

REPORT

OF

THE AGENT

OF THE

INDIANA COLONIZATION SOCIETY,

SHOWING THE

OPERATIONS OF SAID AGENCY DURING THE YEAR 1852,

IN ANSWER TO A

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE.

INDIANAPOLIS:

J. P. CHAPMAN, STATE PRINTER,
1853.

SENATE CHAMBER,
INDIANAPOLIS, January 14, 1853. }

REV. JAMES MITCHELL,

Agent of the Indiana Colonization Society.

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit to you the following enclosed resolution adopted by the Senate, this day, to which an early reply is respectfully requested.

Resolved, That the Agent of the Indiana Colonization Society, be requested at as early a day as practicable, to furnish the Senate a statement in relation to the operations of said agency during the year, 1852, the amount of money that has been expended out of the State Treasury for said objects, the number of colored persons, if any, that have signified a willingness to emigrate to Liberia, and all facts in his possession in relation to said population within this State.

Adopted by the Senate, January 14, 1853.

GEO. L. SITES,
Secretary of Senate.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 29, 1853.

HON. A. P. WILLARD.

President of the Senate.

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to submit the following statement, in answer to the foregoing resolution of inquiry adopted by your body on the 14th instant, requiring an exhibit of the state of the colonization enterprise.

Yours, with respect,

J. MITCHELL.

REPORT.

To the President and members of the Senate of the State of Indiana:

GENTLEMEN: We respectfully submit a brief answer to your resolution of inquiry communicated by your Secretary on the 14th instant, in regard to the operation of the colonization agency of Indiana, the amount paid out of the State Treasury for the work of colonization, and the number of colored persons who have emigrated from our State during the year 1852, together with the disposition of our colored people to emigrate.

There has been no regularly organized agency in this State during the year 1852, owing to the fact that our old State society has been disbanded, and the whole interests of the enterprise placed at the disposal of the State and under her management.

As to the amount expended out of the appropriation for 1852, nothing has been expended. Part of the sum appropriated is designed for the purchase of land in Liberia, and as the negotiations in regard thereto are not yet completed, that part of the funds remains untouched in the treasury. The remnant designed to aid emigrants, cannot be drawn from the treasury until the appropriation law is in force—this delay has been unfortunate, for many emigrants are now ready to go out, so soon as the necessary means can be furnished.

It is with pleasure we state the number of applicants for transportation is increasing; but the check given, because of the unpublished state of the appropriation law has been somewhat injurious to our cause, from which embarrassments, we pray that your action will relieve the enterprise.

We would respectfully suggest a slight change in your colonization policy founded on the observations of last year. It is indispensably necessary to the vigor of the enterprise, that the State Board be empowered and required to appoint an agent to carry out the objects of its creation. It is necessary that such an agency be provided by the legislative department, for the following reason.

It is too often the case that the laudable expenditures of an existing administration are made the subjects of unjust animadversion by the opposition—hence, the disposition to guard against

this danger—and in doing so, retrenchment takes place where the people require no such retrenchment; and necessary offices and benevolent institutions are the first sufferers.

In this light we respectfully ask you to assume the responsibility of creating a permanent office, having for its object the interests of colonization, and sustained by a small salary of, say ——— dollars per annum. For a year or so this office should be filled by an officer empowered to organize the work in the State. But subsequently sound policy will require that the salary you appropriate to its support, should be used to sustain a colored agency, filled by a man of color devoted to the separation of the races, and colonization in Africa. Such an agency will do more to produce emigration than any other or all other measures of policy that you can adopt, and will be of tenfold more advantage to our enterprise than the small sum required to sustain it. Nor will it be out of place to state, that several energetic men of color are now ready to enter on such a work—in which event the whole case will assume the character of an agreement between the white and colored inhabitants of Indiana, to quietly and amicably separate—the more fortunate and stronger race, aiding the weaker and less fortunate.

When our enterprise arrives at this stage, Indiana will present a noble spectacle and bright example to the sister States now covered with a portentous political gloom—and her measures on the negro question, like consecrations of light—will flash up and over our gloomy political horizon, showing others the way of security.

