REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY

OF THE

State Board of Colonization

OF

THE STATE OF INDIANA.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

INDIANAPOLIS:
JOSEPH J. BINGHAM, STATE PRINTER.
1859.
3 D.J.—18.
STATE BOARD OF COLONIZATION.

His Excellency, A. P. WILLARD.
Hon. C. L. DUNHAM, Secretary of State.
Hon. J. W. DODD, Auditor of State.
Rev. JAS. MITCHELL, Secretary of the Board.
REPORT.

To the Honorable Members of the Indiana State Senate, and House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN:—During the intervening period since we had the privilege of making a report on the subject of African Colonization, a slight check has been given to the growing stream of Liberian emigration by a season of scarcity, resulting from the partial failure of the crops in Liberia. The news of this calamity to which every country is subject, together with the slanders of designing persons, in charging the Liberian Government with complicity in the late schemes of the French Government, whereby the latter attempted the renewal of the African slave trade, under the guise and name of “African voluntary emigration”—the remonstrance and protests of the Liberian Government and people against this covered slave trade, and their actual resistance thereto, have purged them from all suspicion of complicity therein, and we learn that the French Government has lately abandoned this apprenticeship system, in view of the general opposition caused thereby.

The high price of provisions in Liberia, together with the embarrassed condition of our State Treasury, caused us to refrain from stimulating emigration from this State to Africa; hence, whilst we have received several applications for passage out, we have detained them for the spring expedition.

The locality or point to which we have recommended emigrants from Indiana, is Robertsville, a new town or settlement at Grand
Cape Mount, of a truly desirable character. A description of it may be found in the Colonization Reports of 1862 and 1863. In relation to the terms on which our emigrants can procure land at that point, we submit the following correspondence between Governor Wright and the President of Liberia. These communications of the Liberian Government have been referred by the State Board of Colonization to this Legislature for final disposition, and President Benson informed of that reference:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONROVIA.

January 20, 1867.

His Excellency, Governor Westr:intr

Sir—I have the honor to inform herself, your Excellency’s address, the copy of a resolution passed by the Legislature of Liberia at this session, expressive of your satisfaction with the progress of the African Colonizing Society. Your Excellency will perceive in the resolution that the Legislature have stated the prices of lands per acre (reasonably low excepted); for the purpose set forth in your communication, between one and five dollars, at the discretion of the Legislature, and as I am so less impressed with the propriety now than I was years ago, that the Government of Liberia should re-engage zealously and with the Colonizing Societies in the prosecution of the great work of Colonizing the free people of color of the United States in this land, with their free consent, I feel disposed, in carrying out this resolution, to do all I can to facilitate the operations of your society; and I beg to inform your Excellency that wild lands of mixed quality—such as are usually sold by immigrants or sold to old settlers by Government—can be bought by this Government by your Society (provided no less than ten thousand acres are paid for at any one time) at the rate of one dollar and fifty cents per acre, and this Government defray all expenses of surveying the same and conveying deeds in fee simple, 8c. 8c. I, to the immigrant; or, if this Government is exempted from all expenses (it being borne by your Society), the price per acre will be one dollar, which is the minimum price mentioned in the resolution.

In accordance with this subject, I beg to inform your Excellency that the settlement of Bozohnposi, as Grand Cape Mount, is now permanently established, and is a very inviting situation of this Republic to immigrants; and I beg further to assure your Excellency that this Government stands ready to carry out the provisions of the resolution already alluded to wherever it shall be your pleasure; and further, that in case this government shall find it necessary to make any alteration in the price of the lands from what I now state in this communication, notice thereof will be given your Society at least six months before such alteration shall go into effect.

I have the honor to be your Excellency’s most obedient servant,

STEPHEN A. BENSON.
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO PURCHASE FROM THE

LIMITATION SOCIETY PREMIUM LANDS FOR IMMIGRANTS.

WHEREAS, Application has been made to the Government by the Indiana State Colonization Society to purchase for the purpose of distributing among their friends in Indiana lands which they may have purchased in this country, in the proportion of two acres per family, to be used as a premium for the settlement of such persons among them, in order to induce them to come to this country and reside among the free whites of the United States.

