

crease their prices at once, we can see no good reason why those whose remittances are being made through the National Bank at the old rate of 5% should not observe the old prices until they actually have to contend with the increased rate." No comment seems necessary, as it is obvious that nobody has been expected to observe the old prices forever, nor even now except under certain reasonable conditions.

Attention has been called to the fact that there is one section of the public here who will be severely hit by the rise in the U. S. dollar exchange. That section is made up of the pensioners, both those receiving pensions from the Colonial Treasury as well as those of the State Treasury of Denmark. It may be they have been forgotten, and if so it is all the more expedient that their cause be brought before those in position to see that justice is done here as elsewhere. Many of the poor people of this island have no other means of existence or subsistence whatever than what they receive from public funds, and in view of the fact that the currency in which such donations are paid has decreased in its purchasing value by more than one quarter, it seems but reasonable that some consideration be given toward allowing such pensioners the difference in the value of the money. Nearly all the business in this island is done, directly or indirectly, with the United States and therefore the moment the currency of the United States rises, it is felt in every home and hovel. As regards the pensions from the State Treasury of Denmark, it is presumed that the undying kindness and consideration always shown by Denmark for its former employees will again assert itself on this occasion, when the keenness of the situation is only too remarkable, and has in all probability already appealed to Consul General Baumann whose broad ideas in dealing with the people has established a confidence that never fails.

We have been offered a suggestion in solving the monetary difficulty in which it proposes to have the Government, instead of paying its employees the difference in the rates of exchange, agree to pay the Bank the 23½% on each draft issued through the Bank to merchants for the payment of necessities purchased in the United States. It is contended that in this way the Government's efforts in the matter would reach a larger percentage, if not all of the people, and that the big concerns which might be thus escaping from the paying of such difference to their employees, should contribute a certain percentage of the total. It is thought that such a measure would cost little more, and have more practical benefit as it would immediately settle the local market to a normal standard.

CHRISTIANSTED THEATRE.

There will be presented at this fashionable place of amusement this evening, the continuation of the grand, stirring serial "The Bull's Eye". It is a very interesting film, and can be recommended to all who delight in something exciting. A liberal management is securing these high class pictures at expensive rates and offers them to the public at ordinary prices, which will not repay the undertaking except the proportionate patronage is forthcoming. Be sure to secure seats early and not miss this excellent show.

WEATHER REPORT.

October 27, 1919.

San Juan, Bar. 29.94 Ther. 74, S.E., Vel 5, partly cloudy.

St. Thomas, Bar. 29.92, Ther. 76, E. Vel. 10, partly cloudy.

St. Kitts, Bar. 29.92., Ther. 76, N.E., Vel. 8, clear.

Dominica, Bar. 29.88, Ther. 72, N. Vel. 2, partly cloudy.

St. Lucia, Bar. 29.86, Ther. 72, E. Vel. 6, partly cloudy.

Barbados, Bar. 29.90, Ther. 74, E. Vel. 6, clear.

Port of Spain, Bar. 29.86, Ther. 72, N. E. Vel. 4, clear.

Curacao, Bar. 29.80, Ther. 78, E., Vel. 4, partly cloudy.

St. Croix, Bar. 30.00, Ther. 85, E. clear.

Rainfall for past 24 hours, 0

Editor St. Croix Avis.

Dear Sir:

As very sensibly pointed out by a correspondent to "West End News" it is not a question of raising prices that faces the merchant but a question of getting the small value for goods in stock on which selling prices were based on the former value of our local currency.

In one of your Editorials you say that prices should not be advanced if the Bank accepts payment at the old rate—that would be allright if the Bank would continue to do so, but as this is not likely it would mean that the merchant would pay at the rate of 5% and then sell his goods for currency worth 22½% less—how many merchants can make that amount of profit?

The lot of a merchant in these islands is not to be envied, he must keep a fair sized stock of goods, the merchandise must be always fresh and just arrived, the prices very low and the credits very long, now for instance all accounts due must be received in a much depreciated currency—not only loss of interest but loss of all profit—still the merchant must smile and be thankful.

The only salvation of merchants, is to make all accounts payable in U. S. Cur-

rency or its Equivalent at the time of payment, at least as long as we are dependent on an American market for necessities of life.

Credits in America or being able to draw on Government funds in America will not increase the value of our local currency and if the dollar keeps up the goods must eventually be paid for at a high rate of Exchange.

We have lived in a fool's paradise believing that our franc and bit were under the special protection of a kind providence, now we have had a rude awakening and the best way is to take whatever loss there is like men and base our future transactions on de facto conditions.

Abusive language and unsubstantiated accusations are the fashion of today but lead no where.

Yours truly,

INTERESTED.

Frederiksted, 25th Oct. 1919.

The Mail Schooner "Virginia" arrived at this port this morning at one o'clock with only Porto Rico and St. Thomas mails, 310 small packages and the following passengers:

From St. Thomas: Mr. Isaac Crutcherlow, Revd. P. Bartels, F. Adamsen, John Allen, Mrs. Victorine Marcus and child, Mrs. H. Allen and Edith Cox, Mr. Hugh Duurloo, Capt. F. E. Garfield, Capt. Chas. Gaanberg, Consul George Levi.

TELEGRAMS

ST. CROIX STATION.

Rome, Oct. 21st.—Rome was shaken by an earthquake at 7.05 o'clock this morning the tremor lasting a few minutes. No reports as to the damage done have been received as yet. This is the second shock experienced within two days, on being felt yesterday. Today's shocks were of considerable strength.

Paris, Oct. 21st.—M. Caillaux, the French politician accused of intelligence with the enemy, will appear before the Senate, constituted as a high court on Thursday for trial, but it is possible that the actual trial may be deferred until after the elections owing to the wishes of many Senators.

Copenhagen, Oct. 22nd. German artillery at Riga fired on British warships at the mouth of the harbor, on Sunday according to a report of the Letish General Staff, and on Monday the battleships returned the fire, shelling German positions near the city. Riga is being bombarded by the heavy German artillery which is using gas shells. Great damage has been done in the city and many civilians have been killed or wounded under date of Oct. 19th. The Letish Press Bureau reports stubborn attacks by the Germans to force a crossing of the Dvina river near Friederickstadt. Four attempts are said to have been repulsed with heavy losses.