite. The well-to-do Turks are espousing monogamy. The poorer ones, who feel the pinch of hard times and the need for economy augment their harems."

Those who are wealthy enough and crave happiness have but one wife.

WAR CAUSED SURPLUS OF WOMEN

The war has caused a great surplus of women in Turkey. A man may buy one for less than he can a hat. Women not of the Mohammedan faith may be had cheaper than any others. This has served to keep the price low.

When the prices of commodities soared, explained the professor the Turk faced a crisis. He feared that he could not be supported in the luxury to which he had been accustomed. Work loomed perilously near.

Turkish officials solved the difficulty by seizing thousands of Armenians and Syrian women, whose husbands or male relatives had been killed in the massacres.

The women were put on the auction block and many harems were filled at prices ranging from 15 to 80 cents," Dr. Xenides continues, "some attractive women brought as much as \$1. The money went to the officials who had been instrumental in obtaining the commodity."

The professor then said that women who are not of the Moslem faith do not make as good wives as those of their own nationality, owing to the fact that they rebel at harem life, refuse to become Mohammedans, and attempt to escape at the least opportunity. The Turks favor them solely because they are good workers.

When the commanders of the allied troops ordered non-Turkish women released, hundreds were turned out, without food or clothing to starve. The nearest Relief Committee at 1 Madison Avenue, is now giving relief to these.

—Barbados Advocate.

LOST between Christiansted and Est. La Gr. Princessé A CARRIAGE, RUG AND WHIP. Finder will be rewarded on leaving same at this office.

Executive Order No. 9.

THE following additional Regulations governing the sale of bay rum promulgated in pursuance of law, will be effective within the Virgin Islands of the United States on and after February 1, 1920:

Bay Rum shall be sold only on delivery of a permit issued by the Police Department.

Applicants for permit must satisfy the Police Department that the applicant will not use the bay rum for beverage purposes.

Section 4 of Executive Order No. 2, dated July 7th, 1919, wherein such sales were authorized upon the buyer's prior delivery to the seller of an application to purchase, is hereby amended accordingly.

J. W. OMAN,
Governor

St. Croix Sukkerfabrik.

THE Factory's scales will be tested by the Company together with two Cane-deliverers on THURSDAY THE 5TH INST. as follows:

Adjustment of the weights at the Custom House 2 o'clock p.m.

Testing of the scale at the Factory Station 2 o'clock p.m.

Testing of the scale at the Peter's Rest Station 3 o'clock p.m.

Testing of the scale at the Sion Farm Station 3 o'clock p.m.

Cane-deliverers are invited to be present at the testing.

Christiansted, 1st February 1920.

AXEL BERLAND.

NOTICE

THE Northside road at Colquhoun Mt. Pleasant Bridge in King's Quarter is now open for Public Traffic.

For the Road Commission
F. LUNNEY.
St. Croix, 23th Jan. 1920.