the Land Commissioners office, as additional surveys are made, and shall receive from the government twelve and a half cents for each ten acre block up to four, at any one time extended on the plot, and five and upwards at any one time ten cents per block, and for Town lots six and a quarter cents up to four, and five and upwards extended at any one time, five cents each. The said Land Commissioner shall examine said plots by comparing them with the field notes, and if found correct shall endorse the receipt for survey, certifying on the same that the block had been ploted, on which the Surveyor shall receive his pay.

Sect: 4. Any Surveyor or Surveyors fraudulently obtaining a receipt from any party on a false certificate when the lands as stated in the certificate, had not been surveyed according to law, upon conviction of the same before any Court having jurisdiction in the case, he shall be fined in a sum of not less than Fifty dollars nor more than One Houndred dollars and dismissed from Offiee.

Sect: 5. That any law conflicting with this act be and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved Jany 30th 1855.

An Act Encouraging Agriculture.

Whereas it is important that the Government take an active part in encouraging National Industry; and whereas the wants of our agricultural interests imperatively demand assistance in the manufacture of the products of the country, and preparing it for market; and whereas the time has arrived, as is found in the wants of the country and the condition of our finances: therefore, for the encouragement of agriculturalists and laborers thoughout the Republic:—

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

Sec: 1. That, from and after the passage of this act, he President is hereby authorized and requested to have imported into the Republic, on application, of any number of citizens of this Republic, for asses to carry on farming operations, &c. they giving orders, with accepted obligations, for said animals to be imported at their expense; said expense not to exceed the cost and charges of such purchase and importation, a number of asses as may be so ordered, from time to time, until said orders are complete. Also, one steam Mill of four horse power, and six three roller horizontal sugar mills, to be propelled by physical or animal force: and further, to import any other animals that may appear to meet the wants of the people, provided it does not exceed one hundred of each, of the best breed that can be procured.

Sec: 2. It is further enacted—That each mill shall have its full number of kettles, not to exceed seven to each mill, with every fixture and utensil that are used in the manufactory of sugar in other countries—or that may be found necessary to facilitate the manufactory of sugar and syrup.

Sec: 3. That the President be and he is hereby authorized and requested to procure the above named animals and machinery on the faith and credit of the Republic, if necessary, to be paid in two instalments, and at an interest not to exceed ten percentum.

Sec: 4. To carry out this act, The President is autoorized to appoint some suitable person, a citizen of the Republic, if he find it necessary, to proceed to Europe, or the United States, or any of the lands, and procure at the most reasonable rates, the above named machines and animals.—And, further, the said person shall recieve for compensation an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars and expenses.

Sec: 5.—It is further enacted:—That so soon as the machines shall arrive; the Steam Sugar Mill and four of the three roller horizontal mills, shall be located on the St. Paul's river, at the most advantageous situations, so as to meet the circumstances of the people, the mills are to be set up with their fixtures, at the expense of the Government. A suitable person shall be appointed to take charge of the steam Sugar Mill, and to superintend it in its operations. All persons wishing to manufacture cane shall deliver it at the mill. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to receive all cane so delivered, and proceed to manufacture it into sugar or syrup, as the person may wish. He shall weigh the sugar and measure the syrup, and deliver the same to the owners, deducting one sixth per centum for tolls. He shall have power to employ a sufficient number of hands to attend the operations of the mill and the manufacture of the cane, and all and every expense shall be under his control. He shall keep an account of all expenses, and all sugar or syrup manufactured by him, and make a report each quarter to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury shall order the sale of the product collected for toll and receive the monies to be paid into the Treasury. The Superindent shall give bond and security for the faithful performance of his duties. The Superintendent shall receive a compensation not to exceed *Thirty dollars* per month.

Sec: 6. It is further enacted.—That one of the three horizintal mills shall be located in Grand Bassa County, and one in Sinoe County, which mill shall be set up with their fixtures, at the expense of the Government.—They may be placed under the care of some judicious person, who shall collect one twelfth per centum toll, and pay it over as provided in the 5th Sec: and see that the mills are worked carefully etc. etc. and kept clean and in order. The provisions of this section shall apply also, to the Horrizontal Mills in Montserrado County.

Approved Dec. 26th 1854.

An Act authorizing the settling of Land difficulties in the settlement of Caldwell, and survey of lands in all the settlements of the Republic where difficulties exist.

