

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

It was put to the vote and carried that the resolution be furthered and adopted at 1st discussion.

The amendment was put to the vote and adopted.

Despatching Secretary (Barrett) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. I would like to invite the attention of members to a matter that is in dispute as to whether the wharf is under the jurisdiction of the Police and not a Federal Officer. The question of the removal of the guns and of the engines of the submarine chaser came up some time ago in this Council.

No one requesting the word further the discussion closed, the resolution read, put to the vote as amended and unanimously adopted.

The Vice-Chairman asked members to prepare their voting tickets for the election of the Committee.

13 voting tickets were handed in, one was blank.

Elected were: 1st Appointed Member (Coulter) with 12 votes, 4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) with 11 votes, 1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) with 9 votes, 1st Member for Christiansted Country District (Jessen) with 8 votes, 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Cane-gata), 1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Fleming) and 2nd Member for said District (Curry with 7 votes respectively.

3rd Member for Christiansted Town (Alexander) received 6 votes, 1st Member for said Town (Abramson) and 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Berg) received 4 votes respectively, 4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) 3rd Member for Christiansted Country District (Robt. W. Skeoch) and 3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (M. M. Skeoch) with 3 votes respectively.

Item 6.

Colonial Council Bill No. 19.

Fourth Council, First Session.

Introduction of and 1st discussion on Colonial Council Bill No. 19, draft of an ordinance introduced by 2nd Member for Frederiksted Town (Merwin), providing for a revision of public holidays in St. Croix.

The Bill reads as follows:

Colonial Council Bill No. 19.

Fourth Council, First Session 1923-1924

DRAFT OF AN ORDINANCE
to provide for, and set apart, legal holidays for the Municipality of St. Croix.

Be it enacted by the Colonial

United States Press Representatives' Visit To St. Croix, Virgin Islands, U. S. A.

THURSDAY February 21st, 1924.

AS REVIEWED BY BUMBLE BEE EN ROUTE

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(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

Here we arrive at the recreation ground for the employees of the West Indian Sugar Factory fully equipped with facilities for all outdoor sports and a fine club house as well, upon the lawn Mr. Andersen, our host, assisted by his associate Mr. Wulff, had prepared a fine cold punch of temperate origin, aerated waters, most toothsome Danish cakes, cigars and cigarettes, but regretted that our time did not allow of a more sumptuous table. Any way during our very pleasant fifteen minutes Mr. Andersen in a short and appropriate address of welcome, said:

"Your Excellency, Governor Williams, Admiral Coontz, Officers of the Navy and Gentlemen of the Press: Allow me to bid you welcome to the recreation ground of Bethlehem Sugar Factory. It is indeed a privilege for us to be visited at one time by so many representatives of the finest presses in the world accompanied by our Governor and high officers of the Navy.

As you see, this pretty little spot, and as you have seen the island today, I feel sure that you will agree with us that for beauty of scenery and lovely climate St. Croix is perhaps one of the most precious little possessions of the United States of America, located only twice the distance from New York as are the Bermudas, with a wonderful difference though—that here flies the Stars and Stripes.

You have heard of the crisis we have gone through with four years of drought when crops have failed to the extent of being reduced to one fifth of normal crop; that we have nevertheless carried on is because there is in the hearts of the people here a large portion of persistence and perseverance deserving of a helping hand from our fellow citizens up north and you gentlemen of the press can help us a whole lot by spreading among your readers for general knowledge of the attractions of the island. I will finally beg you to help yourselves to the refreshments on the table. I am sorry that while Congress in their wisdom have not seen fit to give us the Constitution of the United States of America nor any of the amendments from No. 1 to 17 nor the nineteenth they have sent us:—What shall I call it? The prescription for how, and then "not" to mix a good cool drink! I thank you."

The day, the view and the occasion bring back memories that upon this spot in 1831 was pitched a large tent to serve a collation entertainment to H. R. H. Prince Alfred, later the Duke of Edinburgh, who paid a visit to the island in that year. This was the first visit of a scion of Royalty to St. Croix and the English speaking inhabitants imbued as they were with English traditions, it is not to be wondered at that they turned out in full force to show their loyalty to the Crown which they claim allegiance by birth or even several generations removed. Prince Alfred was at the time a youth of 17 years and a junior officer upon a ship in charge of his superior naval officers during the cruise being made to the West Indies. The day referred to, he was on his way to Christiansted to pay his respects to Governor Birch and stopped enroute at Estate "Castle". Instructions from home was that he was not to be entertained in private homes but the ingenuity of his host, Mr. Frank R. Newton had devised this means to fit the occasion as a tent was not a private home.

Yet the hard rule thus imposed was thought to be fitly broken when he was allowed to call upon Sir Andrew Lang, the venerable sage at "Eliza's Retreat", who, by his researches into astronomy from his observatory near his home, so marked on every map of the island, published during the past century, had gained for him an international reputation. The position of St. Croix upon the surface of the earth is generally referred to in all books of the island as that given by him—17 degrees, 44 min., 32 sec. N. and in Latitude 64.14 min. W.—of Greenwich, though the position of 17 degrees, 45 min. N. and 64.45 W. is the approximate centre of the island which places the cross line of demarkation just a little southeast of the building upon Estate "Rattan". Estate "Castle" as well as the large property called "River", to be seen in the distance, under "Mount Eagle", remained in the Newton family from the earliest history of the settlement of the island until 1892 when these estates were disposed of by the family to the proprietors of "Lower Love". The Newton family originating from England they immigrated to Barbados in the early part of the eighteenth century, thus proceeding to St. Kitts and on to St. Croix when the new and unheard of inducement to settle in a sugar colony were proclaimed by the Danish Governor. As the family grew and prospered under the sunny skies of St. Croix, their sons became leaders of manly sports and their race horses were the best of the day upon the turf of our course. Thurlow Wood, formerly Editor of the Albany Journal, New York, and later became Editor of the New York Times while spending a winter here in West End of 1844-45 in a letter of March 20, 1845 written from the island relates: