

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WOMEN'S BUREAU

Bulletin No. 142

THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE
WOMEN OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary

WOMEN'S BUREAU

MARY ANDERSON, Director



PROBLEMS OF THE
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
THE UNITED STATES

BY
ETHEL L. BEST



Publication of the Women's Bureau, No. 142

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1936

CONTENTS

Letter of transmittal.....	v
Introduction.....	1
The islands.....	1
Geographic location.....	1
Topography.....	1
History of the islands.....	2
The inhabitants.....	2
Color, natlvity, and sex.....	3
Economic conditions.....	3
Economic position of women.....	5
St. Thomas.....	5
Present employment opportunities.....	5
Earnings.....	7
Hours.....	11
St. Croix.....	11
Present employment opportunities.....	11
Earnings.....	14
Hours.....	16
St. John.....	16
Present employment opportunities.....	16
Living habits and costs.....	17
Housing.....	17
Homesteading.....	19
Fuel.....	20
Clothing.....	20
Food.....	21
Suggested work, training, and educational projects for women.....	22

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
WOMEN'S BUREAU,
Washington, June 4, 1936.

MADAM: I have the honor to transmit a report of a survey made by the Women's Bureau of the present economic condition of women and their opportunities for work in the Virgin Islands. Every assistance in obtaining information was furnished by the Governor of the islands and his associates, and without their helpful guidance and advice this survey could not have been made. The bulletins of the Navy and the Interior Departments were freely used for general background in this report.

The survey was made and the report written by Ethel L. Best, industrial supervisor.

Respectfully submitted.

MARY ANDERSON, *Director.*

HON. FRANCES PERKINS,
Secretary of Labor.