Whereas there exists in the settlement of Caldwell or that portion of the settlement which is laid off into a Town ship considerable dissatisfaction amongst the settlers arising from an arrangement entered into in the year 1852 between the Agent of the American Colonization Society and the settlers of that place for the surrender of certain farm lands which were owned by the said settlers so as to have that portion of the said settlement laid off into a Township with the understanding that the parties to whom said farm lands belonged should receive in lieu thereof one alternate lot into which said farm land was divided and also receive the same complement of farm land as surrendered at some other point where they might select; which arrangement on the part of the Agent of the American Colonization Society in every respect was not complied with, many of the settlers did not receive their farm land and the lands as laid off into Town lots have been apportioned to emigrants arriving and settling at Caldwell since the arrangement was entered into which lands have been improved and deeded to the parties under the regulations of the American Colonization Society in relation to the distribution of lands to emigrants and at the same time there have been no transfers made of said lands by the former owners, and some of them or their heirs now hold original deeds for a portion of said lands (now Town lots) and demand a compliance with said agreement that they may come into possession of their farm lands, otherwise they must contend for their legal right under the deed which they hold, and which would greatly to the disadvantage and damage of parties now holding said lands under deeds from the Societies Agent.

And Whereas the citizens of Caldwell have petitioned the Legislature to authorize such steps as they may deem prudent, to cause an amicable adjustment of the matter and to give to the parties concerned their just dues as per arrangement before mentioned, that the parties now in possession of said lands may continue to hold possession unmolested.

It it Therefore Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

Sect: 1 That from and after the passage of this Resolution that the President be, and he is hereby authorized and requested to appoint two discreet persons as Commissioners whose duty it shall be at as early a date as possible to repair to Caldwell for the purpose of hearing and investigating all claims presented by the different parties for lands under the arrangement entered into in the year 1832 by the Agent of the American Colonization Society.

Sect: 2. And further—That they shall be authorized to swear witnesses, hear their statements and received any documentary evidence touching the claims and fairly and impartially investigate all such claims, giving their decision as to their opinion of the legality or illegality of the claims so investigated and give to the parties concerned in writing their decision or opinion; in all such cases where the parties are not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioners, they have further redress at the regular Court's of law.

Sect: 3. And further—The Commissioners shall publish in the several Townships of Monsterrado County at least fifteen days previous to the days on which they will commence their investigation giving notice that they will be ready to receive all claims for lands under arrangements as heretofore setforth, naming the day and date on which the investigation will commence giving all particulars, that parties may be fully prepared with evidence &c.

Sect: 4. And further—That the Commissioners shall keep in a book furnished for the purpose, minutes of all their proceeding and their decision on each claim investigated, and shall report to the President all their proceedings with the claims setforth and their decision The President on receiving the report of said Commissioners, is hereby authorized and requested to apportion to such person or persons whose claims according to the decision of the Commissioners are legal the quantity or quantities of lands as their claims may call for, and at such points as may be selected by them excepting reserved lands The said Commissioners shall receive for their services to be paid by the government the sum of Three dollars per day, while in actual service, and mileage according to law.

Sect: 5. And further—That the President be, and he is hereby authorized and requested (at as early a date as possible) to have surveyed all of that portion of the settlement of Caldwell which was laid off into a Township, and have a correct plot taken of the same if there is none, giving the name of the owner or owners of each lot, and their number, and to ascertain the number of lots remaining, belonging to the government, that the same may be apportioned to emigrants, or otherwise disposed of an application according to law.

Sect: 6. And further—As the citizens of Caldwell are willing to render every assistance to the Surveyor who may be appointed to survey said Township of Caldwell. That the Surveyor receive for the survey and ploting of the Township of Caldwell the sum of Seventy five dollars to be paid by the government, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sect: 7. And further—That the President appoint two discreet persons of the aforesaid Settlement whose duty it shall be to superintend the survey, so as to be calculated to sign the required certificate for the correctness of the survey according to law.

Sect: 8. And further—That the President be and is hereby authorized and requested on application of any person or persons holding a deed or deeds for lands drawn or purchased from the government in any of the settlements or villages of this Republic said difficulties to be settled at expense of the government, supposed to bear a wrong number or giving a wrong course or situation. To make such arrangements for the investigation of the same, as he may deem advisable for to correct said error if any and on being satisfied that an error or errors exist in said deed or deeds to correct the same, by altering the deed or deeds, or apportioning land to the person or persons concerned, at some other point.

Approved Jany 28th 1855

An Act for the relief and employment of the Poor.

Sec 1 It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

That the support and maintenance of aged widows, destitute orphans, poor persons and invalid poor, and all insane persons destitute of support, shall be borne by the Republic, under the following provisions.

2. It is further enacted:—That manual and mechanic labor asylums shall be provided for such classes of individuals as are named (whether colonists or natives;) in the first section, in each of the counties of this Republic, to be styled *County Poor Houses.* Each house shall be forty feet by thirty feet: two stories high, of nine feet each, with passages running through the centre: and two rooms in the Attic; so partitioned, as to make four rooms on each of the floors of the two stories; with a piazza in front of the building. The walls to be of brick, or stone, or good durable wood material. And that a Superintendent be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose business it shall be to superintend and manage the operative concerns of the said institution.