SECTION 1: It is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Indiana, that Swift, and after the passage of this resolution, the President shall have authority to purchase, with the money of the Colonization Society, the amount of land necessary to supply the same at the rate of five dollars per acre, and any excess of funds over the purchase of land, shall be made use of for such purposes as shall be deemed necessary by the President.

SECTION 2: It is resolved that the purchase shall be made in Indiana, and that the purchase shall be made by the President, for the purpose of supplying the Colonization Society with land, at the rate of five dollars per acre, or any excess of funds over the purchase of land, shall be made use of for such purposes as shall be deemed necessary by the President.

And further, the President shall have authority to purchase land, the price of which shall be paid in advance, and the same shall be paid in advance, and the amount of the purchase shall be determined by the President.

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Approved, December 6, 1846.

G. M. BIRD
Speaker House of Representatives, M. L.
BEVERLY HALE YOUNG, President Senate, V. F. B. L.

Pursuant to the resolution of the Senate of the United States of America, the President is hereby directed to purchase land, the price of which shall be paid in advance, and the amount of the purchase shall be determined by the President.

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to aid us know, but the question is how to aid so that aid may be effective. We will venture to answer this by saying aid the Government of Liberia directly, by buying their land at the rate named in the above communication. Thus, whilst providing for such emi-
grates from this State as may ask aid in hand, you foster the Cen-
tral Government of Liberia, upon the success of which depends the
future national existence of the negro race.

There is another measure that will bring aid to Liberia without
cost to the State, except the exercise of that influence your position
gives. The question I refer to is gradually forcing itself on public
attention, and is likely to command national legislation sooner or
later—the suppression of the African Slave Trade by a well directed
system of African Colonization. This measure, it is true, cannot be
reached directly by your notion, but indirectly it may, through our
Congressional delegation. The late unwise movement of a few men
in this country to re-open that long proscribed traffic came near re-
sulting in a war with England, who still clings to the absurd policy
of an armed blockade of all estates infested with slave trading. This
unfortunate circumstance has had one good effect: it has disclosed
the actual strength, or rather weakness, of the party in this country
favorable to the abolishment of the noble policy adopted by the
sages of this republic when they declared against the importation
of negroes, and protestted against the Africanization of this nation,
and solemnly declared the slave trade piracy! And, further, it has
disclosed the agreeable fact that the South of this confederacy is op-
posed to such a commerce. As a justification of this position, per-
mit me to refer to two representative men of the South, the Hon.
Mans, Cobb and Hammond. The former, as Secretary of the Treas-
ury, was applied to by W. P. Colcott, Esq., Collector of Customs in
Charleston, S. C., for authority to grant a clearance to a slave trader.
In answer, he pleased himself on the long established and wise legis-
lation of the country; and yet alone of the country in general, but
of Southern States in particular; and in his letter to the above Col-
llector, dated May 22, 1858, he argues the Inhabit of the trade and
forbids a clearance to the vessel in question. The other gentleman,
Senator Hammond, of S. C., informs us, in his late speech, that such
a movement has been abandoned by the South. He thus discourses
on this subject:

"We have it proposed to re-open the African Slave Trade, and

"
bring it home of slaves from that prolific region to restore the balance. I now entertain that idea myself, but an earlier investigation I abandoned it. I will not now go into the discussion of it further than to say that the South is most divided on that policy, and, from apprehensions, opposed to it by a vast majority, while the North is most strongly against it. It would be impossible to get Congress to re-open the trade. If it could be done, then it would be unnecessary, for that result could only be brought about by such an entire abandonment by the North of all opposition to our slave system, that we might safely come to exact any demands for it."

Be it whether the South has abandoned the scheme of purifying the system, with which the legislatures and statesmen of the sovereign State of Indiana have nothing to do. Is it not their duty, as the representatives of a conservative, moral and independent people, to keep the record of our State filled up with correct policy, and to stand with index finger pointing to the path of safety on all such questions?

