

Continued from 1st page.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. A committee was appointed on this matter and inquiries were made in the Bookkeeper's Office and it was found that all money has been credited to the Teachers Supporting Fund. The amount, stated to be due to the individual Teachers should be paid to them with the accrued interest. We find that interest has been paid up to March 1, 1918, and the Committee recommends that interest be paid to them from March 1, 1918 up to the time the amount is paid. I believe that will be fair to the Teachers and all others concerned.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am in favor of the Teachers getting all that is coming to them. A Committee has been appointed at the last meeting to report on this matter and only now, while the Council is in session, the Committee Report is handed to us. The custom was that a committee report is forwarded to members, at least twenty-four hours before the Meeting of the Council. I hope this procedure will not establish a precedent in the Council.

It was put to the vote and carried that the Committee Report be adopted.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] remarked: Mr. Chairman. I acknowledged our fault and admit that we are late with the report, but it is not our fault; this is a small matter and I don't think it is wise to keep the Teachers waiting any longer for their money. There are plenty chances yet for members to give their opinion on the matter.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town [Coulter] remarked: Mr. Chairman. When I made the remark I did not know at whose door it would fall, whether at the door of the Chairman of the Committee or the Chairman of the Council. I only remarked that I hope that this procedure is not going to be a precedent in the Council hereafter.

The Chairman remarked: It is true that the report should be forwarded to members before today, but we had but little time and the Teachers have been without their money for some time, with that in view I do not think members will have any objection to forward the matter today.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Coulter) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It is not my intention to lay any block in the way of expediting this matter. I agree that the Teachers have been waiting a long time for their money. It is only the modus operandi I am objecting to.

It was put to the vote and unanimously carried that the Committee Report be adopted and furthered today.

No one requesting the word further

the discussion closed and the Secretary (Canegata) read the bill as amended and the Chairman put same to the vote.

It was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman remarked: The bill is adopted and goes to Government.

Item 3.

Colonial Council Bill No. 35.

Introduction of and 1st Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 35, 2nd Council, 2nd Session 1920-21, Draft of Ordinance, introduced by Government, repealing Ordinance creating the Food Commission.

The bill reads as follows:

Colonial Council Bill No. 35.

2nd Council 2nd Session 1920-1921.

DRAFT OF ORDINANCE

Repealing An Ordinance Providing A Food Commission.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council of St. Croix in Session assembled:

1. An Ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance creating a commission to regulate and control the prices of foodstuffs in the island of St. Croix and for other purposes," passed by Colonial Council of St. Croix at its third ordinary meeting held on the 20 October 1919 and sanctioned and approved on the twenty-seventh day of October 1919, is hereby repealed.

J. W. OMAN.

REMARKS.

It is considered by the Government that the ordinance creating a Food Commission for St. Croix is in many respects an effective ordinance. In practice, however, the said ordinance has not, in the opinion of the Government, been productive of satisfactory results and it is believed that, if the said ordinance is continued in force, the result of its operation will be to work more hardship than benefit to the community.

Despatching Secretary (Colby) introduced the Draft of Ordinance and said, — Mr. Chairman: The Ordinance creating the Food Commission of St. Croix has been in force since October 27, 1919. The only effective power which is granted to this commission, is to regulate the retail and wholesale prices on articles of food imported into St. Croix, and this power must be so exercised as to allow a reasonable margin of profit.

In order to fix a price, whether for wholesale or retail, it must be sufficiently high to allow a profit upon the highest priced importation, in other words, it can only be a maximum price. Observa-

tion has shown that the prices are fixed by the Commission, instead of being considered and treated by the merchants as maximum prices have been taken for selling prices, and the result has been that competition between the various merchants has been stifled.

It is well known that some merchants can and do import at much lower prices than others, and it should logically follow that their prices, should be less to the ultimate consumer; this condition was true before there was a Food Commission. It has not been true since.

If the Food Commission could purchase and sell, it would then be an effective agency in insuring to the consumer a non-profiteering price.

A comparison of the prices in force today shows a marked increase since the creation of the Food Commission, and probably the increase in the market cost of the articles of food.

I will now make a comparison of the last price lists for St. Croix and for St. Thomas:

	St. Croix	St. Thomas
Corn Meal	9c. per lb.	8c. per lb.
Wheat Flour	12c. " "	10c. " "
Sugar (Brown)	16c. " "	14c. " "
St. Croix		
Lard (Compound)	48c. " "	42c. " "
Rice	22c. " "	21c. " "
Beef	25c. " "	19c. " "
Veal	27c. " "	20c. " "
Mutton	27c. " "	20c. " "
Live Cattle (old and young) U.S.C.		
Hogs	7 & 9c. " "	8c. " "
	10c. " "	12c. " "

The speaker continuing—The Government can see no good reason why merchants here cannot sell at the same prices as merchants in St. Thomas when it is considered that each purchases on the same market and each has the same freight rate.

It is the intention of the Government to introduce in this Council, in the near future, a Draft of Ordinance which will, if adopted, effectively regulate prices and insure to the ultimate consumer a price free from unearned and undue profit.

The repealing of the present Ordinance first, is considered a necessary condition precedent, in view of the fact that this Council has only recently refused to pass an amendment thereto which would have granted to the present Commission some of the power considered essential.

To be continued.

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Readers, No. 20-17.