

St. Croix Avis.

77TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., FRIDAY, 20TH JULY, 1923.

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TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Senlis France, July 15th.—M. Poincare today proclaimed the French Government's unalterable decision resolutely to stand for the complete execution of the Versailles Peace Treaty, with the German debt at 132 billion gold marks, as agreed upon by the Allies at the London Conference and against any international financial committee to replace the reparations commissions. M. Poincare, in his address, said France had finished the making of concessions to Germany. She was tired of temporizing with that country. The Premier's strongly worded address, while carefully refraining from mentioning the speech of the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons last week, is considered as the French Government's preliminary answer to the British position with regard to the occupation of the Ruhr. M. Poincare chose for his pronouncement this town, which marks the farthest advance of the Germans. The Premier based his conclusions of France's legal rights under the treaty signed by twenty eight nations and which cannot be considered after four years an antediluvian fossil. M. Poincare professed to have no hatred and no spirit of revenge for the devastation, the traces of which were visible from where he spoke. "We should like no longer to talk of devastation, or to think of it", he declared, "we should like to forget, even to forgive". "In the reparation committee established under the treaty" he said "We are in the minority, although ours is the major interest. Nevertheless it has been sought for years to relieve this commission of its powers to replace it with international financial commissions so as to attempt to coalesce against us interests opposed to ours". "The peace treaty", the Premier continued, "established conditions under which the commission should fix the German debt. There was pretence of respecting those conditions, he added,

"but the last hardly had been fixed when there was imposed upon us in one of those supreme councils, where we always left behind us some of our rights a schedule of payments that the country accepted reluctantly and which reduced our claim in undetermined proportions. We then accepted this schedule of payments as an international convention as an engagement of honour pledged to us. A few months later, M. Poincare asserted, "this schedule again was questioned as certain of our friends seemed no longer to have any other thought than to lighten the German debt, and as they themselves were our creditors, we told them, there are three kinds of bonds provided for. Let us keep our part of the first two. As for the third, we will use them against Germany only in proportion as our creditors ask us to pay our debts. Still we found this too exacting." The Premier said, France was reproached for not having sufficient regard for Germany, and for exposing her to disaster, that would effect all other nations. "And yet", he declared "has not Germany been so well looked after during three whole years that she has been allowed to default on all her obligations, so that we had to pay with our own money 100,000,000,000 francs she owes us and has not paid? Has she not been allowed to rebuild her commercial fleet and develop her canals and railways and enrich her great industries at the expense of her creditors? M. Poincare asked if anyone imagined that Germany would stabilize the mark and put her house in order, "if France watched with arms folded." "For three years, he added, "the Allies have followed this mirage, and for three years things have been going from bad to worse. If we were not in the Ruhr, Germany would have continued to slip into the abyss she dug, but we would have been empty handed, while now we hold security and we are powerful enough not to have to let go". France, the Premier asserted, unceasingly had been making concessions and he added, if we have reached the end, it is because until now they have always been at our expense. The peace treaty had promised reparations and security. For security, France had been given the right of temporary occupation on the Rhine that was to cease at the precise moment Germany should become stronger. France also had been promised a guaranty pact, but this had not been fulfilled and nothing had been offered to re-

place it, for the guaranty pact, proposed by Mr. Lloyd George was for a shorter time than occupation and without precise engagement. Military aid was nothing, it was only a dangerous deception. M. Poincare emphasized the Government's and his own personal feeling in favour of closer relations between France and Great Britain. He recalled that it was he who brought about the alliance with Great Britain before the war, when others were advocating better relations between France and Germany. The Premier concluded with what was interpreted as a carefully worded reminder of France's supreme position on the continent and the danger of attacking the treaty of Versailles, or he said through a breach opened in the Versailles treaty, other propositions would pass that would reopen the entire peace settlement, destroy the new status of Central Europe and menace our friends, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugoslavia".

London, July 16th.—Ex-service men from all parts of the Empire gathered at Wembley Stadium yesterday for the big sports programme, held under the auspice of the Imperial British Legion, and among the prominent persons present were the Prince of Wales and Earl Haig. The chief event of the afternoon was the mile relay race for the King's shield, which was won by the Australian team three minutes forty and fourfifths seconds. The Prince of Wales presented the shield to the winners and was given a wonderful ovation by the ex-service men.

LIST OF UNCLAIMED MAIL FOR THE WEEK ENDED JULY 14, 1923.

Elennora Clendinen; 30 King St.,
Mr. E. Hansen (Eleazer Hansen),
Miss Cathrine Jackson,
Mr. Alfredo James,
Charlotte Petersen; 11 Hill St.,
Post Office, Christiansted, Virgin Islands, July 16, 1923.
B. R. LARSEN, Postmaster.

Quebec Steamship Co.

THE S. S. GUIANA

is expected to leave New York on Monday, 23rd inst. and is due at Frederiksted on or about the 30th inst.

ROBT. L. MERWIN & CO. INC.,
Agents.