

the same practically with the exception of Item 3 under Direct Taxes. The Automobile Tax which has been struck out as the Committee felt that this tax should go to a special Road Fund. It may be asked how can the Municipal Committee recommend a total revenue in 1923-1924 greater than the revenue in 1922-1923 in the face of the present outlook? We have gained the impression that when we presented our memorial to the Secretary of the Navy and Congressional party at St. Thomas that St. Croix should receive a greater share of the Federal appropriation than formerly, but naturally if we shaped our expenditures more in accordance with our revenues we would cut down our share of the Federal allotment. The Municipal Committee can only estimate our revenues this year at \$80,000, but as we figure that there will be a cash balance of about \$60,000 left over at the end of this fiscal year which when added will make \$140,000, and this together with Federal allotment as promised by the Government we present a budget totalling Frs. 1,408,163.97½.

The next change made in the Revenue side of the Budget is under Sundry Revenues. Add 4 (a) from the Municipality of St. Thomas and St. John toward the support of Richmond Penitentiary was raised here in 1921 and also last year and forgotten. From a statement furnished by the Director of Police the cost of maintenance and subsistence of prisoners from St. Thomas for the last fiscal year was Frs. 12,884.50, this item has therefore been posted with Frs 12,000.50 with the expectation that it will come in. This is practically all the changes made on the Revenue side of the budget.

Now we come to the expenditure side. All the changes on the Expenditure side of the budget can be summarized in one sentence. Every Department will receive the same amount as granted last year. We have made no reductions in salaries as budgeted last year, but we have recommended no increases as owing to the shortage in revenues we could not see how this could adequately be done. Whatever new office we have found has been taken off, because we feel that owing to the present outlook no new offices should be created, as a result we have effective a saving of about \$30,000 more or less. The Committee is of the opinion that this saving should be used to the best interest of the island and we recommend its expenditure in accordance with the additional items listed in our recommendations.

We have added an item of Equipment 1 a under the Colonial Council Frs. 600 for the purchase of 50 chairs thereby increasing the seating accommodation for those persons who desire to show their interest in our work by attending the meetings. Next Public Works Dept. No. 50 Equipment we have added an amount of Frs. 25,000 for the purchase

of a well drilling outfit. We have heard a good deal of the sufferings of men and beast during the recent drought consequently we are of the opinion that if such an outfit is purchased, placed under the control of the Public Works Dept. and rented out to owners of Estates when needed it would help to relieve the water situation to some extent. I believe the estate owners would readily acquiesce with such a scheme. Under item 50 Road Division an amount of Frs. 2,500 is put down for reallocation of roads, when the new road ordinance comes into force all the roads will have to be remeasured. This is a small matter but it is laborious work, we feel that the amount budgeted is not too much. Next you will see an amount of Frs. 45,000 for operation and general repairs of roads in connection with the Road roller and other machinery. If this is passed we will be in a position to have our roads repaired and put in good shape. This is not an attempt to ease the burden of taxation from anyone. It is a known fact that since we have acquired the Road roller it has been unable to be operated on account of lack of funds, so much so that it has obtained the name of "Martin Luther" from his famous dictum "Here I stand I cannot go otherwise." Next, under New Works you will see an amount of Frs. 30,000 for a public cistern for Christiansted. The drought has not yet passed and I am sure we all remember the sufferings of the poorer classes for water. The amount is to be expended on the recommendation of the Municipal Committee owing to the fact that the site has not been decided upon as yet. Now we have saved this amount off the budget, I see no reason why we should not use it for improving the water condition in this town while waiting for Secretary Denby's report. I have spoken with the Public Works officer (not officially). I think our views coincide. I am sorry that our funds are not sufficient to provide a cistern for Frederiksted but let us hope that from next budget we will be able to provide for a cistern for that town.

I received a letter from the Governor stating that the other items listed below under New Works were recommended by the Public Works Officer but were by his order stricken from the budget so as to keep the expenses within the limits of last year's budget. The Municipal Committee made an investigation of all this and found that it was necessary to be done. I am glad to say we have been able to make provision for same and squeezed the amount to do so.

I hope that you will feel that the Municipal Committee has within the short space of time worked fairly satisfactorily, and in commending to your vote these amendments I trust they will have the whole hearted support of the Council.

To be continued.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Dublin, June 22nd.—Ireland and France broke even yesterday in play in the Davis Cup competition. Henri Cochet, France, defeated Ed Mcrae in the initial singles match 6-1 6-3 13-11 and the Hon. Cecil Campbell won from Jean Boroca, the French star, 6-1 7-5 6-0.

London, June 22nd.—Although the personnel of the navy has been reduced from 151,000 to 95,000 since 1913, the aggregate pay has increased from 8,900,000 to 14,000,000 pounds. This striking fact emerges from the report of the select committee of navy estimates, issued today, which recommends cutting pay all round and organizing and reducing the administrative departments. Among the examples given is maintenance of four surgeon Rear Admirals at cost of 8,431 pounds, as compared with three of these officers before the war at 4,499 pounds. The committee also states the warship New Zealand, presented to the navy by the New Zealand Government at a cost of 1,700,000 pounds, was sold for 21,000, because it was included in the Washington agreement list of scrapped vessels and was disposed of at a time when the market for ships was glutted.

New York, June 22nd.—While treasury officials today were concentrating their attention on the Berengaria, the Baltic slipped into quarantine with 6,182 bottles of liquor, under the British Government seal, for her next Eastbound voyage, in defiance of United States dry regulations.

London, June 22nd.—In connection with the arrival of the liner Berengaria at New York, it is declared in well informed quarters that the British Government in no way challenges the authority of the United States officials to break the British consular seals and confiscate the liquor, it being recognized that the jurisdiction of the British Government in the case of liquor, or any other goods sealed at a British port, ceases once the three mile limit is passed.

London, June 22nd.—Government officials, disavowing any concurrence with the action of shipping companies in bringing sealed supplies of ship liquor into American ports, concedes that American customs officials are within their legal rights if they break the seals and confiscate the liquor. The breakage of the seals of foreign customs departments is a common occurrence in British ports, and the British Government will therefore not protest against the American action. There is no likelihood of any Anglo American incident arising from the shippers action. If the shipping companies take their case into courts they do so on their own initiative and without Government backing. It is understood that the Aquitania will sail for New York on Saturday carrying a supply of liquor sealed, similarly to that carried by the Olympic on Wednesday.