Or should not the State wish to assume the control of those necessary agencies, she can require the old Board of Colonization to reorganize, and give them the power to aid the State officers by counsel and otherwise, and thus a union of the two bodies would give greater stability to your policy, and a promise of greater energy. The old association is composed of the best of men, and their long experience will be a warrant for the wisdom of their action; to such a Board thus composed, you may leave the mode of expending your appropriation, employing an agent, etc., requiring a regular report on the subject.

Humanity, as well as the reputation of your State, demand benevolent measures in regard to your colored inhabitants: and undoubtedly Indiana will be infinitely the gainer by such, for with her well digested *separation policy* firmly based on the rights of races, she can calmly and securely rear her head above the yet distant, but surely pending storm; the conjuring spirit of which is the demon of slavery—and in the midst of future agitation she will be prepared to meet all the possible forms of that strife, for she will present alike a brazen and unbroken front on her north-east border, to that crude and thoughtless benevolence which would Africanize a continent, given by Providence to the white races, and the equally unjust aggressions of the South whereby

she would throw off, and force upon a homogenous, peaceful and democratic people, and incompatible and servile race, to disturb the republican institutions of your commonwealth.

In the name of thousands of your fellow-citizens, we thank you for the attention you have given this subject, and close this communication by asking for the present colored inhabitants of Indiana all the rights and privileges that you can possibly render them in view of their gradually forming designs to emigrate; for it should not be forgotten that it is the cultivated and thinking portion of them, who are most disposed to fly from their present depressed state, showing clearly that education refines their feelings and makes an escape from degradation desirable.

I hope the Senate will pardon the brevity of this communication on a subject so important; but for further information on the points connected with it, we refer to the report of last year, found in the Documentary Journal of 1852, in which the following points are discussed, which if the Senate desire, can be revised and published for distribution.

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I should add that the sum appropriated last year, although not drawn from the treasury, is devoted, and such action has been taken on the faith of the law that so soon as we can get authority, we will draw and judiciously expend the whole sum. President Roberts has been directed by the government of this State to draw on it for \$3,000, so soon as the land asked of Liberia has been surveyed and placed to our credit. As to the remaining \$2,000, it likewise has been devoted by promise to the persons who have placed themselves on the emigration list.

A word may not be out of place in regard to the general feeling

of the people of the State on the subject of your colonization policy. It is not saying too much to remark, that your separation policy gives general satisfaction, and an attempt to unsettle it or change its essential character will be the cause of restlessness and general displeasure; a thing, however, which we do not apprehend, for your action has shown that your State benevolence consists, not alone in word, but in deed.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES MITCHELL.

Indianapolis January 29, 1853.

APPENDIX.

THE SEPARATION POLICY OF INDIANA AS DISCLOSED IN HER PUBLIC ACTS.
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION.

ARTICLE XIII.

NEGROES AND MULATTOES.

SECTION 1. No Negro or Mulatto shall come into, or settle in, the State, after the adoption of this Constitution.

SEC. 2. All contracts made with any Negro or Mulatto coming into the State, contrary to the provision of the foregoing section, shall be void; and any person, who shall employ such Negro or Mulatto, or otherwise encourage him to remain in the State, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars.

SEC. 3. All fines which may be collected for a violation of the provisions of this article, or of any law which may hereafter be passed for the purpose of carrying the same into execution, shall be set apart and appropriated for the colonization of such Negroes and Mulattoes, and their descendants, as may be in the State at the adoption of this Constitution, and may be willing to emigrate.

SEC. 4. The General Assembly shall pass laws to carry out the provisions of this article.

Thirteenth. At the time of submitting this Constitution to the electors for their approval or disapproval, the article numbered thirteen, in relation to Negroes and Mulattoes, shall be submitted as a distinct proposition, in the following form: "Exclusion and Colonization of Negroes and Mulattoes," "Aye" or "No." And if a majority of the votes cast shall be in favor of said article, then the same shall form a part of this Constitution; otherwise, it shall be void, and form no part thereof.

Extract from the Address of the Constitutional Convention on the subject.

