

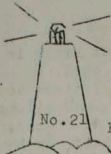
February 17th 1968

THE BEACON

An Independent Anguillian News-Sheet.

Published Weekly. Editor, Atlin Harrigan.

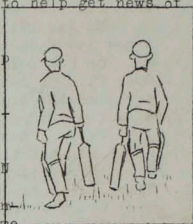
Price 10 cents



EDITORIAL. We have no doubt that Anguillians are grateful for the BEACON, and realise the important part a newspaper can play both inside the community, and in representing the community to the world at large. Moreover if they were given their choice between an Independent Paper like the Democrat in St Kitts, or a Government Paper, like the Labour Spokesman there, we have no doubt which they would prefer.

The BEACON as an independent paper considers its main job to be to publish news about Anguilla, and to give a weekly comment on any matter of the moment in its editorial. A newspaper can also be of assistance to the government, to help get news of the Government's activities to the people; and also a help to the people to give them a medium for expressing their own views. The BEACON is free to criticise the Government if it thinks that the ship of State is off course, or the freedom of the people is at stake. If the Ship gets back on course, the need for criticism ceases.

We still consider that the Government is making it more difficult for us to attain these objects, by refusing to let us know what happens in Council, and to make available the minutes of meetings. Criticism has also been levelled at two people who produce the BEACON each week. Their prominence is due to the fact that the whole weight of production is on their shoulders. No Contributions from the Government, and hardly any letters and articles from the Public. We welcome signed letters and articles from our readers, and in this way can help Anguillians to know their own and each others' minds. So, instead of criticising the BEACON for being a two-man show, help to make it the peoples' paper and let our contributors form a team which will lessen the responsibility of the opening batsmen.



The final recognition of the Independence of Anguilla can only come by putting into reverse gear the machinery that set up the Constitution of the State. According to the interim agreement St Kitts and Anguilla have agreed not to fight each other, but the continued embargo on mail, banking, savings accounts, and the refusal to share out the grant from Britain certainly constitutes a cold war if not an active one.

Anguilla and St Kitts are drawing further apart each day, and we hope that the time will come when they will put to an end the farce, that they are parts of one State.

In the meanwhile, all important decisions rest with H.M.G. We must convince Britain that we are able economically to stand on our own. Very few of the younger States are able to do this, and they receive from H.M.G an annual grant to help them to balance their budget. The penalty for being a rebel is that we have forfeited our claim to this grant. What was intended for Anguilla goes to help St Kitts balance their budget (and dont they need it.!) It may be a long time before justice is done, so meanwhile we have got to balance our budget without help from Britain. Envelopes were given out for voluntary contributions, but this source has dried up, nor is it the right way to get recurrent income. The only way to balance our budget is by increase in taxation

We call on the Government to drop down heavily on all tax dodgers who ever they may be. For instance we are told that certain boats offload at Rendezvous without calling at a Customs Port. All citizens must consider it their duty to pay taxes. There is the danger that higher taxation will increase the cost of living. This might be offset if the Government would put into operation the scheme mentioned in our issue No 16, of Jan: 13th, advocating the setting up of a wholesale distributor. This would help bulk ordering, and reduce prices all round. If this were put into operation then the Government would be able to give us a realistic taxation scheme. The sooner that we get a sound method of taxation, the better, and so relieve the financial pressure that rests largely on the shoulders of one man.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BRISK. Our readers may remember that at the turn of the year a few students were living down at the Forest studying Anguilla. They were from the Inter American University of San German, Puerto Rico. Their leader Bill Brisk is back here this week and was interviewed by our reporter. He said that there will be a Conference in Puerto Rico on March 18th & 19th, on "Anguilla, a significant Caribbean Revolution". The students who stayed here, Miss Edith Peters of Guyana, Douglas Wheatley of Tortola, Charles Sheldon of U.S.A, and Chee Peck Kiat of Malaysia, will read papers. Mr Ronald Webster will be invited to speak on "What is Anguilla?" Mr Atlin Harrigan will speak on "A Revolutionary looks on his Revolution." Mr Brisk assures us that interest in Anguilla is very high at his University, and all are looking forward to this Conference.

Mr Brisk also brought with him a carefully thought out Report to the Council and the Treasurer, with suggestions how to help with Anguilla's Budget System.

Thank you Mr Brisk. We need all the advice and help we can get, and we hope that the Council will make full use of your advice, and not scorn outside help.



STAMPS. The most urgent matter facing Anguilla after her break with St Kitts in May 1967 was the restoration of the mail-service which had also been broken.

For a time we sold French and Dutch and American Stamps, and sent our letters to St Martin or St Thomas. Later the U.S Postal Services came to our aid, and allowed us to send mail stamped with the S Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla stamps through St Thomas.

