



THE BEACON

An Independent Anguillian News Sheet. Published Weekly.
Saturday, November 18th 1967. Price 10 cents.
Editor Atlin Harrigan.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT ANGUILLA. Mr Stuart Roberts, the British Representative in the West Indies Associated States, who is on a three day visit to Anguilla, was invited to attend a special meeting of the Council, held today (16th) under the Presidency of Mr Ronald Webster.

Mr Roberts told the Council that, in agreement with the Government of St Kitts, provisional arrangements had been made for a small delegation of Two British Members of Parliament to visit Anguilla, in order to discuss and explore with the people of the island the present constitutional difficulties.

The delegation would travel direct from the United Kingdom. They would arrive on December 3rd, and would be ready to stay for about a fortnight. They would be accompanied by a small secretarial team which would arrive on November 30th.

After considering these proposals, the Council asked Mr Roberts to let the British Government know that such a delegation would be made very welcome.

The members of Parliament who have agreed to serve on the delegation are:- Mr Donald Chapman, and Mr Nigel Fisher. Both are authorities on West Indian affairs. Mr Fisher is a former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

EDITORIAL. We have yielded pride of place to the foregoing announcement, because of its importance, and because we wish to comment on it. Since our Declaration of Independence at the end of May, we have had many visitors, notably Press Correspondents, David Smithers, Ronald Bachelor, Colin Rickard, all of whom have shown a true picture of Anguilla's needs and aspirations, and have attracted the sympathy of the world to our cause. Apart from them, the only people who came to our aid and took a real interest in our welfare were Americans. The San Francisco Group, with their high ideals did much to help us and would have done more. We are most grateful to them, and if for the time we have parted company, we will always remember the time and energy and ingenuity they spent over our affairs. It was from America that we got our Legal Advisers, Dr Fisher, who has guided us and protected us from many dangers over the last few months. It is from charitable trusts based on the U S A that we have received and are receiving substantial help especially for the hospital. It is from the people of St Thomas that we have received hard cash to tide us over difficult months. In Britain we are told that we have much support and we know that certain M.P.'s have espoused our cause, but up to now we have had no tangible evidence that Britain was going to do anything, or even care.

We therefore welcome this Parliamentary Commission that is visiting us next month, and we are particularly pleased that they are not coming with "take-it-or-leave-it" proposals, but are "prepared to discuss and explore with the people of Anguilla the present constitutional difficulties".

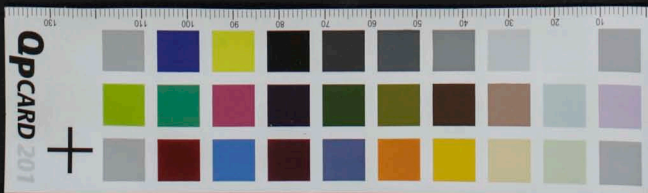
It is important that Anguillans speak with one voice when they come. One thing is certain, we are united in our determination never to become again a colony of St Kitts. But where do we go from there? There have been two suggestions in recent issues of this paper, One in an article entitled, "What do we want, where are we going", the other in the Editorial of last week. Both agree in the appointment of an Administrator which would give some immediate recognition of our position, and get the Mails, and the Banking facilities, and the Airways working normally. After this the two suggestions begin to diverge. One thinks that after some interim period we should either independently or with some other state, follow some recognised pattern of Commonwealth administration: the other suggests that we break new ground and become some self-supporting Mini-State.

We have much to think about in the next two weeks, and we will do well to remember that when the Delegation comes it will have no easy job, to find some workable scheme by which Anguillian aspirations will be satisfied, and others will not lose face overmuch. We must meet the deputation with the spirit of give-and-take.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

This week a freighter off-loaded some necessary foodstuffs for the island, which will soon be on sale in the shops.

EXCURSION TO ST BARTS. The Lady Zona will make a round trip to St Barts on Christmas Eve, leaving the Forest at 6.0am, and returning the same evening. The Round Trip will cost \$4. (C Reid)



MESSAGE TO MR ROBERT BRADSHAW. The Beacon is grateful to Mr Bradshaw and his Government for the remarkable display of eloquence to which we listened during the public holiday last Tuesday. Eloquence perhaps more suited to a public meeting than the dignified deliberations of the august House of Assembly.

