

the rights of the people, I rather be out of it.

The Chairman remarked: This is a resolution subject to three discussions; first discussion is still open, a Committee has been appointed and the Council by vote adjourned for one hour for the Committee to investigate and report. I do not see anything unjust in the matter.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that there is so much unpleasantness over this matter that I think it best to let it go over until another meeting. I think myself that it would not be the correct thing to do to force a matter like this through the Council knowing it would cause unpleasantness.

2nd Appointed Member (Noll) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I feel very strongly on this matter. It seems that when certain questions of importance arise in this Council all we can hear about is the Rules of Business. If one can play the Rules of Business another can play it also. The proposition before the Council today is one that demands quick action. I know it does. The morals of the girls of this island are not what they ought to be, and still the Government is accused of wanting to establish a brothel instead of a training school. It is nothing but lack of confidence in the Government of the Virgin Islands.

The Council is asked for the use of the Cay for one year, and the members of Christiansted are blocking the idea of putting school there; how are they blocking it? By playing the Rules of Business. That's real unadulterated politics. I will play politics myself as long as this bill is before the Council. We should lay aside our commercial ambitions and trust the Government.

To be continued.

The s. s. "Saranac" arrived here early this morning with St. Thomas and English mails.

The Naval Band will render its usual Friday night concert on the wharf this evening.

Correspondence On Divorce.

(Continued IV)

"The ground has been taken that woman would lose her dignity if marriage could be annulled. Is it necessary to lose your liberty in order to retain your moral character—in order to be pure and womanly? Must a woman, in order to retain her virtue, become a slave, a serf, with a beast for a master, or with society for a master, or with a phantom for a master?"

If an infinite being is one of the parties to the contract, is it not the duty

of this being to see to it that the contract is carried out? What consideration does the infinite being give? What consideration does he receive? If a wife owes no duty to her husband because the husband has violated the contract, and has even assaulted her life, is it possible for her to feel toward him any real thrill of affection? If she does not, what is there left of marriage? What part of this contract or sacrament remains in living force? She can not sustain the relation of wife, because she abhors him; she cannot remain under the same roof, for fear that she may be killed. They sustain, then, only the relations of hunter and hunted—of tyrant and victim. Is it desirable that this relation should last through life, and that it should be rendered sacred by the ceremony of a church?

Again I ask, is it desirable to have families raised under such circumstances? Are we in need of children born of such parents? Can the virtue of others be preserved only by this destruction of happiness, by this perpetual imprisonment?

A marriage without love is bad enough, and a marriage for wealth or position is low enough; but what shall we say of a marriage where the parties actually abhor each other? Is there any morality in this? any virtue in this? Is there virtue in retaining the name of wife, or husband without the real and true relation? Will any good man say, will any good woman declare, that a true, loving woman should be compelled to be the mother of children whose father she hates? Is there a good woman in the world who would not shrink from this herself; and is there a woman so heartless and so immoral that she would force another to bear that from which she would shudderingly and shriekingly shrink?

Marriages are made by men and women; not by society; not by the state; not by the church; not by supernatural beings. By this time we should know that nothing is moral that does not tend to the well-being of sentient beings; that nothing is virtuous the result of which is not good. We know now, if we know anything, that all the reasons for doing right, and all the reasons against doing wrong, are here in this world. We should have imagination enough to put ourselves in the place of another. Let a man suppose himself a helpless woman beaten by a brutal husband—would he advocate divorces then?

Few people have an adequate idea of the sufferings of women and children, of the number of wives who tremble when they hear the footsteps of a returning husband, of the number of children who hide when they hear the voice of a father. Few people know the number of blows that fall on the flesh of the helpless everyday, and few know the nights of terror passed by mothers who hold

babes to their breasts. Compared with these, all the hardships of poverty borne by those who love each other are as nothing. Men and women truly married bear the sufferings and misfortunes of poverty together. They console each other. In the darkest night they see the radiance of a star, and their affection gives to the heart of each perpetual sunshine."

(To be continued.)

TELEGRAMS

ST. CROIX STATION.

Spa, July 12th.—The Allies served an ultimatum upon the German delegation to the conference here late this afternoon, that the Germans must agree by three o'clock tomorrow afternoon to deliver the Allies 2,000,000 tons of coal monthly. Otherwise, the Germans were informed, the Allies will take measures to enforce the terms of the Versailles Treaty. The German and Allied conference was brought to a temporary halt this afternoon by the coal question. The Allied Premiers meeting, which convened at 10.30 o'clock to discuss the German reparations proposition and the question of priority in coal deliveries from Germany, was unable to finish its work in time for the general conference to meet at 11.30, the hour previously fixed. Chancellor Fehrenbach and his colleagues who had arrived with a numerous staff, were informed in the anti-room by the members of the conference that the full meeting had been postponed until the afternoon. The Allied ministers are apparently not very favourably impressed by German reparations plan. The prevailing view, the correspondent was informed, was that the plan was somewhat indefinite on the essential financial points. It is understood that the German delegates have in reserve another plan of amendment of much greater importance than the plan submitted yesterday, was present at today's meeting of the Premiers.

Spa, July 13th.—The Russian Soviet Govt. had not replied up to this afternoon to the request of the Allies, that an armistice be arranged with Poland. The message was sent by wireless to the Soviet authorities through the British Govt, because of the relations already existing between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Krassin, the Bolshevik Minister of Trade and Commerce. The Polish Premier is due to arrive in Warsaw today from Spa bearing the assurances of the Allies that ample arms and munitions will be supplied Poland in case the Russians do not agree to an armistice or unduly delay their reply.

London, July, 12th.—A wide-spread strike of gas workers for higher wages is causing great domestic hardships and industrial loss. In Manchester, where the trouble began, and other Lancashire towns, there has been no gas for several days.