

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Concluded from yesterday's Avis.)

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. It seems to me that the changes are absolutely necessary and would, no doubt, meet with the approval of the Council. Lincoln's Birthday is one of the holidays that should be celebrated on this island. I don't want to go into details of the life of Lincoln, suffice it to say that he was one of the ablest Presidents that ever sat in the White House. The colored people all over the world have a great respect for Lincoln. This is an island with an overwhelming majority of colored people and we should have some respect for Lincoln. In a sense it is proper to exclude the 17 day of January and on the other hand it is not proper, because the 17th day of January is the day which the people were given to declare their intention of retaining their citizenship in Denmark or be considered citizens of the United States. It is a farce to have that day set apart as a legal holiday and again it is proper, because it is the day which marks when we crossed from the monarchical wagon and stepped on the republican coach. I would like to see this day on the list of our legal holidays. Some of my colleagues might say that we should have all the days of the week as legal holidays, but there is something in the life of the people that is dearer to them than anything else. It seems to me that while we are changing this law the revision should be in keeping with the wishes of the community. When this bill was being legislated on, a number of days that the people were accustomed to have as legal holidays were struck out. Take Holy Thursday, that was struck out. The people of this community have a strict adherence to religion and to religious customs, Holy Thursday was a holiday on this island and I don't think they want to have it struck out. I will pass on to another change my amendment is intended to take care of. We have here in the bill the first Monday in September. The first Monday in September is the day known in the United States as Labor Day. Laborers in this island, at least the majority of the working people of this island, have not yet been affiliated with the working people of the Mainland. The working people of this island have for their own purpose set aside and observed their own labor day. It is therefore out of sympathy to our people who have set aside their own labor day. It is for that reason I ask to delete the first Monday in September and insert the first Monday in November. I ask also in my amendment that Holy Thursday be inserted. My amend-

ment may not meet with the approval of the Members of this Council on account of certain policy. We are not all elected by the people. There is one unfortunate thing though, and that is, the very people whom this amendment is intended for are not represented here. I do say that inasmuch as I in a sense represent that group, I feel it my duty to bring in this amendment to have certain days inserted on the list of holidays. We are not here to legislate for our own personal interest, but for the people we represent. With these few remarks I ask that my amendment be favorably considered.

Government Secretary (Zine) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. As the hour for the sailing of the "Grebe" has arrived it will be necessary for the Dispatching Secretary and myself to leave, but before doing so I would like to state for the information of the Council that in discussing this matter with His Excellency the Governor he was cognizant of the fact that St. Thomas has 8 holidays more than Continental United States and 11 holidays have been provided for St. Croix. Under this present ordinance 12 holidays is provided for St. Croix. The Government can see no real reason why there should be any objection to this draft of ordinance as it only provides for 12 holidays for St. Croix while St. Thomas has more. I only state this for the information of the Council.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry) proposed that 1st discussion be closed.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Vice-Chairman. I cannot see the necessity of framing a new ordinance to change one day. It seems to me that an amendment is sufficient to take care of this matter. It is only a question of striking out one day and inserting another.

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (Berg) proposed that a committee of 5 members be appointed to receive and report on the ordinance.

3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Could this matter not go over so that we can have more time for consideration? As far as the 1st Monday in September goes if we are to have a labor day I don't see the sense of having a labor day here and one in the States. The 1st of November has always been a holiday here, whether it is legal or not I don't know. I cannot see the sense of having two labor days.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter) proposed that the ordinance go over on first discussion to give the proponent a chance to come in and give elucidations.

The motion was seconded, put to the vote and unanimously adopted.

There being no further business before the Council the Vice-Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.20 p. m.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Ottawa, March 21st.—The House of Commons this afternoon passed a resolution moved by the Premier, approving of the rumrunning treaty concluded between the United States and Great Britain. The Premier asked Parliament to approve the treaty on the ground of morality, international goodwill and commercial benefit. The Government said the Premier had approved the treaty subject to approval by Parliament and had asked that where a board was appointed to consider the question of compensation to a Canadian vessel the representatives of the Empire on the board should be nominated by Canada. To this the British Government had agreed.

New York, March 22nd.—The White Star Liner Olympic, outward bound for England today, collided with the steamer Fort St. George, of the Funness Bermuda Line, in the Spion River. The Fort St. George, which had about fortyfive feet of her rail smashed, returned to her dock. The Olympic was sailing from her pier at 100th street with 1,500 passengers. The report of the White Star Line officials was that the Olympic was struck under the stern as she backed out into the river by the Fort St. George, which they said was coming down stream rapidly gaining speed as she headed outward.

London, March 21st.—Canada will receive from the Treasury next week the sum of \$8,000,000 in final settlement of war accounts between the two Governments. The Treasury is returning to Canada at the same time the \$67,000,000 of Canada bonds, which were received in the early days of the war as a loan but were never marketed, the securities being used merely as collateral. The Government has asked Canada to credit her to the extent of the face value of the bonds of the 67,000,000 but Canada pointed out that as they bore interest at only 3½ and 4 percent, they could be marketed among postwar investors here only at a big discount. It would therefore be much cheaper to let the bonds remain in England until the date of maturity, 1925. After negotiations between the Chancellor Mr. Philip Snowden and Canada's representative Mr. Larkin the Treasury agreed to accept a rate of 87.48 for the bonds. Providing the bonds are canceled, Canada's war debt will be reduced by \$8,000,000 by this adjustment.

Sansalvador, March 21st.—Despatches from Amapala describing events of probable several days ago, tell of the fierce battle for the possession of Tegucigalpa, Capital of Honduras, between the revolutionary forces and the de facto government forces. There were many casualties in the battle and the Government troops pressed the rebels so hard that General Ferrera sent out a hurried call for reinforcement.