

ing at once and at last, secure for them that which your predecessors for so long a time have neglected; and provide and secure for them a lasting benefit which for all time will redound to the memory of the Colonial Council of 1921.

Gentlemen: we would like you seriously to consider an idea which perhaps has not presented itself to your minds as yet but is nevertheless a strong hint of what could at any time resolve itself into a grave and stubborn reality. Suppose we were to be brought like as we were a few weeks ago to face a very severe spell of drought so that our cisterns ran nearly dry, or very low, and a fire should break out in our Town. There could be no thought as to whether or not we should spare the drinking water or combat the fire, we would be compelled to fight the foe with the surest means; but after the perhaps successful overcoming of the fire, where might we be for drinking water? It should be remembered that we are not more immune from such catastrophe than our brethren, but we are without resource, that can be counted on.

Gentlemen: You may shrug your shoulders at a "Concrete Road Bill", you may pooh-poo a "Harbor Improvement Bill", but in the name of God or Man you cannot, ought not, and must not set aside for any longer time, but you must move in the present and at once to provide for Christiansted Town, a means of securing WATER for the comfort and safety of its dwellers.

Yours humble servants

A GROUP OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED.

**Congressional Action in Virgin Islands Affairs, Extract From Congressional Record Of May 25, 1921. Amendment Introduced By Senator Kenyon In The Senate On May 20, 1921.**

(Concluded from Saturday's Avis.)

Senator William S. Kenyon,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, may I inquire of the Senator whether there is any taxation imposed upon the people in addition to their local taxes?

Mr. KENYON. Yes; there is.

Mr. KING. We are compelled, then, to appropriate, as I understand, \$350,000 per annum for the purpose of governing the islands?

Mr. KENYON. I think the appropriations run in the neighborhood of \$370,000, in addition to what is raised by taxation on the islands, but some of the rich planters of those islands have, in my judgment, not been paying a fair proportion of taxation.

Mr. KING. Let me inquire further if,

when the islands were subject to Denmark, appropriations were made by the parent Government for the upkeep of the islands and the maintenance of local government?

Mr. KENYON. I think so. I think for some years the islands have not been self-sustaining, due largely to the same causes that I am trying to remedy by the amendment which I have proposed.

Mr. KING. It seems to me that the amount of \$340,000 plus the local taxes is too much money. The Senator will recall that when the Territories were receiving appropriations from the Federal Government they did not receive, respectively, nearly that amount, and yet they had populations of from 50,000 to 200,000, 300,000, and 400,000. The Senator has visited the islands, and may I inquire whether, in his opinion, the amount which Congress is called upon to appropriate is excessive.

Mr. KENYON. No; I think not; I believe that we have done our duty by them. The possibilities in the islands are marvelous; but they need a new water system; they need a dredging of the harbor at Christiansted. They have established a new junior high school since the commission visited them, but they need money for a number of purposes. It is a land we acquired and a land we forgot. A fair system of taxation will reduce the amount the Government is compelled to pay, but I do not believe that it will entirely eliminate it. There must be many things done in the Virgin Islands in the next few years.

Mr. KING. Let me inquire of the Senator, in view of his amendment, whether there is any spirit manifested by the people to become citizens of the United States?

Mr. KENYON. Oh yes, I think I stated to the Senate that there were not over 30 or 35 who refused to become citizens of the United States.

Mr. KING. I do not understand the Senator.

Mr. KENYON. There were not over that number who took advantage of the provision that they could retain their Danish citizenship; but one of the 30 has been the president of the council making laws in the islands, and it seems to me that such a situation is intolerable.

Mr. POINDEXTER. May I ask the Senator from Iowa what is the present status of the proposed legislation for establishing a civil government in the Virgin Islands?

Mr. KENYON. There has been a code of new laws, I will say to the Senator, prepared after great pains and trouble, and that code has now been adopted by the council of St. Croix and will be adopted, possibly in the next 60 days—I think that is a fair estimate—by the council of St. Thomas and St. John. So they will have a code of American laws. They have had a situation under which Danish laws have governed those islands.

For instance, some offenses were punishable by boiling in oil; but, of course, such punishment has never been inflicted since we secured possession of the islands.

Mr. BORAH. Oil is too expensive for that.

Mr. POINDEXTER. Mr. President, so far as I am concerned, I am in hearty sympathy with the purpose of the Senator from Iowa, as expressed in the amendment. I think that the members of the council of the islands ought to be citizens of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the Senator from Iowa.

The amendment was agreed to.

**TELEGRAMS.**

**ST. CROIX STATION.**

Gleneagles, Scotland, June 6th.—Great Britain won the fonnsones competition of this forenoon as part of today's international match between British and United States professional golfers comprising leading representatives of the two nations. British players won three of the matches, while the United States players were unable to gather any. Two of the matches were halves.

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 6th.—A fire of unknown origin, starting in an office building in the down town section of Pittsburg early this morning, was brought under control at 3 o'clock. The Brigg's Machinery Company and other concerns, including the Fairbanks Scale Company, the Pittsburg Office Equipment Company and the New York Wall Paper Company said their losses would total well into one million dollars.

Paris, June 6th.—The council of ambassadors today sent a letter signed by Premier Briand to the German ambassador, taking cognizance of the goodwill of the German Government in its efforts to fulfill its undertakings under the peace treaty. In the letter the council grants Germany a delay until September for the transformation of the Diesel motors from submarine use to civilian industry.

New York, June 6th.—The raw sugar market was unsettled early today, and in the absence of business prices were nominal, although Borto Rico's offered at 455 for centrifugal. Raw sugar futures were easier under selling by commission houses and operators with Cuban connections. Prices at noon were about 4 to 8 points net lower, and at new low records since prewar times. Refined was easier, and eased to 5 points lower, with fine granulated now quoted from 6.25 to 6.30, with business light. Refined futures were nominal with no transactions up to midday.

London, June 7th.—Sugar in stock on the 4th inst was 241,000 tons. Last year 149,000.