By August we were running short of stamps, and the firm of John Lister in London came to our rescue, by bringing fresh supplies of the old stamps from the Crown Agents in London, and by taking them, together with the balance of the stamps in the post-office in Anguilla, to a private printer in St Thomas. There under the strictest supervision these stamps were overprinted "Independent Anguilla". Photographs were taken of the printing, and the destruction of the dies, and a full account of the venture was sent to the Universal Postal Union, for their approval. The limited issue of overprinted stamps was put on sale in the post office, and great care taken that they were only sold for genuine immediate postal use. A contract was signed between John Listers and the Anguillan Government to their mutual advantage.

On Nov 27th the few remaining stamps of the overprint issue were withdrawn, and a new issue consisting of:- 5c; 10c; 20c; 25c; 40c; was put on sale.

On Feb 10th a further installment of the issue came out, namely, 3c; 4c; 15c; 60c; \$1. \$5. leaving three more to complete the set, which three should be ready in three months time, and bear pictures of Birds or Sloops or Fish. A commemorative issue of a few stamps is contemplated for Christmas.

Because of the very limited number of stamps overprinted, and because we had kept strictly to the rules, and had only allowed stamps to be sold for immediate use, these Independent Anguilla stamps have caused one of the biggest sensations the Stamp world has ever known. Prices at which these stamps are offered in London are many times their weight in gold. For example, one 1/2c stamps costs \$12; 1c, \$10; 2c, \$7. 25c, \$15; 50c, \$200, \$5. \$190. Half sets to 25c \$100; Complete sets \$1000. These are samples of the sellers price, if you had stamps in perfect condition to sell to the dealers you might get 75% of these prices.

This has been a fantastic advertisement for Anguilla, and we are ensured of a regular sale of our new stamps to a very much larger public than ever before. Our sale of stamps at Anguilla Post Office may average \$5000 a month, but for every stamp sold in Anguilla, five are sold by our agents in London, and in January some 30,000 stamps were sold in London. Anguilla receives 85% of all the London sales. This means that apart from an occasional bumper month, we should receive from the sale of our stamps a very considerable increase to our budget, regularly, each month.

The Reaction of St Kitts to our postal ventures is interesting. First, all mail addressed to Anguilla was held up from May 30th to Dec 20th, because "there was no responsible person in Anguilla to receive it!" When they heard of the overprinted stamps, and the aid that St Thomas were giving us the St Kitts Government protested to London, asking them to hold up all mail to Anguilla and to take action about the stamps. Apparently no action was taken in London for two months. By chance, in December, the Rector received a letter to say that all letters addressed to Anguilla were being returned by the G.P.O. to the sender. The same day the Parliamentary Delegation were due to leave Anguilla, and when informed of this immediately sent cables to England asking them not to interfere with Anguilla's mail.

So we are back to normal, with a fine set of stamps, and a regular income therefrom, with a fortune awaiting those who have any "Independent Anguilla" stamps; a place in the Stamp Catalogues, and a story that will go down in stamp history. Unfortunately the surface mail is still being held up in St Kitts, and there has been no delivery since before Christmas. If all mail from Anguilla bearing the "offending" stamp is being confiscated in St Kitts, that is their loss, not ours.

ADVERTISEMENTS. ALBERT'S DEPT., the Quarter, Anguilla, wish to inform the general public that they are the Distributors for the undermentioned items:- Ovaltine Products, xxx Jamaica Orange & Grapefruit Juices xxx Superlusta, Rex, Supercoate Oil & Water paints, xxx I.C.I. Mobel Paints, xxx Woolsey Copper Paint, xxx Handy Angle Steel Shelves, etc, xxx Philipps Radios, xxx Philipps Batteries, xxx West Ben Outboard Motors, xxx Humber Bicycles, xxx Atlas Products, xxx Triplex Gas Ranges, xxx Italian Style Beach Wood Furniture XXX If you dont see what you want ask for it.

Grand Dance "Tropical Flower on Sat Feb 17th; Admission Gents; \$1.00 Ladies 50c, Music by Blue Diamond Steel Band.

Gas Stoves & Gas Cylinders Best prices in Caribbean. All sizes in stock, but the same old prices.. See Collins Hodge, Our Man about Town. (inserted by EXPAN)

Dr Defrietas will be in attendence at Admistration buildings on Sat Feb: 17th to test your eyes and prescribe for glasses if needed

WARNING. Mr Clifford Rogers, Manager of the local Bank warns the public that any Dutch Guilder Notes, bearing a date before 1962, are no longer legal tender. So examine any guilder note that comes to you.

HOPE. That the expired postal orders are being honoured this week at Antigua and that Mr John Webster will pay out the money early next week.

