

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., THURSDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 1920.

No. 40.

THE ST. CROIX AVIS

is printed and published daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted) by G. Johansen at the Avis Office.

TERMS--50 cents monthly in advance, 2 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter May 26th 1917 at the Post Office at Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of the U. S. A., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

"Let us not be weary in well doing".

Gal. VI. 9.

A GRATEFUL FAMILY.

One Reuben Rouzy, of Virginia, it is related, owed General Washington about a thousand pounds.

While President of the United States, one of his agents brought an action for the money. Judgment was obtained, and execution issued, against the body of the defendant, who was taken to goal. He had a considerable landed estate, but this kind of property cannot be sold in Virginia for debts, unless at the discretion, of the person. He had a large family, and for the sake of his children preferred lying in goal to selling his land. A friend hinted to him that probably General Washington did not know anything of the proceeding, and that it might be well to send him a petition, with a statement of the circumstance.

He did so, and the very next post from Philadelphia after the arrival of his petition in that city, brought him an order for his immediate release, together with a full discharge, and a severe reprimand to the agent for having acted in such a manner.

Poor Rouzy, was, in consequence, restored to his family, who never laid down their heads at night without presenting prayers to Heaven for their "beloved Washington".

Providence smiled upon the labours of the grateful family, and in a few years Rouzy enjoyed the exquisite pleasure of being able to lay the 1,000 pounds, with interest, at the feet of this truly great man. Washington reminded him that this debt was discharged. Rouzy replied that the debt of his family to the father of their Country and preserver of himself could never be discharged; and the General, to avoid the pressing importunity of the grateful Virginian, who would not be denied, accepted the money, only, however, to divide it among Rouzy's children which he immediately did.—*Contributed.*

• St. Thomas News.

The motor boat "Carmen," Captain George, belonging to Mr. Emile A. Berne, was wrecked last night on Johnson's Reef. She was returning from Tortola with a party of pleasure-seekers, about 20 in number, including Captain Will Simmonds of the Harbour Department, and his wife, Rev. Pilgrim and mother, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Seale, Miss Seale and others. After some hours of anxiety, they were finally rescued by a St. John boat, and brought here, arriving at 3 o'clock, this morning.

Later this morning at 8.30 a. m., Mr. Berne with a party of labourers left for the scene of disaster, to try and save the boat.

The accident is much to be regretted inasmuch as the "Carmen" was a favourite with pleasure seekers.—*St. Thomas Mail Note, Feb. 13th.*

CREQUE'S FIRE.

In connection with the fire that occurred on Tuesday night, thus far, no evidence as to its cause has been determined. In view of certain considerations, however, it is thought to be of an incendiary character, as we have been made to understand that since then, bundles of rags saturated with kerosene had been found in two other sections of the town. The upper part of the warehouse burnt, is the upper end next the dwelling house, facing east, and which contained bedsteads, chairs, etc. and some second-hand materials.

The report that there were some casks of rum and Bay rum therein stored is absolutely without any foundation. So great however was the fire, that the heavy doors sheathed as they were with metal, just crumbled, with the metal torn and twisted out of shape. The heavy walled roof also has caved in. It was, indeed a serious fire; and but for the good work done by one and all, might have reached terrible proportions.

Among the first on the scene were Mr. Norman P. Alexander, Chief of the Fire Department, and a squad of Marines under Captain R. D. Lowell.

In the second section of the warehouse, and separated from the blazing one by a very thick wall, was stored a large quantity of gasoline, the greater part of which had to be thrown overboard for the purpose of eliminating the danger. At one time, the side of the dwelling house, as

well as the adjacent balcony, was on the point of ignition. This danger was, however, averted through the efforts of Mr. Lawrence French, who with a party of men, kept a hose steadily at work upon the threatend points. Had the dwelling-house caught, who can say what might not have occurred! The burnt contents are a loss to Mr. Creque as we understand, they were not covered by insurance. We beg to sympathize heartily with our young townsman at this contretemps of fate, but hope that soon the loss will be made good.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Feb. 14th.*

We are glad to state that through representations made at Washington concerning the matter, the embargo formerly laid upon shipment of coals to this port, and which, through the lack of same, by preventing ships calling here for bunker-coals, entailed some hardships upon a large section of our community, has been removed; and that the first shipment of said commodity, comprising about 3,000 tons, will arrive in a few days.—*St. Thomas Mail Notes, Feb. 16th.*

Since Friday, the harbour has been looking quite lively, there having arrived several U. S. ships of war, among them an Admiral-ship which arrived yesterday morning. On Saturday morning six seaplanes arrived from Porto Rico; one flying around the "Point," two over the Signal Station, and the last three through the Haulover. The arrival created a good deal of excitement, and all day and yesterday folks were going backwards and forwards on trips of inspection.—*Ibid.*

DEAFNESS

And Noises In The Head.

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