

Item 1.

Colonial Council Bill No. 25.

3rd Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 25, Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann], respecting the appointment of employees of the Municipality of St. Croix.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman I recommend the bill for adoption.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a few brief remarks. As I understand in the Act of Congress of March 3, 1917, the power to appoint officials is vested in the Governor and it necessarily follows that the power to discharge is also vested in the Governor as he sees fit; and it seems to me that this Ordinance, if passed, will limit the power vested in the Governor. Whether or not the Council has the power to pass this law or not, I do know we can pass it, but as to whether it would be legal there is a doubt in my mind. If this Council passes this Ordinance, and if it is approved it would be null and void.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Stakemann) remarked: Mr. Chairman. We have gone through two discussions before we hear this opinion. I think it would have saved time if that opinion was given during first discussion. It is not my desire to try and limit the power of the Governor, but an employee has been threatened with discharge, and it was considered that Government Officials had the power to discharge that employee and it is for the reason I introduce this draft of ordinance; if now it is found out that the bill is in conflict with the Organic Act of Congress I would have no objection in withdrawing it, but I am only too sorry that we had not heard that before; this bill is before the Council now on third discussion and members had ample time to discuss it.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. My silence in this matter was not in any way to discredit the proponent of the bill; personally I have no amendment to make, the draft is in its final shape and I deem it necessary to make this statement.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) was of the opinion that a member could not withdraw a bill from the Council after it reaches third discussion.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] was not of the same opinion as the last speaker and furthermore said that it is only Government that can bring in amendment on third discussion, but a proponent can withdraw his bill at any time; and Mr. Chairman before taking the vote on the matter I recommend to the Council to vote that the bill be withdrawn, inas-

much as legal opinion is given on it nothing more can be done.

The Chairman remarked: If no objection the bill will be withdrawn.

There being no objection the bill was withdrawn.

Item 2.

Colonial Council Bill No. 26.

2nd Discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 26, Draft of an Ordinance, introduced by 1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann], concerning the remission and refunding of certain taxes assessed or collected on properties used for religious purposes with amendments.

The Chairman remarked: Hon. Members this bill is before you on 2nd Discussion.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] remarked: Mr. Chairman: I don't know, perhaps this bill is also in conflict with the laws. The bill was originally drafted for refunding taxes collected on properties used for religious purposes, but I have included properties used for charitable and educational purposes; if it is not in conflict with some law I beg that the bill be furthered.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District [M. M. Skeoch] moved that 2nd Discussion be closed.

It was put to vote and carried that 2nd Discussion be closed.

1st Member for Christiansted Country District [Stakemann] proposed and it was unanimously carried that 3rd Discussion come on today. Government gave consent.

The member's proposal was put to the vote and unanimously carried.

No one requesting the word the Secretary [Canegata] read the bill and the Chairman put same to the vote.

It was unanimously adopted.

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

[To be continued].

We understand that there is an Excursion Trip up for Whit to St. Thomas on the 22nd. of this month by Captain Møller's steam Yacht, the *Saranac*. Further particulars about this later.

American three-masted schooner Fred W. Ayer of Bangor Maine, Captain John Halvorsen, arrived here on Sunday from Mobile Al. 314 tons. With a cargo of lumber for R. L. Merwin & Co.

Steam Yacht "Saranac", Capt. C. Møller arrived on Monday. The boat which had been looked for a long time is a stylish well built vessel of about between 40 and 50 tons.

The S. S. Korona loaded 6,300 bags of sugar from the Factory and left here yesterday for Frederiksted where more sugar will be taken in until Friday.

The mail-schooner Creole is not yet in; the weather has been and still is rather calm.

Notice concerning the closing of mail for New York by S. S. Korona will be issued as soon as it can be ascertained when the steamer will leave Frederiksted.

OFFICIAL NEWS.

May 3, 1920.

Governor Oman has received a copy of the printed report of the Joint Commission of Congress which visited the Virgin Islands on February 5th, and will make its contents public this evening upon his return from attendance at the meeting of the Colonial Council for the Municipality of St. Croix.

The U. S. S. Kittery arrived in Guantanamo on May 2nd and will probably arrive in St. Thomas the latter part of this week.

May 4, 1920.

General J. J. Pershing, U. S. Army, and party are due to arrive in St. Thomas on board the U. S. Army transport Northern Pacific at 6.00 a. m. Thursday, May 13th, and will land for a couple of hours.

The U. S. S. Kittery will arrive in St. Thomas on Monday. The following passengers are on board. Lieutenant Commander Ernest Durr, U. S. N. wife and son, Lieutenant H. M. Montgomery, Medical Corps, U. S. N. wife and infant; Radio Gunner W. J. Murphy, U. S. N., Chief Pharmacist Mate J. O. Beckett, U. S. N., and wife and two marines.

It is the judgment of the Commission that in the revision of the Judicial System one court and one judge having general jurisdiction should be provided for the Islands of St. Thomas and St. John and one for the Island of St. Croix, and that writ of errors and appeal should be to an appellate court consisting of the two judges from said Islands and the judge of the district of the United States for Porto Rico sitting in banc.

After careful consideration it is the judgment of the commission that it is inexpedient to change the existing system of government. At present the contemplated revision of local laws should be enacted and put in operation before further changes in the supervisory government should be undertaken.

Richard Zakers

is asked to call at the Post Office, Christiansted.