

LOCAL.

Free Red Cross movie show at the Christiansted Theatre this evening. Do not fail to be there and learn all you can about the activities of this great humanitarian organisation which is now represented in our midst and has already done much for our islands.

The movie show at the theatre last night was as successful as most of the shows at this popular playhouse are. The room was filled with an appreciative audience and the film did not fall short of what was expected of it.

Passers-by comment on the foul odor of the gutter on the east side of Prince's Street north of King's St., at what is known as Langeballe's corner. The trouble is in the drainage which is bad and occasions an accumulation of water which being unable to run off become a stagnant pool and really does smell very unpleasant. Attention is directed to this matter.

The possible sale of the St. Croix Sugar Factory concern is now understood to be entirely "off". There are many who have reason to be glad of this news which settles the mind as to the changes under a new ownership, and on the whole the continued proprietorship of the St. Croix Sugar Factory is welcomed as being one of the sustaining links in the chain of development of the commercial interests of Christiansted to which every active citizen looks forward in connection with the harbor improvement project.

The U. S. S. Vixen which arrived at Frederiksted on Wednesday is expected to leave today taking among others Dr. Mrs. Oliphant.

Bandmaster Adams of the St. Thomas Navy Band came over on the Vixen and visited this town. Questioned as to the reported transfer of the Christiansted Navy Band to Haiti which was mentioned in a recent news note in this paper, Mr. Adams declared he knew nothing whatever about such a move, and heard it for the first time since his arrival in St. Croix. This sounds good and there is no doubt but that the whole town will be glad to see the rumour prove only "blue air".

The agency advises that the S. S. Tupper of the Clyde (Raporel) Line arrived at St. Thomas yesterday. She is looked for in Frederiksted tomorrow.

Creole with outgoing mail for St. Thomas sailed at 8.30 this morning.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the St. Croix Avis,
Dear Sir,

We promised to return to the soda question, and we are going to keep to our promise. Some weeks have elapsed since we wrote on the subject, but up to the present there is no sign of a reduction in price of this soft drink, which is used to a great extent by many persons, on holidays as well as other days. Perhaps there are some persons who think that the public has no right to question the matter, but to them we say, we have a right to know how we are spending our money.

When the price of soda was fixed at 8 cents per bottle, it was said that it was done to meet the high price of sugar, (granulated sugar) which at that time was being retailed at 28 to 35 cents a pound, which meant less per pound when bought wholesale. Now that the price of sugar everywhere has been reduced, in some places more than half the former price, we think it reasonable that the price of soda should also be reduced.

We have been told that the retailers would be glad to reduce the price, if the manufacturers would sell at a price to warrant the reduction. If the manufacturers cannot sell the retailers at a price so that they can sell at less than 8 cents a bottle, the public ought to be given some explanation. We think that we are entitled to it, since the price of sugar has gone down.

Our friend Mr. C. Pretto, son of Mr. M. A. Pretto, the pioneer of reduced prices here in town, or some other of his colleagues in the aerated water business may be willing to throw some light on the matter. We are waiting to hear from you. The public was told why the price was raised, now we would like to know why it cannot be lowered. At that time when it was increased there was a scarcity of water, and high price of sugar, now we have a reasonable supply of water, and a good supply of sugar at a reduced price. What next? With thanks in anticipation,

We are,

X & Y.

St. Thomas News.

S. S. MEGANTIC SAILS TODAY FOR WEST INDIES

The White Star liner "Megantic" is scheduled to make three cruises thru the West Indies during the winter.

The "Megantic" has a gross register of 14,800 tons and is scheduled to sail from New York today on her first West Indies cruise, calling at Havana, Kingston, the Panama Canal, Caracas Trinidad,

Barbados, Martinique, St. Thomas and San Juan. The second cruise is to be started February 21, and the third on March 23. Each cruise will cover a period of about 25 days. *The Sparks, Jan. 22nd.*

BIDS CLOSE FOR NEW MAIL CONTRACT

The time remaining in which bids can be submitted to the Post Office Department on the mail transportation contracts between San Juan and Charlotte Amalie and Saint Croix is getting very short, only about ten days remaining. Postmaster Streich, as undoubtedly also the public is anxiously waiting for information from Washington relative to the new contract, which, it is contemplated, is to be placed in effect on February 15th.

Although the postmaster and his staff are making every effort to render satisfactory and efficient service. Expeditious mail service is dependent largely upon the transportation of mails between here and San Juan. Mails which now arrive on Saturday or Sunday mornings should with good steamer service arrive here regularly on Fridays, expediting thereby the delivery of mails for more than twenty-four hours. The postmaster has made urgent representations to Washington in that regard and undoubtedly his efforts will result in better and more expeditious mail service in the Virgin Islands. *Ibid*

The Lunch and Billiard Rooms which were advertised in our Saturday's issue were opened up the same evening, a good many persons patronized same.

These rooms are elegantly fitted out and in the Lunch Room the patron is prepared to serve all who visit it with promptness. We congratulate the energetic proprietor Mr. Herbert Taylor, who we are quite sure will receive a large patronage. *The Bulletin, Jan. 24th.*

Owing to adverse weather and having sprung a leak the schooner Virginia had to return to San Juan and her place was taken by the schooner Janturz, same arrived here about 7 o'clock in tow of the naval tug Tadousac.

Immediately on the Signal Hill reporting the tug with schooner was in sight the Post Office prepared to attend to the large mail which was on board, being in all 90 bags, and to facilitate the public this department worked until 10.30 p. m. *Ibid.*

THE NEW ASSISTANT SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Among the passengers who arrived last week on the "Hancock," was Captain Arthur E. Lindborg, who, accompanied by Mrs. Lindborg and children,