

Saturday the 12th., by executive proclamation declared a public holiday, was very quietly observed, most places of business being opened in the morning hours and in the evening. The post office was opened all day for the reason, as explained to us, that owing to the uncertainty in arrival of the week-end mail it was impracticable to fix beforehand any limited time of service that would meet the convenience of the general public.

The motor schooner "Mystery" arrived at Frederiksted Friday night and sailed again the following evening. She did not bring nor carry mail as our contemporaries announced she would, and it is ascertained that she has not been awarded a mail contract as advertised by Mr. Ramsay. In answer to our special request for information in this matter, Mr. Larsen, Postmaster, here writes us: "There is nothing definite regarding the Mystery. Her owners have submitted bid for contract but no advice has been received from the Post Office Department. Information published claiming contract, and representing change in schedule of sailings between Porto Rico and St. Croix, and in regard to closing of the mails, by which the public has been misled and confused, is unauthorized and should be disregarded. Notice concerning matters affecting the postal service of immediate interest to the public will always be issued through official channels. In this connection attention is invited to the provisions of Section 1711 of the Postal Laws and Regulations reading as follows: 'It shall be unlawful *** to give notice, by publishing in any newspaper or otherwise, that any steamboat or other vessel, or any car, stage-coach, vehicle, or other conveyance, is used for carrying the mail when the same is not actually so used; and every person who shall violate, and every owner, receiver, lessee, or managing operator thereof, who shall cause, suffer, or permit the violation of any provision of this section shall be liable and shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.' I have just received from the Department bulletin advertisements for power boat service between San Juan and Christiansted via St. Thomas, which indicates that no action in the matter of awarding contract will be taken until after the date limit for receiving bids therefor, -March 1st."

The Pocahontus arrived at Frederiksted by yesterday morning and landed a large mail from the States and Porto Rico a part of the Christiansted's portion of which was received here at noon and delivered between 3.30 and 4.30 p. m.

Readers and patrons of the theatre

will note that a new serial will be shown there this evening. This is the thrilling production which it had been necessary to postpone. Be sure to see the first parts of this film.

We learn with much pleasure of the receipt by last arrival of the S. S. Guiana of a complete set of new instruments for the Native Brass Band of this town. For some time the lack of good instruments has been a great drawback to this popular and persevering organization which is the oldest of its kind now in the island, and this accounts for the less frequent appearance of the band lately. We are sure everybody will join in congratulating Mr. Fred. C. Jackson, Jr., leader of the Native Brass Band on the fulfilment of this much desired aim to equip his men with instruments that will enable them to win credit for their tuition, and do justice to their own talent.

It is requested mentioned that owing to the reduction in the price of fresh fish the fishermen in this town purpose going on strike and enlisting similar action by their colleagues in Frederiksted it being their argument that all the articles required for their business remain at the same high prices. We have been informed that the reduction as passed by the Food Commission at its last meeting, was based upon the increased value of the local dollar the exchange which was 16 per cent when the former prices were arranged, being now only 7; also that the prices of nearly all articles of food imported to the island have gone down considerably, thereby reducing the cost of living in general. We trust the matter will be soon settled satisfactorily to all concerned.

The Marines' and Sailors' Service Club has very generously given half the proceeds from its recent dance to the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Red Cross. It has been requested that the amount be retained in the local treasury to meet emergency needs. This action on the part of the Service Club indicates a genuine interest in local welfare.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

Copenhagen, Feb. 8th.—Denmark is watching with fear the result of the German election of February 20th, anticipating this date may be the occasion for the counter-revolution, which the former Kaiser is planning and which would probably mean to Denmark the loss again of these border provinces which Germany once before seized and which were returned only by the Versailles Treaty. News from Germany is not reassuring to these Danes, who seek peace. In East Prussia all

preparations have been made for a wholesale rising, while the Hohenzollern propaganda is spreading throughout the entire Empire. Wilhelm is reported to be hurling the millions allowed him by the German Republic, back into Germany to buy its downfall. The weakness of the present Govt. in the face of the threatened Bolshevik revolution is driving many persons who are not really sympathetic to the Hohenzollern revolution into its camp. Germany feels the need of a strong executive and Wilhelm's adherents are recalling his record as an administrator before the war as the chief argument for his return.

Toronto, Feby. 8th.—In a letter received from Mr. Gibbs, Secretary of the Mission of Shanghai, China, by Mr. Brownlee, Secretary of the China island of this city, it is stated that in the recent earthquake in China whole towns were swallowed, hills collapsed, big valleys opened up and engulfed hundreds of human beings, black water rushed from the ground and a whole caravan of camels disappeared in the earth's opening. Mission property suffered considerably, according to Mr. Gibbs' letter, but so far as was known, all the Missionaries were saved.

The Hague, Feby. 9th.—The Foreign Minister today announced that Holland had agreed to the section of the Versailles treaty concerning the navigation of the Rhine, and that the Allied protocol had been signed in Paris.

London, Feby. 9th. A Johannesburg cable says that at 1 a. m. this morning the returns showed that the South African party had selected 38 candidates, the Nationalists 5, the Labour Party 8, and the Constitutional Democrats 1. General Smuts has been returned for Pretoria, west, by a big majority. The feature of the result is the collapse of the labour party, which lost eleven seats. Apparently the Labour Party will only have 8 members in the new assembly against 21 in the last house. Working men voted against the secession issue raised by General Hertzog, and did not pay much attention to sectional issues raised by Labour leaders.

AUCTION.

ON the 15th day of February 1921, at 3 p. m. there will be sold at Public Auction in the Police Stable yard at Frederiksted

A DONKEY

impounded on Estate Mt. Pleasant on the 25th day of January 1921.

Frederiksted Police Office, February 9th 1921.

F. COULTER.
Director of Police.