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LIFE IN ST. LUCIA

100 YEARS AGO (1895)

Compiled by

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The year 1895 started with the release from prison of all but three of the "Westies" (soldiers of the West India Regiment) who had been involved in a fracas at Castries, with some British soldiers on Christmas day, a week earlier.

Representative government was occupying the attention of thinking St.Lucians, led by Robert Mchugh, editor of the newspaper, Voice of St.Lucia. He had been agitating for greater involvement of St.Lucians in the decision making process, ever since Federation of the West Indies was first proposed in 1885.

A tense situation between the coal carriers and the three coaling companies, Barnard, Sons & Company, Minvielle & Chastanet and Peter & Company, was quietly resolved when most of the carriers' demands for improved conditions were met. A similar labour disturbance was also resolved amicably at the Dennerly Sugar Factory.

John Grey, curator of the Botanic Gardens died. This led to complaints that the Gardens were being neglected and were turning to weeds. Two other notable St.Lucians died during the year. They were Alexander Myers at Soufrière and Sinclair S. Gordon at Castries.

Plans for a Naval Dock at la Toc were received by the military and made public. Queen's Chain at la Toc and Vigie were acquired for military purposes.

Preparations were being made throughout January to host the first Test Cricket Matches ever held in St.Lucia. Results: England 148 vs St.Lucia 94.

One person died at Soufrière from Manioc poisoning, five others had to be hospitalized.

Illnesses and a death among the military personnel stationed at la Toc caused several Yellow Fever scares and this led to much debate about the dreaded disease.

A small fire in Castries at the corner of Victoria and Broglie streets led to an agreement to establish a Fire Brigade for the town.

In an effort to stimulate the depressed economy, a commission was established to study the feasibility of bringing Barbadian emigrants to St.Lucia.

