

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

(Continued from Thursday's Avis.)

As quickly as the launches could land the passengers, the waiting automobiles were filled and the procession started to Christiansted, the old and famously proud capital of St. Croix, the city of the olden days when King Street and Custom House Square were the strolling path of gentlemen in knee-breeches, lace shirts and powdered wigs, with its Government House built in 1774, the equal of which has not been built in any other of the Virgin or Leeward Islands.

The selected route carried us through King's Street, Frederiksted to the old entrance gates of the Estate Two Brothers and to that famous stone wall which was built over one hundred years ago and to pay for as well as the stone wall around Christiansted's Cemetery a tax called "New Tax" was levied and was collected until some fifteen years ago. The tax, until its expiry was decidedly positive but the walls are nearly gone with decay. How many times the walls were paid for is a matter for debate. A short distance from this entrance of Estate Two Brothers, once a famous money producer when Sugar was King in the latter part of the Eighteenth century, the road turns to the right and south past the "Oval" on the left, for many years the recreation ground, for Cricket, Base Ball and Football, while on the right is estate Smith's Field named from a suburb of London in the days when the island was settled. At the end of this road you see bush and undergrowth to the right which sixty years ago contained a fine residence known as "Stony Ground"; and now with a sharp turn to the left we enter upon the road which has been known since the middle of the eighteenth century or more generally as the centre line road. This road for nearly seven miles is as straight as the barrel of a gun and it is argued that a cannon placed at Stony Ground corner could with precision of the gun fire of modern times hit a target on King's Hill straight east through the road line.

Our next view is the the old residence of "Estate "Hansh's Rest", which you see faintly through the trees as you pass it on the right, the home of Ruan family back in the very early days of the nineteenth century and lately by the Woods family. Mrs. Woods being the last of the famous Ruan sisters of the late sixties and of whom the navy knew as the wives of Admirals Harrington and Sumner.

We now pass on the right Estate Campo Rico whose stately old residence the home of Miss Latimer and also a house of old southern hospitality, now in ruins as a result of fire of unknown origin some two years ago. Following the road we come to Estate "Concordia", and also a branch road to Frederiksted, for the road we have thus far travelled is of the eighteenth century, and the new road pass Concordia having been built about a hundred years ago as a shorter way to town. for the haste of the nineteenth century was already in the blood of our forefathers. Though this road is shorter yet heavy traffic was directed bound west down the so called "Long Road" where the familiar sight of the old bull-wagon drawn by six bulls and the wagon loaded with four hogsheads of sugar each weighing about 1800 lbs. passed to the Custom House in Frederiksted for export, mostly to Copenhagen for the greater part of the last century. This branch road was considered too weak for heavy traffic over the bottom land where Estates Wheel of Fortune and La Grange join known for many years as "Harden Gut".

(To be continued.)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

Hon. Pleasant Stovell remarked: His Excellency, Governor Williams, Gentlemen of the Colonial Council: We thank you for the invitation extended to the Newspapermen of America and for the attention and hospitality you have shown us. Governor Williams it is not too much to say that we are profoundly impressed with the Island of St. Croix.

While motoring here today some of our men remarked that it is a very beautiful island with fertile lands and reminds one of some parts of the United States more than any other place around here that we have visited.

Upon entering and looking upon the walls of this building we see the picture of some of the great men who have made our country great. We hope that the heritage will help to make this island great.

Within the sound of my voice I am told that Alexander Hamilton the great organizer of the United States financial system lived and worked as a boy. Certainly we can never be unmindful of the duty we owe this island.

WEDNESDAY March 5 is the beginning of Lent. It is customary and proper that this season be used for special meditation upon the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord. It is necessary that we during this season rededicate and consecrate ourselves to His service and bring the gospel which is the power of God to our fellow men, that we take up the problems facing us in the spirit of Him who came and gave His life.

The services in the Lutheran Churches in this Island will concentrate upon these things that are deepest and fundamental because we believe that without a solid foundation no structure will endure.

Services will be held Sunday in the Churches at the usual hours, mornings and evenings and in the afternoon at King's Hill.

In the morning at Christiansted the topic will be "The Passing of Opportunities" and in the evening at Frederiksted it will be "Doing the Impossible."

J. P. CHRISTENSEN.

At the end of this Hall, I am told, once hung the picture of the Danish King and between the spaces were mirrors. These have been taken down and pictures of Americans are placed in their stead, and at the end of the Hall where the picture of the King was is the picture of the Great Alexander Hamilton. I am glad to see that you have been big enough and broad minded enough to hang on your walls the pictures of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

Your Excellency, I only rose to say that when we go back we will write the annals of our travels and they will not be fantastically written, but truthfully and eulogistically, and this visit to St. Croix will be indelibly impressed on our memory and when it is written the people of St. Croix will remain indelibly impressed upon our minds.

The Chairman, after thanking Mr. Stovell said, I might add that the picture of Alexander Hamilton which you see at the head of the Hall was donated by Mr. William Pierson Hamilton of New York, the great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton. It was unveiled by Miss Addie Blackwood and the Honorable Horace M. Towner the present Governor of Porto Rico on February 7, 1920, while here with the Congressional Commission, and who made the address upon the unveiling. Across the street is where Mrs. Mitchell, Aunt of Alexander Hamilton lived. Although his Uncle Thomas Mitchell had two stores on the island he preferred to go to work in Nicholas Cruger's store. The home was demolished owing to decay, but the store next to it is exactly as it was when Alexander Hamilton left to go to King's College, now Columbia College. The large mahogany table in the next room is the table at which Secretary Seward sat while negotiations were going on in No-