

Croix in its investigation of the cost of production of sugar.

The Act of March 3, 1917, places a flat eight dollar tax per short ton of sugar exported from the Virgin Islands, in lieu of the Export duty which obtained prior to the change of sovereignty. The President of the United States has authority under the Tariff Law to set, within certain limits, the import duty on sugar from foreign countries into the United States, and the important factor in this determination, is the cost of production of sugar within the United States, both Continental and Insular.

It is the impression that this flat rate of eight dollars per short ton is too high and places St. Croix at a disadvantage with its competitors, and therefore an investigation by the Tariff Commission would be advisable as a means of either determining that this tax is not unduly high, or, if the contrary is found to be the case, it could lead to new legislation designed to lower or remove it.

(6) That the Congress be requested to define the citizenship status of the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands.

The Treaty of Cession whereby the United States acquired the Virgin Islands from Denmark contain the following provision:

"Article 6. Danish citizens residing in said islands may remain therein or may remove therefrom at will, retaining in either event all their rights of property, including the right to sell or dispose of such property or its proceeds; in case they remain in the Islands, they shall continue until otherwise provided, to enjoy all the private, municipal and religious rights and liberties secured to them by the laws now in force. If the present laws are altered, the said inhabitants shall not thereby be placed in a less favorable position in respect to the above mentioned rights and liberties than they now enjoy. Those who remain in the islands may preserve their citizenship in Denmark by making before a court of record, within one year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this convention, a declaration of their decision to preserve such citizenship; in default of which declaration they shall be held to have renounced it and to have accepted citizenship in the United States; for children under eighteen years the said declaration may be made by their parents or guardians. Such election of Danish citizenship shall however not, after a lapse of the said term of one year, be a bar to their renunciation of their preserved Danish citizenship and their election of citizenship in the United States and admission to the nationality thereof on the same terms as may be provided according to the laws of the United States, for other inhabitants of the islands. The civil rights and the poli-

tical status of the inhabitants of the islands shall be determined by the Congress, subject to the stipulations contained in the present convention. Danish citizens not residing in the islands but owning property therein at the time of the session, shall retain their rights of property, including the right to sell or dispose of such property, being placed in this regard on the same basis as the Danish citizens residing in the islands and remaining therein or removing therefrom, to whom the first paragraph of this article relates."

The foregoing provision of the Treaty was generally understood by the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands, as intended to confer full United States citizenship rights upon those who did not exercise their right to retain their Danish citizenship. Subsequently, the Department of State held that, as in the case of Porto Rico, a specific declaration of the intent of Congress was necessary to confer full citizenship upon the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands, so that, as the matter now stands, they are citizens of neither Denmark or the United States. This situation causes much annoyance to the people of the Virgin Islands when they desire to travel either to the United States or to foreign countries by reason of the uncertainty, generally, as to their individual civil status with relation to the United States, and furthermore, they feel that they are discriminated against through the fact that, while they were full citizens of Denmark prior to the transfer, they are not now full citizens of the United States.

To be continued.

LOCAL

The s. s. "Guiana" for New York is due at Frederiksted on Tuesday at 7 a. m. instead of Monday morning.

The s. s. "Catherine" is due today on schedule time, having 4 tons of cargo for this island.

It is advised that a mail for New York will be closed for the s. s. Guiana on Monday 18th instant at 4 p. m.

As regards the closing of registered mail tomorrow morning, it is requested made known that this refers only to registered mail for St. Thomas and Porto Rico as the registered mail for New York will be closed today at 4.00 p. m. since the mail by the s. s. Guiana will reach New York about the same time as that via San Juan.

TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, Feb. 12th.—The difficulty of obtaining an adequate supply of officers,

for army is increasing. The causes which appear to have operated in diminishing the number of candidates are set forth by the committee appointed to consider the education and training of army officers in their report just issued. These include frequent moves of regiments unpopularity of service in India, recent cuts in establishments involving compulsory retirement of officers, reduction of pay to be effective in 1924 the reaction after the war, heavy fees at the military colleges and the fact that some teachers are definitely anti-militarist and recommend their best boys not to take up a military career.

London, Feb. 12th.—The next four days will see an intense struggle to prevent the most disastrous strike which has threatened Britain for many years past. The Government is certainly doing its utmost to bring about peace in a situation which, however, has grown suddenly more serious since the definite and uncompromising refusal of the dockers to accept the offer made by the employers. The Government realizes that there is considerable justice in the claim of the employers that an increase of two shillings in the daily wage of the dockers would mean that British ports will be unable to compete with those of the Continent, where the cost of handling cargoes is very low. Every possible pressure is being brought to bear to get the two parties together, when it will be possible to formulate other proposals which in turn may be submitted to the Minister of Labour. Labour claims that the trouble has arisen largely through the fact that shipping companies paid dividends of nine percent on their share capital last year and they further claim that this should be increased in as much as a large amount it was paid on watered stock. The companies on the other hand maintain that these figures are misleading and that the actual dividend were at least two points lower than the figure claimed by the strikers.

Rome, Feb. 13th.—Count Giovanni Masnani, the newly appointed Ambassador to represent Italy at Moscow, left for the Capital last night. He is a trained diplomat, and entered the diplomatic service in 1913.

Paris, Feb. 13th.—A new airplane service between Toulouse, France and Dakar, West Africa, is to be started in April. Working in conjunction with the steamship lines, it will shorten the time for transmission of mails between Europe, South Africa and South America by nine days. The service will be carried out by sixty planes, a like number being held in reserve.

London, Feb. 13th.—A football referee was lynched at Lugano, Italy, according to a Central News despatch from Geneva, for giving a decision unfavourable to the League team. The despatch states that the crowd rushed on to the field, seized the referee and did him to death.