

of the Federal Board for Vocational Education

Poultry raising has been tested and proved to be a lucrative vocation for blind men. With the assistance of members of their families these blinded soldiers are making good at it. Osteopathy and massage are attracting others as occupations desirable for the blind.

The policy of the Board in building upon the past experiences of disabled soldiers in fitting them for future employment is adhered to in its dealings with the blinded. In following this policy, an insurance man and a druggist are training in their old lines of working, learning to "carry on" in their old way in spite of their handicaps. These men have lost their sight, but they still retain their ambitions and their grit.—*Ibid.*

THE WEEK OF TRAGEDIES.

The past week might fitly be called the week of tragedies in Porto Rico. Thursday night, October 23rd, marked the stabbing of one Manuel Sanchez by a Marine of the Wireless Station who was aided by seven of his fellow Marines. On Saturday night the aged Pedro Reinoso was almost stabbed to death, and Euripides Rojas, a young man who attempted to save the older victim was killed. Arturo Saffront being the author of both crimes.

From Aibonito comes the news of slaughter and fire. Arcadio Rodriguez, furious because his lady-love repulsed him set fire to the little shack where the girl's family lived, and then shot at each member of the family as they fled from the burning house. The father, José Dolores Melendez, was instantly killed, Francisca, his daughter and the murderer's sweetheart, is not expected to live. Two more brothers were shot and left in a serious condition. The mother with the youngest son were able to escape by throwing themselves into a well behind the house. When the frenzied man found that he had done all the harm he could he went home and killed himself.

From Arecibo comes the news that Nicomedes Rodriguez took the life of Melquiades Santiago at a gambling fray in the barrio of Miraflores.

Two of these tragedies are caused by intoxication, another the result of a Saturday night dance or brawl, another the result of gambling.

Are any of these crimes due to the inactivity of the police or are they the result of the uneasiness and unrest which elsewhere have resulted in lynchings, strikes and general lawlessness?—*Porto Rico Progress, Oct. 31st.*

PROHIBITION AND KANSAS.

Those who argue that prohibition of alcoholic liquors promotes the use of narcotic drugs probably wouldn't listen

anyway, but those who lend their ears to such arguments may do well to consider some new facts from Kansas, the driest State in the Union. Recent investigations by the State Board of Health show that the use of habit-forming drugs in Kansas is decreasing, says the *Kansas City Star*. "The people don't need stimulants. 'What has happened in Kansas was this', explains the *Emporia Gazette*. 'Shortly after the prohibitory law became genuinely effective there was an increase in the number of drug addicts. The alcohol addicts became drug addicts. But no new alcohol addicts were coming on, hence no new drug addicts arrived and the old addicts either cured themselves and quit, or died of the habit. And no one is taking up the habit to replace them. In Kansas forty years of prohibition have removed liquor from the environment. And being out of sight it is out of mind. The Kansas man away from home takes wine if it is on the table before him much as he takes tomato catsup, but he does not miss either the catsup or the wine if it is not on the table. Liquor is gone from his taste, from his emotions, from his heart, and he doesn't think of taking to drugs for the lack of liquor any more than from the lack of corn beef hash.'—*Ibid.*

• SUGAR NOTES.

Molasses as fertilizer has been receiving a try-out in the West Indies, experiments having been made between the years 1908 and 1913 with little, if any, satisfactory benefits. In 1914 these experiments were resumed, and the time of applying molasses up to harvesting of cane was lengthened because of the belief that good results would show up after a longer lapse of time. The excess nitrogen would then become available. Two plots were particularized, one with 200 gallons of molasses per acre and the other 400 gallons per acre. These plots were selected in St. Kitts and Antigua. In five plots of the 200-gallon treatment the cane yielded 31.5 tons, an increase of 3.6 tons, and in 4 plots of the 400-gallon treatment they yielded 32.5 tons of cane, or an increase of 4.6 tons. It has been observed, however, that using molasses as fertilizer is not at all economical and that the manufacture of alcohol is by far more profitable as alcohol will some day become a fuel and light, whereas to-day it is still in its infancy.—*Louisiana Planter.*

Interesting news comes from the Philippine Islands where The Mao Sugar Central Company is erecting a large sugar central that will grind up 1,500 tons of cane a day and eventually 3,000. The whole factory is going to be equipped with electric devices and will be the most up-to-date sugar house in the Far East. The Isabelle Sugar Company is

another concern erecting a 500-tons factory in Negros.—*Ibid.*

Sugar men in France are re-enforcing their courage this year with a reported area of 59,915 hectares in contrast to 54,696 hectares the year before. This is an increase of 8.8 per cent. Fifty six factories will turn out sugar. Last year only 51 were in operation. It is believed that the tonnage of sugar will be unprecedented. The department of the Oise has the largest number of factories—namely, 15—and maintained somewhat the record during the war, making it possible for the French to have at least some needed supplies.—*Ibid.*

St. Catherine Plains, Jamaica, will have a new sugar factory that will turn out 1,200 tons of cane a day. It will produce somewhere in the neighborhood of 20,000 tons of sugar a season. The factory is 11 miles from Kingston. Six thousand acres of cane have been planted in the neighborhood of the mill. Lindo Bros. and Company own the factory.—*Ibid.*

Additional Moneybill

To the Budget for the Municipality of St. Croix for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.

To Item XI. MISCELLANEOUS ADD:

8. For the purchase of the building known as the Frederiksted High School, No. 30, 30a, 30c, and 31 Strand Street, Frederiksted..... Fres. 25,000.

Thus duly passed at the 3rd Ordinary Meeting of the Colonial Council held Monday, Oct. 20, 1919.

Christiansted, St. Croix, October 22, 1919.

D. C. CANEGATA ROBT. MERWIN
Secretary. Chairman.

The above Additional Moneybill is hereby sanctioned and approved.

Witness my Hand and the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States at St. Thomas, the 27th day of October, in the year 1919.

(SEAL)

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

FOR SALE. One Piano

Horning and Muller make. Cheap for cash.

For further information apply at this office.