

me some money asking that the repairs be made. I informed the department of this fact and asked for an estimate of what the work would cost. This was in September; in November I received the estimate showing \$72.75 of which \$15 was only for weeding the yard. I refused to stand by and see such advantage taken, so I went ahead and had the work done for a little less than \$33.00. There is somebody in that department who is making too much money on these things, in fact I was told by Dr. Rydeen that they could do the work much cheaper than the private individual. Here are two cases—one an old woman who was charged eighty-five dollars for repairing a closet, and an estimate for seventy two dollars and seventy-five cents for weeding and repairing a property and the work was done for less than thirty-three dollars. As soon as I commenced the work I received a summons for criminal prosecution in the Police Court. What do you think of that? Do you believe if we had a commission that could happen? No! The Commission would know me. I do not tell lies. If the Sanitary Department can bring in a criminal case against me, one who is able to defend himself simply on a question of my giving an information to the Tax Commission, then what do you think the poor ignorant people have to stand. There certainly is great need for commissions in this island, and I leave the question to the Council to decide, because the members know as well as I do that the commissions are necessary. The commissions were done away with because we had war and the Council and the people were willing to meet the new Government and make concessions, and in doing so they believed they were coming to the land of liberty, the country of the free, now they have found out to the contrary. We hope and trust that the time will come when the Government will see the need of the Commissions. Look at Russia and Germany, where are they with their rule of one man? It may be said that the Constitution of the United States does not extend to these islands, but the spirit of the Constitution is here with us, and we wish the spirit to remain with the poor people. We have no money, but we are willing to go ahead quietly; give us rights that the laws accord us and we will be satisfied. I wish to recommend that the Council receive this draft of ordinance with favor; if any man can put his hand on his heart and say that the commissions are not desirable, I wish he would be frank in saying so. His Excellency, the Governor, has stated in this Council that the commissions should act, I do not know how the Honorable Chairman had interpreted the statement made by the Governor. I have not seen any commission appointed by the Council; I heard that the Municipal Committee has elected commissions,

but I do not know who they are. I myself was appointed a member for the Leper Asylum, but I do not know who the others are. The Grand Sire of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Denmark has asked questions, I do not know how to call a meeting so as to get the desired information; therefore I cannot give any opinion. I cannot see how a commission like that should be done away with.

I heard that a case brought by the Chief of the Sanitary Department was dismissed in the Police Court because the parties who met were not lawyers, and that the Judge was complained to the Government; if that is true it is ridiculous; if it could be that a man when not satisfied with the judgement of a court and he could complain the judge and have the Governor interfere where would we be? That would be intimidation. Every man holds up his hand to the decree of the Judiciary Department, a judge may err, but no one to complain to except the Appellate Court. I have much more to say, but I think I have said enough. What I am against most is the action of the Sanitary Department. One of the former chiefs of that department had the idea that all closets should be screened, very well, the poor people did it; had some money saved up from their house rent, denying themselves necessities; another official succeeded the former official and he had the screens covered and ordered a flue, and so it goes with the changes of the different officers, no one knows if what he is ordered to do today will not be counter-ordered tomorrow.

To be continued.

LOCAL.

The S. S. Parima from New York arrived at St. Thomas at 11 o'clock last night according to advice published by the Cable Office here. At that rate she is not looked for in Frederiksted before some time today.

A TRIBUTE TO DON JUAN RIVERA.

The Procession by the children of the various schools in Christiansted on Feb. 22nd in honour of Washington's Birthday, was a marked success. Their attire and behavior throughout the entire demonstration was pleasing; the bandstand, from which an eloquent address by Revd. Father Fields, visiting pastor to the Episcopal Church was delivered, was tastily decorated; the patriotic songs by the children accompanied by the U. S. Navy Band was real inspiring; but above all and foremost of all, was a picture painting of the Father of the U. S. done by the hand of Mr. John Rivera of Porto Rico, Spanish Teacher at the Christiansted High School. The picture was a masterly achievement, judging from famous paintings of this Great Man, and

the voices raised in appreciation to the work were almost unanimous. That noble head which every true American adores was crowned by a symbolic Eagle made by the same hand, and could not fail to draw deep emotion from those who saw and listened at the same time to the exemplary qualities, of Washington, depicted by the Speaker. Mr. Rivera did not fail to remember the cherries, two of which were neatly done in a corner of the picture.

Very many believed that the picture was ordered from the U. S. for the occasion, but it was the interest of Mr. Rivera in his vocation (the school) backed by genius and love of art, that inspired the artist, and the picture was accomplished in a few hours.

Mr. Rivera has made many friends in Christiansted, by his genial and unassuming disposition. He also carves in wood, he is a taxidermist of quality, and an accomplished musician. He performs on the Flute, Violin and Clarinet. The tonal production and execution in the last named instrument cannot be surpassed by any now living in this Island Mr Rivera is also sincere and the Director of Schools is to be congratulated in securing such an able worker for Christiansted. Just to sight his sincerity. On a recent visit to his home, Mr. Rivera was offered a first class position in one of the large schools, with every convenience and inducement that a worker could desire, with his family and relatives at hand but refusing to break his engagement in this island denied himself the opportunity. He exhibits a keen interest in his scholars, (allow me also to add, that, the other teachers, at the High School two American young ladies, also show marked interest in the scholars, and are very much loved by them) and parents can place all confidence through him in the success of their children.

Let us hope that Mr. Rivera's good work among the children of this generation; may bear abundant fruit, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

D.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

San Juan, P. R., Feb. 24th.—Second death occurred among the four cases first reported and another fresh case has been discovered in Puerta de Tierra and declared to be plague. Dr Rolla B. Hill of the Rockefeller Foundation is in charge of the rat killing campaign which is being waged on a large scale. Warehouses and provision stores being sealed and fumigated. Infected rats have been found in various widely separated parts of San Juan.

Havana, Feb. 23rd.—The Australian Govt. is making extensive purchases of Cuban sugar which is being shipped from various ports. It is reported that one million sacks of sugar have been contracted for.