

copied in these columns from the World Magazine. Miss Colcord's refutation of the many fictitious accounts of the islands as conjured up by K. K., is worthy of the highest appreciation of this community, and should have the effect of convincing those who may have been carried away by the aggravating impressions conveyed in the "Virgin Islands in the Doldrums" that it is not the average American who indulges in criticizing and ridiculing that which they have the opportunity to improve. We have also had the pleasure of seeing a splendid whack at Harry Franck, another of the journalists who paid a visit to these islands and having learned more of them in a couple of days than we who have lived here fifty years, wrote a great effusion on conditions, among other things firing scathing criticism at the Catholic Schools. Franck has got it straight from the shoulder from Rev. Joseph W. Daily, Superior of the Holy Cross Church here at Christiansted. Father Daily's letter appears in the Tablet of March 19th 1921. In this case, however, the Century Magazine in which Mr. Franck let us all "have it", unlike the World, did not manifest the spirit of justice in publishing a refutation, hence the appearance of same in another publication. We hope to afford our readers the pleasure of reading this article.

From the St. Thomas papers we note that the Governor has by Executive Order No. 20 dissolved the Food Commission of St. Thomas upon recommendation of the chairman of the Food Commission of St. Thomas and St. Jan that the regulation of food prices is no longer necessary. The same should be done here. There is absolutely no benefit in having a Food Commission as we have, which has been practically a failure from its infancy, and is at present altogether inactive, as may be judged from the fact that its last meeting was held in January of this year. Food prices are uniform all around and it seems safe to say, fair, and as a matter of fact, there is perhaps not a single article of imported groceries which is not being sold cheaper than prescribed by the scale of prices technically in force by authority of the so-called Food Commission.

The Christiansted Public School has arranged a programme for today, Arbor Day, an American holiday observed on different dates in the various States in the Union. We are so blocked up for space that it is impossible to publish it here. Among the items is an address on the purpose of Arbor Day by Dr. Longfield Smith.

LOCAL.

There is a fine programme advertised for this evening at the Christiansted Theatre. See programme in this issue

CHRISTIANSTED THEATRE

8.00. THIS EVENING 8.00

"The Adventures of Marie Walcamp"

SPUR AND SADDLE SERIES

THE WOMAN WHO KNOWS NO FEAR.

"TEMPEST CODY RIDES WILD"

"TEMPEST CODY'S MAN HUNT"

Show concludes with a Ripping Comedy.

ADMISSION

Reserved Seats..... 30 and 40c
General Entrance..... 20c.
Children 20 and 10c.

and secure seats to witness the feats of the favorites of the movies, Marie Walcamp and the famous Cody.

58 STEUBEN ST., EAST
ORANGE, N. J.
June 2, 1921.

To the Editor of The World.

I am glad to read in The World of this morning, the protest of Miss J. C. Colcord, Permanent Field Representative, at the island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, against the article published in The Sunday World Magazine of April 24th, supposedly descriptive of these picturesque islands. The article referred to, written by Karl Kitchen, was so slanderous in practically every detail, that it stirred me up to such a point that I felt it ought not to be permitted to go unchallenged, and I thereupon devoted considerable time in preparing a protest, to The World for allowing such an injurious article to be placed before the public. After preparing my article calling attention to the glaring misstatements and practically absence of any truthful description of the Islands, I abandoned the whole matter under the idea that probably my sole protest would be of little avail in correcting the serious damage done to the islands by one supposed at least, to present a truthful description.

Mr. Kitchen's idea appeared to be an attempt to write something funny rather than something that would be of historic as well as practical value to a new portion of our country. Not only did he ridicule the community, but he placed great stress upon intemperance supposedly rampant on these islands, but in reality very rare. He also ridiculed the people and about everything else on the island. There seemed to be nothing that met his approval or that he could see any good in. This does not apply to the Virgin Islands alone, but in his articles on the other West Indian Islands, he gave them the same slanderous misrepresentation. His description of the beautiful island of Martinique was simply "rotten" and a libel on decency. Who would think of

going to our Virgin Islands now to live, or to take advantage of the excellent opportunities for investment in a community needing only capital and American push?

The one idea in Mr. Kitchen's articles on the various islands he visited, appeared to me to be associated with "booze", as that was usually among the first things dwelt upon and most emphasized. There was scarcely a good thing said of any island, and practically no description of the beauties, the healthful climates, business opportunities, fine harbors, fertile soils yielding green vegetables the year round or of any of the many attractive features possessed by these islands. My impressions derived from a stay among those islands of several months last summer and fall, were very different from those received by Mr. Kitchen. I was well pleased with the Virgin Islands after visiting St. Thomas and two ports on the island of St. Croix. I happened to be on St. Thomas at the time that the change from the Danish laws to United States laws became effective, and to meet the former American Consul, from whom I secured such information relative to the people, the crops, and the opportunities for investing capital there.

I believe it the duty of The World to undo as much of the injustice done our islands as possible, by sending another representative down there with instructions to see the good features as well as the bad, and to investigate the true conditions. How much better it would have been and how much more valuable might have been Mr. Kitchen's articles if they had been written from a different viewpoint!

When you realize that the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands are an English speaking people, and have been that for two hundred years, you will readily see how much easier it will be to assimilate these people with American views, ideals, etc.

Very truly,
(Signed) J. I. MAXSON
Late Master U. S. S. S. Hyannis.