

day when I had the honor to attend the ceremony of the opening of the dam in this town, at which time the Chairman of the Municipal Committee laid stress on the word unity, and the Despatching Secretary said then that the time for quibbling and bickering was over and the time for united action had come. I endorse those sentiment and I hope to live to see the day when unity shall reign among us. In order to get help from our Government we should stand together and ask for what we want; but if one says he want this and the other says he wants that, it will be said that we don't know what we are talking about. Regarding this Resolution I don't agree with it in toto as there are some things in it that I regard as superfluous and there are things that should be included that are omitted; however, now is not the time for bickering, I advocate that the resolution as presented be adopted.

(To be concluded.)

EDITORIAL.

With reference to the matter of forestation which is every now and then made the subject of newspaper writings, this paper has information that the reports circulated to the effect that the trees of the island are being cut down and used for fuel, and as alleged, robbing the soil of its moisture, are unfounded or founded on inaccurate knowledge of facts. It is learned on good authority that the West Indian Sugar Factory has employees whose duty it is to kill worms which destroy trees, and that the St. Croix Sugar Factory also gives its attention to the preservation of its trees from destruction by worms. This being the case it would be idiocy to expend effort to save trees which were destined to fall by the axe. The material which has been seen carted to the furnace is "bushwood" which grows without being planted and spreads to such an extent that in certain places such as Est. Pearl, Blessing, Jerusalem and parts of Constitution Hill it is utterly impossible to find even a footpath. Bush of this sort is mainly maran, sage, and other useless trees which abound to no purpose and often reach sufficiently stout proportions to serve as good firewood. Unless land is cleared of bush it cannot be used for planting grass or anything else. The east end estate Cotton Grove is an example of bushland which is N. G. with the so-called trees on it because there is no room to plant anything. St. Peter's recently purchased by Mr. Cornelius Pentheny is being cleared of its bush in order that it may be turned to profitable account. Look at Mr. Bromley Nelthropp's estate Boetzberg, one of the model stock estates of the island; it is cleared of its bush and is therefore available for planting grass. The trees on that estate are untouched

and they are laid out in the right way. Nobody is cutting down mahogany trees, or Thibet trees; that would be madness, apart from the fact that the logs of such trees would be much too large for burning unless they were chopped up, and that would be too expensive. It is ascertained that only in places where two trees grow so closely together as to impair the development and foliage of each other is cutting down of grown trees undertaken. The St. Croix Sugar Factory has on hand a large supply of coal which accounts for the non-importation of this article of fuel of late and it is assured that the use of wood or trees as circulated is confined to bush cut down from land being cleared. So far it is understood that the Factory lands are without any of this copse.

LOCAL

The s. s. "Parima" from New York is due at Frederiksted at 2 o'clock this afternoon, having 46 bags mail and 393 packages for this island.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY DENBY RESIGNS.

Washington, Feb. 18th—Mr. Denby has resigned as Secretary of the Navy, and his resignation has been accepted. After repeatedly declaring he never would quit the Cabinet under the fire of those who have criticized his part in the oil leasing programme, the Secretary notified the President this morning that he was ready to step out.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Feb. 17th—After a number of mass meetings today the executive of the Amalgamated Union recommended a policy of "stay in strike", which would mean strict adherence to the official port hours going slow on piece work and refusal of any overtime. The idea of the executive seems to be that this policy would force recognition of the Union. Mr. Buark Secretary of this union, which is colloquially dubbed the Blue Ticket Union, addressing a meeting today, asked why they should punish themselves, their wives and children by a strike during a severe winter. It was their unofficial strikes last year, he asserted, which forced the Dock Workers Union, of which Mr. Edwid Bevin is Secretary, to take action. Mr. Buark advocated an experiment with "stay in strike" for the three days, which he believed would suffice to bring about important developments. Another speaker, at the same meeting, refused to be dragged by the heels of Mr. Bevin, or pull chestnuts out of the fire for somebody else, adding "our message to Mr. Bevin is, 'hands off London and keep to the prov-

inces with your strike action." In speeches made by the strike leaders at meetings in Glasgow, Bristol and elsewhere today, there appeared to be confidence that the Premier would immediately take up the question on his return to London tomorrow. Mr. Tillett, labour member of Parliament and ex-General Secretary of the Dockers Union, speaking at Bristol declared there were 50,000 dockers in the Kingdom working only three days a week with average earnings of under two pounds weekly. This was proof of the casualness of dock labour and gave them an unchallengeable taste for reform. Sir Percy Staites Deputy Chairman of the Cunard Steamship Company in a statement to the press tonight on responsibility, revealed that the Ministry of Labour at the final conference on Saturday made a proposal, the nature of which he practically was not at liberty to disclose. The employers asked time to consider and discuss this with their constituents, but the representatives of the Dock Workers refused to allow time for consultation and the conference broke up. The Employers Association at Liverpool, Newcastle and other ports are making the same offer as made by the London employers, which was increase of one shilling daily, besides restoration of the piece work rates in June 1922. Secretary Bevin, addressing a dockers meeting in East London tonight referred to this offer by the employers and to the action of the Blue Ticket Union. He characterized the offer of a shilling advance as a shilling for Judas and hoped that nobody would take this blood money. He declared that the employers knew a fortnight ago that the Blue Union would not strike and the employer by offering this Judas money were hoping to shatter the National Agreement. London thus far has been the bugbear and the cause of all the trouble. Eighty percent of the provincial ports were willing to concede the full two shilling advance. Effective picketing of the London ports he said would be inaugurated tomorrow.

London, Feb. 16th.—The "Outlook" independent weekly journal declares that the MacDonald Government is likely to get into difficulties over the Imperial Conference resolutions. As has been indicated already, these resolutions are to be left by the Government to a free vote of the members of the House of Commons. The Liberals, the "Outlook" says, will presumable vote against the resolutions and the Conservatives for them. What then will the Labour Government do, the journal asks.

Erith, Kent, Feb. 18th.—Eleven women and one man were killed here today in an explosion, which followed the outbreak of fire in a cartridge filling factory.

Paris, Feb. 18th.—Dr. Leopold Hoesch was formally received as the new German Ambassador to France by President Millerand on Saturday.