

Publication.

THE list of those qualified to vote for members of the Colonial Council, will be open for inspection at the Police Court House of this town, from February 15th., and until the 29th., instant, both days included, from 9 o'clock a.m. to 3 o'clock p. m.

Whoever has any objection to make against the said list, is hereby, in accordance with the Colonial Law's Section 25, requested to state such objection in writing to the Chairman of the Elective Board with reasons on which such objections are based, within 3 days after the last mentioned date.

The Elective Board for the Town and Suburbs of Christiansted, St. Croix, February 15, 1924.

C. H. PAYNE,
Chairman.

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C. H. PAYNE,
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE COLONIAL COUNCILS for St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

(Continued from Saturday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata) introduced the Resolution on behalf of the Colonial Council of St. Croix and said,—Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Municipality of St. Croix I beg to introduce the Resolution now pending before you, for which object the Colonial Councils are met together in joint session this afternoon and the purpose of which most of us are aware. In this time of economic depression I think it is the aim and desire of each and every one here to lend whatever assistance he

can in the solution of the problems with which we are confronted. My honorable friend the 6th Elected Member for St. Thomas has recommended to you the resolution on behalf of St. Thomas and St. John which is identical with that for St. Croix.

We do not present this resolution as the only method by which our problems can be solved but we offer these recommendations as forming a basis on which we can safely build.

I regret the Municipal Committee has been unable to forward this resolution to members of the Council at an earlier date, but in view of the presence with us of the Federal Commission we thought that this Council should not fail to avail itself of the opportunity of placing some definite recommendations in their hands.

We have aduced a few lines of reform, each of which would, I think, give freer course and fresh stimulus tending towards a return of some measure of our prosperity.

I think too you and I will agree that it is not charitable contributions, but intelligent and fostering legislation, harmonious relations between capital and labor, and enterprise to secure a sufficient amount of new product are the main factors which will enable us to continue our main industry and on which our prosperity may safely rest.

I ask you then to support this resolution this afternoon as I think we will be affirming the vitality of those principles which are essential to our common life and therefore a sound basis of public policy.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Colonial Council of St. Thomas, Confreres. I am not going to vote for this resolution, and I am going to give my reason why I will not vote for it. I am sorry that I cannot give my colleagues the support they ask for to further this resolution. In the first place there is no mention made of the reason why this resolution is necessary. What is its purpose? Where is it going to? My Honorable Friend, the 6th Elected Member for St. Thomas has intimated that this resolution is to go to Congress to see what can be done for us along the lines therein outlined, but I see no concrete suggestion on which Congress could act. What are we asking for? Are we asking Congress to do anything definite in these recommendations? We are asking that there be established under the Civil Government of the Virgin Islands a Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor. It seems to me that if the islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix want to establish a Department of Commerce and Labor they could do so of themselves; Congress has nothing to do with that. We are asking that the status of the islanders be defined. That has already been done by the State Department. That Department says "We are

inhabitants of the Virgin Islands entitled to the protection of the United States." We already know what our status are.

The question of Coastwise Laws may be passed over without comment, but I want to make a remark on the word "Civil" in the first paragraph under "Recommendations". It is not clear to me what that means. If the Government is Civil the term here is superfluous. I would like to know why it is stated here "Under the Civil Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States?" Not one suggestion is made here whereby those things can be remedied. No concrete suggestion is offered.

This resolution, I understand, is the result of conferences between the Government and the Municipal Committees of St. Thomas and St. Croix. I will not vote for it on principle, because I don't believe that the Executive Department should have anything to do with legislative matters. I have heard read here today in a letter from the Governor that no amendment to the resolution is desired. That seems to me like putting the screw down on this body, and I take it to mean that if this Council amend the resolution it will not be considered by the Government. I think it unfair and consequently I will not vote for the resolution.

The Chairman: I think the last speaker is in error by stating emphatically that no amendment to the resolution will be considered. The Governor states that he feels that "As the two Municipal Committees and the Executive branch as represented by the Government Secretary have agreed beforehand on the resolution amendments should not be made on the floor." However if any member desires to bring in an amendment there is nothing in the Rules of Business to prevent it.

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson): You say so now Mr. Chairman, but the Governor does not say so in his letter. I would like to ask this question—If the Council makes amendment will the Government consider it?

The Chairman: That's left entirely with the Government.

Government Secretary (Zane): Government has no answer to make to that question.

4th Appointed Member (Blackwood) read the fifth recommendation in the resolution and said that the \$3.00 tax per short ton of sugar exported from the Virgin Islands should be removed.

4th Member for Christiansted Country District (Ramsay) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The flat rate tax of \$8 per ton on sugar exported from the Virgin Islands is to take the place of the export duty we had before. I don't see why this tax should be removed; everybody pays it. If this tax is removed where are we going to get revenues from?—I would rather see this tax remain.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr.