

sure which is placed before this Council for legislation.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Anderson*): Mr. Vice Chairman. May I ask the Government Secretary if he is aware that this Municipality already has a heavy personal tax. It was put in the Organic Act and called export tax. I think it unfair to come with a personal tax before that is removed.

Government Secretary (*Zane*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Now is not the time to enter into discussion on other taxes, we are dealing with this particular bill.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. This Council has already accepted the Committee Report, and all there is to be done is to pass the Ordinance with the Committee's amendments. No sane man will vote to further burden himself with more taxation, and I am rather surprised at Government's attitude on this question. They surely can see the deplorable condition the island is in at present. I regret that I as an American citizen and under the American Flag have to stand and plead, to save my property from further taxation which is loaded up to the muzzle already.

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Curry*): Mr. Vice Chairman. I would like to know if we fail to pass the amendment introduced by Government and pass the amendment offered by the Committee whether Government will veto it. Every member of this Council has been advised not to pass this tax law. I believe that it is our duty as members of this Council, particular those that are elected, not to vote for this tax law, unless the amendments offered are accepted by Government. I further believe that the Council should not take the entire responsibility for it. I propose that we adopt the course that we vote down the original draft and vote a tax law with amendment. It seems to me that this is the best course to pursue; and if the Governor is not satisfied he may veto it, but still we have shown good faith.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*): remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I agree with the Honorable 2nd Member for Frederiksted's Country District, we have done all that is possible to meet Government views in this matter. I do not think this so called amendment is hard to understand, to me it reads like an ultimatum. If we are a legislative body as we are supposed to be, to me our duty is clear, vote for the Tax Ordinance with the amendments, then if Government won't accept it, the responsibility is theirs, and they cannot say to Washington that the St. Croix Council refused to pass a tax bill.

The Vice-Chairman: Will the Council accept or reject Government's amendment?

2nd Member for Christiansted Country District (*Berg*): As the amendment

seems out of order may I ask if Government would not withdraw it.

Government Secretary (*Zane*): I do not feel that Government should withdraw this amendment. As I explained before it is introduced for the purpose of giving the Colonial Council an opportunity to pass the draft of ordinance as originally submitted.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): Do I understand that Government is asking the Committee to reconsider its report?

Government Secretary (*Zane*) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I might offer my own views. If the Colonial Council thinks it has gone far enough it follows then that it will reject this amendment and the ordinance goes to a vote with the Committee Report, and the Council will then fail to pass the ordinance with the phraseology with regard to personal tax.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*): I will abstain from voting because I do not understand the amendment.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (*Jackson*) remarked: Mr. Vice Chairman. The Government Secretary has frequently used the word "opportunity". It seems to me that a penalty will follow if we let the opportunity go by and don't pass the bill. I don't like the word "opportunity". It looks like a threat. This bill has been before the House for more than two years, it is true, but we have the right to reject any measure that is placed before us. I suggest that this whole matter be resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration, because there is nothing wrong with a tax bill of this nature, particularly if we are to keep up this heavy administration which is getting heavier year after year. Unless I see a reduction in the draft of budget for the coming fiscal year I will not vote for this tax bill. I recommend that the bill go over until the budget for the next fiscal year is received.

To be continued.

OFFICIAL NOTES.

His Excellency, the Governor has been informed by the Secretary of State that the Treaty with Great Britain to aid in the prevention of smuggling intoxicating liquors into the United States, signed on January 23, 1924, will apply to the Virgin Islands, so that a stock of liquors may be kept on board British vessels under seal while they are in such ports.

It is understood that this Treaty is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations for ratification.

LOCAL

Attention is invited to the ad of the West End Movies in this issue, featuring "The Flame of Life" with Priscilla Dean, to be screened tomorrow night at

the nominal admission rates of 5 and 10 cents.

We have been asked to mention that the Native Brass Band will give a concert on the wharf tomorrow night.

The s. s. "Catherine" is due today on schedule time, having 40 tons cargo for this island.

Mails close for the islands by "Bogota" at 11 a. m. today.

Some very good road repair work is being effected along the centre-line from Frederiksted past Estate Høgensborg. The road roller is employed in this service and is apparently giving a satisfactory account of itself. Owing to the dryness of the weather there is a lot of dust on the road which is, however, smoother than it has been for years. If it were practicable to wet the road after rolling it and sprinkle it occasionally the result would be probably still better, but unfortunately water, especially inland, is only too scarce at most times even if it could be made available on the spot.

The following text of a cablegram presented to this office is inserted at the sender's request. Same has reference to certain writings by Government Attorney Williams at St. Thomas whose expressions are not favourably received by representative members of this community who have subscribed toward contents of the cable message and its cost of transmission. The signer advises that he purports to take this matter up in the newspaper columns in the coming week:

Editor New York Times New York.

Undersigned legislator of St. Croix behalf self and other legislators repudiate writings George Washington Williams relative our affairs as dangerous propaganda.

H. BERG.
St. Croix.

CORRECTION

Reference to the schooner "Vigilant" arriving here yesterday from Porto Rico was a printer's error. She came from St. Thomas and the coal and mails were from there also.

Whim 14th March 1924.

The Editor St. Croix Avis,

Dear Sir:—

Would like to know if following cars were photoed Sunday 9th inst: No. 132 for blocking entrance to Cemetery when sailors' graves were being honored, No. 124 and 137 for—

Beg to remind those in charge that some of the Grand cars that hit to spot and throw flashlight on lesser drivers to be photoed at night. Let all get the same source.

J. W. SMITH,