

ation for an economic reconstruction of the Virgin Islands. Civil rights are small comfort for an empty stomach. Unemployment and hunger are pressing the natives hard. Just around the corner is actual starvation unless relieved by emigration or economic rehabilitation. Industrially speaking, the Virgin Islands belong to a past era. St. Thomas is commercial; St. Croix is agricultural; St. John is neither, but as its population has shrunk to fewer than 1,000 persons its immediate relief is less a problem than that of the other two islands. St. Thomas is almost wholly mountainous, and its population is mostly urban, settled about the harbor which for many years gave a good living through coaling ships, furnishing them with supplies, and serving as a transfer point for Caribbean cargoes. Changes in ships and shipping have spoiled all that and left the port to decay. Its inhabitants are now largely without work and only scantily supplied with food. Except for the money spent by the American occupation and remittances from relatives in the United States, the majority of the people could not live at all. A number may work out their salvation by returning to the land, but unless the population is to dwindle to half or a fourth of its present size, some industry must be started which will produce something to sell to the outside world. In view of the cheapness of labor, there would seem to be opportunity for the manufacture of articles requiring a large amount of handwork and not so bulky as to eat up the profits in transportation charges.

Economic conditions on the island of St. Croix are as bad as those of St. Thomas, but from different causes. St. Croix lives by agriculture, with sugar-cane as the principal crop. For a good many years the sugar industry of St. Croix suffered from the competition of the more productive plantations of the larger West Indian islands, but for the last three years it has been additionally handicapped by drought, and is now facing the prospect of a fourth dry season. In consequence the planters are discouraged and have beaten down wages to forty cents a day for first-class field laborers and twenty to twenty-five for second class workers. Even these pitiful pittance cannot be obtained six days a week the year around. Three or four days a week is probably a good average. Living costs average as high as in the United States, but the field workers get their houses—usually containing only one room for the entire family—rent free.

The field workers of St. Croix are made up about equally of men and women, who do not own individually an acre of the land they cultivate. But at least three-fourths of them are unionized, and during the prosperous year of 1920, when they forced wages up to \$1 a day, the St. Croix Labour Union bought 2,500

acres of land. For the most part the land has been "squatted out." That is plots have been leased at small annual rentals to union members to be worked individually, usually in the cultivation of sugar cane. Partly due to lack of capital for the purchase of fertilizer and partly due to deficient experience or energy in cultivation, most of these plots have yielded poor returns, even when compared with the unfavorable crops of the whole drought-blistered island. Still this "squattling out" is the most hopeful sign on the industrial horizon of St. Croix. Some of the owners of large estates have also begun to "squat out" part of their holdings, and the system may eventually embrace most of the cultivatable land. Sugar-cane growing on the island is no longer sufficiently profitable to attract the man looking for big money, but the native laborer, with his simple wants, may be able to do it.

(To be concluded)

Pass It Along.

The May 18 issue of the New York Post Office Bulletin of Information contains the following under the heading "Why not a post-office creed?", which is deemed worthy of passing along to postal employees and patrons of the Postal Service:

I BELIEVE
in the United States Government.
I BELIEVE
in aiding it.
I BELIEVE
in helping to improve post-office efficiency.
I BELIEVE
it incumbent on me when I mail matter to prepare it properly.
I BELIEVE
in writing the address legibly.
I BELIEVE
in fully prepaying postage.
I BELIEVE
in giving the complete address.
I BELIEVE
in giving the street and number.
I BELIEVE
in giving the room number when mail is intended for an office building.
I BELIEVE
in careful packing of my mail.
I BELIEVE
in giving my name and address as sender.
I BELIEVE
in early mailing.
I BELIEVE
I will be a better citizen if I aid my Government by doing these things.
The Postal Bulletin, June 4, 1923.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Jerusalem, June 14th.—Sir Herbert Samuel, who was some days ago reported in danger from bandits, has returned from

Mutallah, where he presided at the exercises celebrating the inclusion of the district in Palestine. Two more British gendarmes of the ten who were ambushed by bandits while escorting the Commissioner's party, are dead of wounds, bringing the total fatalities to five. One gendarme was captured. Sir Herbert will leave for London at the end of the present month, for an extended vacation.

Havre, June 14th.—Fears are entertained for the safety of the Polish training schoolship "Edvow", with 200 midshipmen on board. The vessel is 14 hours overdue here. A terrific West to Northwesterly gale, the most severe in many months, is causing interruptions to the cross channel service from Havre to Dover and Trouville Havre Roads.

Tientsin, June 13th.—Li Yuan Hung, President of the Chinese Republic, is being held a prisoner aboard his special train in the Central Railway Station here, following his flight from the Capital at Peking on Tuesday. The train is surrounded by troops, acting under the direct order of Wang Chen, Governor of the Chili province. The British Consul was forcibly prevented from approaching the train. The President is being held, it is said, because he has possession of the Government seals which he carried with him in his flight from the capital.

Peking, June 14th.—China's "Christian General," Feng Yu, was the active military power behind the plot which forced President Li Yuan Hung out of office and sent him in flight to Tientsin. General Feng, with Wang Hul Ching, head of the Metropolitan Police of Peking, handed their resignations to President Li on Tuesday, declaring they no longer could hold office while their troops and women were unpaid. President Li countered with a request that they withdraw their resignation. When Feng saw that Li was determined to hold the Presidency, he issued his ultimatum that unless Li vacated, Feng's troops would enter the Capital. Then followed Li's flight to Tientsin.

Quebec, June 14th.—Two villages completely wiped out, several sawmills, a dozen or more houses burned down, farmers ruined, barns, sheds by the score reduced to heaps of ashes, farm implements lost and immense tracts of valuable timber land waste, represent yesterday's partial loss, due to forest fires in the province of Quebec. The situation in Temiscouata county, it was stated last night by chief Forester Piche, was "frightful". The two prosperous villages of Glendyne and Sillery, which were swept by flames and completely destroyed, were thriving colonization settlements in Temiscouata and the mills and other buildings which went up in smoke were also situated in the same district.