No doubt if the verdict of the trial had been different they would have said "O noble Judge, A Daniel come to judgement". But it was otherwise. We feel that by the broadcast of their deliberations they have convinced the few waverers left in Anguilla, the bulk of right minded people in St Kitts and Nevis, the other States of the Caribbean, the British Government, and the whole world, that the State of St Kitts is not one to which Anguilla can ever be expected to return. Again, in the name of all Anguillians, Thank you, Mr Bradshaw. You have complained that Anguilla has gone against you; you complain that the Peoples Action Movement is against you; you have complained that the press of the world is against you; and you now complain that the Judiciary is against you. We are reminded of the remark of the fond mother, watching a parade of raw army recruits which included her son. "Look, they are all out of step, except our Robert"

CONGRATULATIONS to Milton A Gumbs (Tony) who in Italy recently passed his final medical examinations. He is a former student of the Valley Secondary School

THANKS Mr Clarence Gumbs and daughters wish to convey their sincere thanks and their appreciation to all the relations, friends, and well-wishers of the late Dulcinea Gumbs, for their kindness and expressions of sympathy for their great loss.

A RESIDENT LEGAL ADVISER. We were glad to welcome Dr Fisher this week on a flying visit, when he was able to give us warning of unpleasant sharks in our waters. We realise that we do need the services of a pilot on board the ship of state of Anguilla, to guide us through difficult waters. We are therefore very glad that Dr Fisher has left behind him a lesser legal luminary, Mr Frank Macdonald. Mr Macdonald hopes to be with us for the next six months, and hopes to find a house to live in and to be integrated in the community. He will be at hand to give legal advice to the Government, and attend the meetings of the council. He will also be available for private practice as long as he is here.

CORRESPONDENCE. Sir, Can Anguilla, with its history of periodic droughts, ever develop agriculturally, if we continue to follow the farming methods of our ancestors?

Other parts of the world have improved and increased their productivity by using fertilizers and other chemicals, dry-farming, and irrigation techniques. Have we started to learn a lesson from them? Can we not start to produce poultry and eggs on a modern intensive system, rather than keeping a few hens scratching round the back yard? It is no good just sitting back and saying, We cant grow anything here", when we have not tried the scientific methods which are the only hope for Anguilla. Joseph. R. Payne.

Sir, It has been a privilege to have lived and worked among you, and especially to have been with you in this time of crisis and your struggle for a worthy future for the rising generation in this land of yours.

Let me wish for your land, Peace, Progress, and Prosperity. Let me also hope that you will see yourselves as a part of a larger world, and that you will develop understanding, tolerance, and friendly relations with your neighbours throughout the Caribbean and throughout the world. I would like to thank all those who have been so kind and friendly. Congratulations to the Editor of the BEACON. It is a good thing we have made this humble beginning in Anguilla, and I hope it will develop into something bigger, and have a wider circulation. May God bless you all, and bless your land. Martin C Roberts

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. We have received a poem. Thank you, Poetess. We suggest that other poems be sent in to the BEACON and we will judge them and print the best on some later occasion. As this paper is so small, we must ask the muse to confine herself to not more than twelve lines.

HAIL and FAREWELL. Welcome to the Revd Roy Whyte and Mrs Whyte, who come into residence at the Methodist Manse. Mr and Mrs Whyte are Jamaicans. We hope that they will be as helpful to Anguilla, and as enthusiastic for Christian Unity as was their predecessor, the Revd Martin Roberts.

Farewell to Canon Hicks, who in his old age cared for the Christians at Island Harbour. Even at his age, he does not think of retirement but is taking on the parish of Barbuda.

ROADMENDING. Slowly and surely the stones are being laid down, and the roller presses them firm, and the tar-sprayer follows up. On Sandy Hill, and near Mount Fortune, and (we are told) at Welches road work is proceeding and long stretches of tarmac are appearing. Working under many difficulties, the P W D have almost completed a longer stretch of road, than was done in the previous year.