But, as a practical people, we should inquire what is the best and cheapest way to remove us evil, to the removal of which we see and have been long committed as a nation If our statement will ask themselves this question, we know the answer will be favorable to African colonization, in place of the armed blockade, as now practiced.

A glance at the expense of the blockade, and the imperfect manner in which the work of kidnapping is restrained, compared with the effect of reducing the coast of Africa with civilized men, doing such settlement as Liberia, will settle the question in favor of the latter plan. The blockading system costs the nation engaged in it millions annually—the Liberian colonization system has cost less than the commencement to the present time, two millions of dollars. Africa has four thousand miles of infested coast. Liberia covers seven hundred miles of this, and throughout these seven hundred miles the young nation contains the slave trade and protects the trade of kidnapping. Thus, for the cost of two millions dollars over against the whole infested coast has been protected from the slave trade. For less than ten millions more, the whole extent of infested coast could be protected from this unnatural traffic. I make submission for the report of 1852 which I will now quote. As
that date England had expended $120,000,000 in the work of suppressing the slave trade by an armed blockade.

It appears from a Parliamentary return just issued that in 1844 twelve ships, with 893 officers and men, were engaged in the suppression of the slave trade on the west coast of Africa; in 1846, twelve ships, with 1,098 officers and men; in 1848, thirteen ships, with 1,322 officers and men; in 1857, fifteen ships, with 1,494 officers and men.

At the Cape of Good Hope: In 1854, four ships, with 475 officers and men; in 1855, five ships, with 775 officers and men; in 1856, three ships, with 700 officers and men; and in 1857, three ships, with 810 officers and men.

North America and West Indies: In 1854 eleven ships, with 1,500 officers and men; in 1855, twelve ships, with 2,400 officers and men; in 1856, fourteen ships, with 3,345 officers and men; and in 1857, nine ships, with 3,266 officers and men.

On the southeast coast of America: In 1854, six ships, with 541 officers and men; in 1855, six ships, with 905 officers and men; in 1856, seven ships, with 1,300 officers and men; and in 1857, six ships, with 1,365 officers and men.

The total deaths on the four stations were forty-eight in 1854, fifty-two in 1855, one hundred and sixteen in 1856, and one hundred and forty-one in 1857. The numbers invalidated were one hundred and thirty-six in 1854, one hundred and ninety-two in 1855, two hundred and one in 1856, and one hundred and seventy-nine in 1857.

In slaves, for whom bond-money was paid, were sixty-two in 1854, none in 1855, nineteen in 1856, and three hundred and eighty-four in 1857. In none of the years was any bond-money paid for dead slaves.

The annual expense of our own nation at this date was $120,000. Since that time the United States have spent, at this rate $1,150,000 on our African squadron—far more than it has cost the Colonization organizations of the United States to create the Republic of Liberia. How long will it be before the cheap and peaceful plan of colonization will be adopted? How long before English and American statesmen will leave the will of Providence on this subject? If they would combine colonization with their blockade they would accomplish the desired object in a few years, and, at the same time, the foundation...
of an English-speaking nation, that in less than one hundred years would give our Christian civilization to that whole continent.

If an attractive and powerful nation could be established in Africa, possessed of our language and institutions, the problem of two conflicting races in this nation would soon be solved—the black would separate from the white, for the spirit of adventure would soon make the colored man as restless as his white neighbor, prompting him to better his condition by emigration. It is true time, much time, must pass before the work we desire can be accomplished, for "time enters into the composition of all great enterprises" and national events, and time must enter into the composition and structure of an English-speaking nation in Africa.

We will close this paper by respectfully requesting the passage of the joint resolution on the subject of the African Slave Trade and Colonization, which was presented last session of the General Assembly, but which, with other matters of much greater importance, was crushed in the conflict and strife of party. That resolution was but a copy of that of 1852, with some amendments for the better.

For the last two years I have had the service and labor of Rev. John McKee, a man of color, who has traveled throughout this State, and who now reports between fifteen and twenty persons who desire to emigrate. He has been paid in part by his collections and in part by me, out of the amount allowed me as Secretary of the State Board of Colonization.

JAMES MITCHELL, Secretary.