

# St. Croix Avis

77TH YEAR.

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## THE ST. CROIX AVIS

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. After consideration I find certain errors in the draft and I wish to withdraw it for amendment and reintroduction at another meeting.

The Chair heard no objection. Permission was given the member to withdraw his bill, and accordingly the bill was withdrawn.

The Vice-Chairman, according to previous arrangement brought up for correction Ordinance amending Title III, Chapter 71 of the Code of General and Special Laws for St. Croix, passed in the meeting held June 17, 1923, and it was decided to have three discussions on the matter.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. No remark is necessary on first discussion as this matter has already been fully discussed at a previous meeting.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The District Court has already taken some of these estates under summary proceedings and it is fair that we vote the measure.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. As Sheriff of the District Court I have in my

possession articles belonging to certain people who are dead, I brought this fact to the attention of the Judge and he said that under the present law he could not give me permission to proceed with the sale of these articles. One example. A man died some time ago and I gave instructions to the Police to take over his belongings and await instructions to sell so that I can turn the proceeds over to the Clerk of the District Court for transmission to the relatives of the deceased man in Antigua, but as the law stands I cannot proceed with the sale of the articles. I recommend the adoption of the amendment to the Code.

It was put to the vote and carried that 1st Discussion be closed.

1st Discussion closed.

With Government and the Council's consent 2nd Discussion opened.

No one requesting the word it was put to the vote and carried that 2nd discussion be closed.

2nd Discussion closed.

With Government and the Council's consent 3rd discussion opened.

No one requesting the word 3rd discussion closed, the Secretary read the Ordinance in its corrected form and the Vice Chairman put same to the vote.

It was unanimously adopted.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: The Ordinance as corrected is adopted and goes to Government.

The Vice-Chairman again brought up Colonial Council Bill No. 3 and read the amendment brought in by 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata).

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The salary of the Chairman of the Road Commission is budgetted at Frs. 6,750, that was done when there was a 10% reduction in salaries. There may come a time when this 10% will be given to the employees again. I therefore propose this amendment so that this position may not be more unfavorable than the other employees.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. In the budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year 1923-1924, under item 10, the Chairman of the Road Commission is budgetted for Frs. 6,750 and the amendment brought in is calling for Frs. 7,500. I don't see that we can go ahead and vote more money. I think the procedure is wrong.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chair-

man. The Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town is mistaken. The amendment reads "The Chairman of the Road Commission shall not exceed Frs. 7,500." I can put down not to exceed \$5,000, but that does not mean that he shall receive that amount.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): I will not vote for the amendment.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman, As the salary stands if the Council decides to make a reduction of 10% next year it would be very unfair to the Chairman of the Road Commission.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Suppose next year the Colonial Council and the Municipal Committee find that the revenues increase and want to make a further reduction of 10% that would place the Chairman of the Road Commission in an unfavorable position.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I see no reason for raising the salary of the Chairman of the Road Commission from what it is in the old law. What has increased the work so enormously so as to warrant this increase? I have heard no argument justifying the increase. They have thought of the Chairman of the Road Commission, but have not thought of the Road Inspectors. I am certainly not in favor of increasing the salary of the Chairman of the Road Commission and leaving the salaries of the Road Inspectors as they are.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I am sorry I have not got the original ordinance with me, however I will try to explain. There are eight quarters on the island and the officers in each quarter received \$8.00 per quarter, but later the work of those officers was transferred to the Chairman of the Road Commission and consequently his salary was increased to.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. That does not justify the matter. The eight officers did not do much work. I do not see the enormous work the Chairman of the Road Commission has to do which justifies the paying of such a high salary. I do not mean to be personal. I am referring to the office and do not care who is Chairman of the Road Commission, but consider the