That all fines collected for any breach of this article shall be ap-
B.—52.

plied to the colonization of so many of the Negroes and Mulattoes now in this State, as may desire to emigrate.

As to any further provision for colonization, it is left to future legislation. A majority of the Convention were of opinion that the true interest alike of the white citizens of this State and of its colored inhabitants, demand the ultimate separation of the races; and that, as the negro cannot obtain, among us, equal social and political rights, it is greatly to be desired that he should find a free home in other lands, where public opinion imposes upon color neither social disabilities nor political disfranchisement.

No additional disability, not found in the old Constitution, is imposed by the new, on Negroes or Mulattoes, or their descendants, who may be in the State at the time of the adoption of the amended Constitution.

The above constitutional provision was adopted by a larger majority than that given to the rest of the Constitution; the unprecedented majority being 91,955 for the separate article.

A JOINT RESOLUTION on the subject of the Slave Trade, and for the purpose of Colonization.

[APPROVED MARCH 4, 1852.]

WHEREAS, Considerations of philanthropy and patriotism alike demand an earnest effort to suppress the African Slave trade, so long a reproach to the Christian world, and a base outrage upon an unfortunate race of our fellow-men: AND WHEREAS, The praiseworthy efforts heretofore employed for that purpose have proved ineffectual: Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that some other and more efficient policy should be adopted on that subject.

Resolved, further, That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that it is the duty of the Government of the United States of America, as the leading nation of the world, in advancing and maintaining the cause of civil and religious liberty, and ameliorating the unfortunate condition of mankind everywhere, by all proper and lawful means to use the necessary powers to crush effectually this revolting piracy.

Resolved, further, That reason dictates, and experience has shown, that this crime against our race, and the just laws of God, can be more certainly put down than by any plan heretofore tried, by the planting and rearing to maturity and power, colonial States upon the African coast, with republican forms of government, from the free black population of the United States; and that it is the duty of the Congress of the United States, and of the Legislatures

of each of the States of this Union, to enact such laws in harmony with each other, as would promote a general system of colonization not only for the purpose of suppressing the African slave trade, but also to separate, as far as possible, the white and black race upon this continent—by sending off, where they might consent to it, all colored persons in the United States, except those who may be held to service, to such colonial States, without cost, and providing for their comfort there for a reasonable period afterwards; thus making some compensation to an injured race for the wrongs and oppressions of ages, and relieving ourselves from a population which, although among, can never be of us, in social or political rights; and for that cause are at all times liable to become a source of public charge, and of public annoyance in each State where they may reside, and of causing irritation and bad neighborhood in the feelings of the States themselves.

Resolved, further, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their efforts to procure the passage of laws by the Congress of the United States, and that all the sister States of this Union be likewise earnestly requested to co-operate, by similar laws, for the promotion of the foregoing objects.

Resolved, further, That the Governor forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to the Governors of all the States in the Union, and to the heads of the leading Colonization Societies in the United States; and that he be requested to open a correspondence with such Societies, and other persons, within his discretion, who may be devoted to the objects aforesaid, with a view to elicit information generally, upon the subject, and especially to obtain plans best calculated to promote the objects above contemplated. And that he be further requested to lay such information before the General Assembly of this State at its next annual meeting, with such recommendations touching them and the cause of colonization, as to him shall seem advisable.

THE LAW PROVIDING FOR A STATE ORGANIZATION.

AN ACT providing for the Colonization of negroes and mulattoes and their descendants, and appropriating 5,000 dollars therefor, constituting a State Board of Colonization, declaring the duties of said Board, and of State Treasurer and County Treasurers in relation thereto.

[APPROVED APRIL 28, 1852.]

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,* That for the purpose of colonizing negroes, mulattoes, and their descendants, that were residents of this State on the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and shall continue to reside in this State, that the sum of five thousand dollars is appropriated out of the State Treasury for the year one

fined in any sum not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

SEC. 8. This act shall apply only to contracts made with negroes and mulattoes subsequent to the passage of this act.

SEC. 9. Any negro or mulatto who shall come into or settle in this State contrary to, and in violation of the provisions of the constitution, and of the first section of this act, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten, nor more than five hundred dollars.