

AN ORDINANCE

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES IN ST. CROIX.

Be it enacted by the Colonial Council of St. Croix:

1. There are hereby authorized to be established and maintained in this Municipality two public libraries, each to be known as the "Public Library".

2. The said libraries shall be operated by a board of control to be known as the "Library Commission" and shall be composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Colonial Council, one by the local Red Cross Chapter, and one by the Governor. The Governor shall name the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the said Commission. The members shall be appointed for a period of two years.

3. The Library Commission shall make all rules and regulations for the conducting and maintaining of the Public Libraries and shall have full power to expend for said purpose such funds as may from time to time be received by it.

4. The Library Commission shall submit to the Governor annually on 30 June a report of its activities for the fiscal year, including receipts and disbursements of all funds received and expended during the year.

Thus duly passed at an extraordinary meeting of the Colonial Council held Monday 10, 1920.

Christiansted, St. Croix, May 12, 1920.
D. C. CANEGATA, ROBT. L. MERWIN,
Secretary. Chairman.

The above Ordinance is hereby sanctioned and approved.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States at St. Thomas the 22nd day of May 1920.

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

Just Received

AT THE

Company Street Emporium

SCHAEFER'S BEER,
EVAPORATED MILK in small
tins 12c.

MARIE BISCUITS,
NATIONAL OATS in tins.

BLUE GRAIN COFFEE,
PORTO RICO TOBACCO.

Christiansted, 26th May 1920.

M. A. PRETTO.

Readers are reminded of tonight's show at the theatre for which an attractive programme is published in this issue.

The Food Commission meets tomorrow. We have confidence in the new chairman and look for a readjustment of many things now working hardship on the community.

The Creole sailed from here yesterday morning for St. Thomas, and the Vigilant docked at 10 a. m.

The Sub chaser 62 left again yesterday afternoon taking mail for St. Thomas.

As will be noted from an ad. in this issue, Mr. M. A. Pretto is prepared to meet the public demand for milk at a cheap figure. Evaporated cream is pure cream of the richest kind and when diluted with an equal quantity of water will not be below the standard for whole milk, which whole milk it must be borne in mind, is milk from the best milch cows in the States. Mr. Pretto is one of the few merchants who has maintained a creditable attitude during these trying times and looked out for the interest of the consumer as well as his own, and it affords great pleasure to recommend what he offers for sale.

A Plea for the American Agava

By Bank-director Axel Holst.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

Now is the time when the Agavas [Caritas] are flowering. All around us we see their golden flower-masts ornamenting the hillsides, standing erect like golden fir-trees above the bush, or silhouetting against the sky, while myriads of doctor birds flutter around them, and the air is filled with the happy hum of the honey-bees sucking the nectar which drips incessantly from the nectar-laden flower-clusters. It is a sight which it is well worth getting up early on a Sunday morning, just to go and see.

And yet, it seems to me that the Agavas are becoming ever scarcer from year to year. All around us we see them being cut down and destroyed for no perceptible intent or purpose. Of late, I have seen on the East end of the island, how fire has been put to each single Agava along the road, while prickles and thorns are left standing.

Why all this destruction?

It can hardly be for any agricultural purpose, first because of the situation of the plants, and secondly, because what little space is taken up by the Agavas is of no consequence at all considering the amount of waste-land we have here.

I do not know what drives men to exert themselves so much when there is a chance to destroy something wild or

beautiful! It is the same thing with the wild animals, birds, reptiles, insects etc., etc., whether it be a harmless Agouti, an unfortunate deer, a pigeon, a pelican, or, especially, a chicken-hawk!

There are few sights out here of greater beauty than a grazing deer carefully venturing out into a lagoon late in the afternoon, just at dusk, or early in the morning, just before sunrise, while the grass and bushes are still hazy or a couple of mighty chicken-hawks circling in the sky on outspread wings, the wing-tips slightly raised and wavering, while screeching below as they go pass!

But in response to both of these sights most of our people have but one thought—the gun! Must we then kill everything which savours but a little bit of the wild?—Would it then be so glorious if we could succeed in removing everything around us which remains of and reminds of the great original freedom? And all of us could become blameless and well behaved, perfectly harmless tame cats!

It seems, that this desire to cut down and kill is being instilled into the very children! In the British Islands, they collect ground-lizzards from the keys, liberating them on the mainland to help in fighting the insect pests which destroy the sugar cane, and posters to that effect are placed all around. But here we stone them, and kill them, whenever an opportunity is given. I have tried myself to procure the large iguanas, when caught in the traps, liberating them in our garden; and it was joy to all of us to see them around in the trees, how they could sit among the foliage, changing their colors from skyblue to grass green, chocolate brown and coal black. But what was the outcome? Naturally, a stone! a (rack-stone!)

I may have deviated a little too far from my original intention, a plea for the beautiful Agava; but returning to same I would say to intending destroyers that even if the beauty of the plant, which is rightly considered among the wonders of the plant-world, could not gain for it immunity from destruction, then the information, that the plant is a very valuable one, might carry some weight, and perhaps cause it to be spared—until further.

To prove the statement, and save further comment, I venture to ask you to reprint the following three articles from 3 different works. These statements all refer to the utility of the plant. Some other day, if I get the time, and you will spare me the space, I may return to the subject and offer some æsthetic and botanical facts about the Agavas as well as some other West Indian plants.

Thanking you for space,

Very truly yours,

AXEL HOLST.

CENTURY-PLANT [Agave Americana] American aloe, or maguey, is undoubtedly the most liberal yielder of