

THE WINDWARD ISLANDS' OPINION

Is published every Saturday - It was established by J.H. Lake, Sr. on July 1, 1959 as a means of helping to improve the social, economic, educational and political conditions of the Windward Islands by advocating against the cause of injustice and oppression.

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Printers: The People's Printery  
Tamarindesteeg No. 8  
Philipsburg.

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leave Philipsburg harbour at 6 p.m. the same day.

SURF = EXTRA MILD TO YOUR HANDS

We welcome the Gripsholm to St. Maarten, and appeal to all to do their bit in making the stay of those aboard as enjoyable as possible.

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EVINRUDE means SERVICE

EDITORIALSMORE CLASS ROOMS NEEDED

During the past 6 weeks two undesirable incidents occurred at the St. Joseph School in Philipsburg. In both cases it was a matter of a teacher kicking a student and in both cases the matter was reported to the School Authorities who strongly reprimanded the teachers concerned and gave the assurance that there would be no recurrence of the undesirable incidents.

The teachers in question were very wrong to kick the students (in both cases the student was a boy) and we are not trying to make any excuse for this kind of action which should never have happened.

We feel however that the Community should know of the condition which exist at the school; and which in our opinion, might have been in a way partly responsible for the teachers' actions.

Most of the classrooms of all the schools here are overcrowded because of the lack of enough classrooms to accommodate our rapidly growing school population. In some cases there are as many as 52 children in one classroom. Sometimes about half of the students in a class (from the 5 grade upward) are not suited for the class. These children because of the lack of a Trade-school for boys and a Domestic school for girls are forced against their will and ability to follow a course of education for which they are not suited, and so they are unhappy.

The teachers because of this are faced with the problem of seeing children who can learn kept back by others who cannot learn. As human beings they sometimes (as a result of the above) feel themselves frustrated, and because of this frustration sometimes act in an undesirable manner.

The Administration spends large sums of money for education each year (1962 fls. 298.438 and 1963 fls. 435.895) It is our opinion however that:

(1) Efforts should be made to do something about the overcrowded classrooms by having new schools built as soon as possible.

(2) Efforts should be made to build a Trade-school for boys and a Domestic-school for girls. This would give the youth of this community a choice between the MULO and the Trade or Domestic school.