3. It is further enacted:—That all male inmates of the said County Poor Houses, not disabled by disease or otherwise, shall be employed in the cultivation of a farm, which shall be connected with the establishment: or any other kind of labor that may be instituted about the premises, until the overseer and commissioners shall judge them capable of taking care of themselves; and all articles used by the inmates of said establishment, from the farm, shall be accounted for to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the proceeds arising from the sale of any surplus shall be paid into the public Treasury. The President shall appoint a discreet person to choose any tract of land not otherwise appropriated, which may be used for the establishment; not, however to exceed one hundred acres.

4. It is further enacted:—That a number of cards, wheels, looms, knitting and sewing needles, shall be provided for the use of all females who reside in the County Poor House, so that they may be employed in carding, spining, weaving, knitting and sewing: and, to the end that there be no idlers about the institution, the requisite quantum of wool, cotton, flax, hemp, and such other materials as may be manufactured into useful articles for the convenience of the country, shall be kept constantly on hand.

5. It is further enacted:—That there shall be a matron employed, whose duty it shall be to take care of the children, and see that cleanliness is strictly observed, under such rules as the board of commissioners may from time to time point out to her. And she shall receive a compensation for her services, to be fixed by the said commissioners.

6. It is further enacted:—That, for the improvement of the inmates of this institution, carpenters, rope-makers, blacksmiths and such other mechanics as the improving state of the institution may demand, may be employed in and about the establishment, for the purpose of instructing the inmates in these several branches.

7. It is further enacted:—That the poor of this Republic shall not be allowed to wander about from one settlement to the other, but shall be taken by the officer appointed for that purpose, and placed under the care of the Superintendent of the County Poor House—the Government paying, out of the monies appropriated for this purpose, the expenses of such removals to the Poor House.

8 It is further enacted.—That a board of seventeen commissioners shall be appointed annually by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, seven for the County of Montserrado: five for the county of Grand Bassa, and five for the County of Sinoe. This board shall regularly inspect, once in every three months, these institutions, and make annual reports to the Legislature, of the condition of the health of the inmates, and their improvement in morals, education, and mechanic arts—whether they are properly fed and clothed—what the state of discipline the receipts and expenditures of the County Poor House, and suggest any plan of improvement, they may deem expedient.

The Board shall include, also, in their reports, the number of paupers, invalids, aged widows, destitute orphans and insane persons in their respective Counties. It shall be the duty of said Commissioners to prescribe the rates of allowance for the support of the inmates of said institution, and to ordain such rules and regulations for the government of the establishment, not otherwise provided by law.

9. And it is further enacted:—That there shall be kept a record of the names of the inmates of each County Poor House, by the Superintendent—which record shall be handed to the Commissioners, in time to be included in their annual reports to the President.

10. It is further enacted:—That so much of the duties as arises from the importation of all ardent spirits, wines and cordials, in this Republic, be, and the same is hereby appropriated to carry out the provisions of this act, and the President is hereby authorized to draw on the public Treasury for the same, and as soon as a sufficient amount of monies from said duties is collected to justify the commencement of said Poor Houses, he is hereby requested to commence the erection of said buildings,

11. It is further enacted:—That, as an explanation, so much of this act as refers to the employment of mechanics, carpenters, ropemakers, blacksmiths, &c and the procuring of cards, wheels, looms, &c, and the "requisite quantum" of wool, cotton, flax, hemp, &c, be, and the same is left to the judgement of the President, as to whether he should provide them, until after the above buildings for the *poor* are erected, or not: and then only such of the above named mechanics and materials &c, as he may deem expedient, for the useful and necessary operations of said Poor Houses, and as the money arising from said duties may justify.

Approved Jany 30th 1855

An Act authorizing and directing the formation of a Settlement at Grand Cape Mount in the County of Monsterrado.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled.

SECT 1. That the President be and he is hereby authorized and requested, to adopt such measures as may be deemed most advisable, to carry out the provisions of this act by securing the services of seventy five volunteers (able bodied men) to proceed to Grand Cape Mount, in the service of the government, said volunteers to be fed by the government, and to be governed by the appended rules, and such other rules, and regulations as the President may deem necessary for the establishment and security of a Settlement. Rations of said volunteers, shall be in quality and quantity the same granted to the Militia when in actual service. The services to be rendered by said volunteers, shall be regulated by the President, or by such officer or officers, acting under his instructions as he may appoint to perform such duty.

SECT 2. That the volunteers shall enlist to serve twelve months, they shall be paid for service rendered at the rate of Eight dollars per month, and as an inducement to settle permanently at Cape Mount. (The President is requested to procure such volunteers, as wish to settle permanently at Grand Cape Mount if possible) each volunteer shall receive as a bounty, one Town lot, and Thirty acres of farm land.

SECT 3. That the President is further authorized, if circumstances will warrant it, to proceed to Cape Mount at an early day, for the purpose of selecting a suitable site, and direct the laying out of a Town, to be called "Roberts

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
B. Liberia Herald

February 1842(XI,4)--February 18,1857(n.s. VII,4)

1855

NEW SERIES NO 2