

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

The Harbor and Pilot Department: No remarks. Put to the vote.

9 voted for; none against.

The Fire Departments—Christiansted and Frederiksted:

1st Member for Frederiksted Town (Jackson) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. With regard to sub-item 1 under Maintenance of these departments we have "Travelling expenses to fires on estates". The Director of Police is the Brand-major. I want to know if he is paid out of that amount? If he is I want to say that he goes out in the Police Car.

The (Vice-Chairman): I think we can ask the Honorable 1st Appointed Member to answer that without leaving his seat.

1st Appointed Member (Coulter) in answer to the Honorable 1st Member for Frederiksted Town said: That does not include my transportation. Very often it is necessary to transport prisoners, as the Despatching Secretary can certify by vouchers in his office, especially on occasions of bush fires.

The Fire Departments as budgetted were put to the vote.

7 voted for; none against.

Department of Health, Sanitation Service, as amended.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Before the amendments are adopted Government wishes to say that the Sanitary Department expresses the willingness to carry on with the amounts recommended by the Municipal Committee, but if later it is found insufficient the department will have to come back to the Council for an additional grant. Take the item "Emergency for contagious disease", that has been reduced 50%.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Municipal Committee is fully in accord with that. As I understand, for years none of the money appropriated for this purpose has been used. The reason why the Committee reduced the amount to Frs. 500 is, because in the event of an epidemic of a contagious disease, very little could be done with Frs. 1,000. This amount is only put down as a sort of foundation.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. With this explanation Government accepts the amendments.

This department was put to the vote.

9 members voted for; none against.

The Department of Health

(a) Office of Chief Municipal Physician.

5th Appointed Member (McIntosh) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The amounts reduced under this department have been so little that we might as well pass the budgetted amounts as originally presented.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): That will not be in accordance with the general principle.

5th Appointed Member (McIntosh): When the fiscal year is up if the amount budgetted is not used it will be returned to the Colonial Treasury.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (Canegata): If you adopt such a policy how are you going to make out for needed improvents? It seems as if some of the members of this Council come here with this idea—Here is a bag of money, we don't know where it comes from, but let us go ahead and use it. We have to keep the expenditure side of the budget within the limits of the revenues. Take for instance we have already voted Frs. 9,000 for a Police Judge and you have already passed the revenue side of the budget. Where are you going to get that amount from? You have to cut down the budget somewhere.

5th Appointed Member (McIntosh): That will leave us just where we were. If any is left over it will go into the Colonial Treasury.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Municipal Committee has worked very hard on the budget. We had more than three meetings, and it was not until we found out a policy which we thought fair to the Government and the people that we made these changes.

The Vice-Chairman remarked: I fully endorse the words of the last speaker; and furthermore at the last meeting of the Council the Government Secretary warmly complimented the Municipal Committee for the good work done on the budget, and he added that Government was willing to adopt the amendments made by the Municipal Committee. If, therefore, this matter is not of vital importance, control your personal feelings and let us go ahead.

This department was put to the vote.

8 members voted for; 1 against.

Municipal Hospital, Christiansted:

Salaries:

Government Secretary [Gaffney] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Municipal Committee has reduced the number of pupil nurses from 14 to 10. Owing to the distance between the two buildings, it is necessary to have three additional ward maids. Government therefore, requests that Frs. 2,800 be added to the budget.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town [Canegata] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. We took the number of nurses on the pay roll of the department which was received from Government Office.

5th Appointed Member (McIntosh) pro-

posed that the amounts budgetted as salaries under this department be passed as originally presented.

4th Member for Frederiksted Country District [Andersen] remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. It appears that the Municipal Hospital has been and still is progressing satisfactorily with 10 pupil nurses; and it seems unreasonable to increase the number. Additional money bills could, later, take care of additional nurses if necessary.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. We cannot foresee the need of additional nurses at the Christiansted Municipal Hospital. If I understand the Chairman of the Municipal Committee correctly, he said that the amendment made in the number of the nurses is based on the pay roll, but the Chief Municipal Officer says that he still need three additional Ward Maids.

5th Appointed Member (McIntosh) moved that the salaries under this department be passed as originally presented by Government.

The member's motion was put to the vote.

5 members voted for; 6 against.

Government Secretary (Gaffney) remarked: Mr. Vice-Chairman. The salaries for three additional Ward Maids will amount to Frs. 1,800 and the balance of Frs. 1,000 is to pay an X-ray operator.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (Andersen): Who is the operator of the X-ray machine?

2nd Member for Frederiksted Country District (Curry): Dr. Tyler.

The Chief Municipal Physician (Dr. Stenhouse) was then called before the Council and he gave the following elucidations: The X-ray machine is, at present, operated by Mr. Christensen, the Superintendent of the Hospital, but we do not know how long he will continue to be the operator. It is the intention to employ an operator as soon as one can be obtained.

The Vice-Chairman: The idea is to employ an X-ray operator as soon as one can be procured.

This item was passed as was further amended by Government with a vote of 9 for; none against.

(To be continued.)

EDITORIAL.

As regards the matter of a public cistern which subject is now engaging much general attention since the passage by the Colonial Council of an appropriation for this purpose, it is understood that the Council is divided in its opinion as to whether this cistern shall be erected in Christiansted or Frederiksted. It is contemplated that each town shall have one but the money budgetted for the present fiscal year will cover the expenses of one so that