AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHING OF A FARMING SETTLEMENT IN BASSA COUNTY TO BE CALLED FARMERSETTA.

Whereas the Legislature at its session in December 1855 and January 1856 &c, passed an act appropriating the amount of one hundred dollars for the erection of bridges in the settlement situated on the north-west side of the St. Johns river called upper Edina in the County of Grand Bassa: And whereas the said Legislature did not make any provisions for laying out a road in said settlement according to the wishes of the Citizens thereof! And whereas we believe it necessary that there should be laid out, and planned a regular road or causeway through said settlement, so as to encourage and facilitate the citizens or settlers thereof in their operations as farmers. Therefore,—

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

Sec, 1. That immediately after the adjournment of the present Session of the Legislature, the President authorize the Superintendent of the County of Grand Bassa to instruct one of the Surveyors of said County to survey and lay out the said Settlement or farming district as follows. That is to say the said Settlement shall commence at the junction of rivers. Mechlin and St Johns on the South-west, running in a northerly direction along the banks of the St. Johns, until it reaches the boundary line of lower Bexley or New Haven, thence along the said line in a North-westerly direction for the space of two miles interior of the river St. Johns, thence in a straight line of a South-westerly direction until it reaches the banks of the said Mechlin river; The said farming district or settlement to be called "FARMERSETTA."

Sec. 2nd, And it is further Enacted. that the superintendent under the direction of the President, be authorized and instructed to arrange with the Citizens of said Settlement for enough of their lands as will be necessary to be taken up for a common road under the following provisions, that is to say, for a space of fifty feet of land in front, lying on the banks of the St. Johns, they shall receive seventy five feet of land on the back of their farms.

Sec. 3rd. That the Surveyor be instructed to Survey and lay out a road commencing on the point at the junction of the rivers St. Johns and Mechlin at the most suitable place to be selected by the said Surveyor to run in the direction of the river St. Johns, twenty feet from high water mark parallel with the said river running through the farming district of *Farmersetta* until it reaches and connects with the road in New Haven, the said road to be thirty feet wide, and for surveying, laying out and giving the direction of said road, the surveyor shall receive the sum of five dollars per day—provided however, that no more than six days shall be allowed for the completion of the same.

Sec. 4th, It is further Enacted, that in addition, to the one hundred dollars appropriated at the last Session of the Legislature for the erection of bridges &c, in the said Settlement, there be appropriated, the sum of one hundred dollars more, in order that the provisions of this Act may be more effectually carried out;—and that the President be and he is hereby authorized to draw on the public Treasury for the same: And further, that the President be authorized to instruct the Superintendent of the County of Grand Bassa, to have the said work put out at the lowest bidder, and that he be authorized to enter into contract with the undertaker for the speedy performance of said work. The contractor or undertaker shall be required to give good and sufficient bond for the performance of said work.

Sec. 5th. It is further Enacted that the Presieent be and he is hereby authorized to draw the above amount of one hundred dollars approated by this Act in addition to that before appropriated out of any monies in the public Treasury.

M. A. RAND.
Speaker Ho: Rep: R. L.
B. P. YATES.
Pres. Senate V. P R. L.
Approved January 31st, 1857.
STEPHEN A. BENSON

AN ACT PERTAINING TO BOUNTY LAND.

Whereas in the establishment of this Government among the aboriginal inhabitants of this country has required the exposure of its citizens, to the most trying circumstances; causing the loss of health, life, and property. And whereas, it is the policy of this Government to hold out inducements to its citizens, to encourage them to repel aggression, and put down all attempts against the peace and dignity of Liberia, and uphold the majesty of the, Laws Therefore.—

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

SEC. 1st That from and after the passage of this act, each commissioned and non-commissioned officer, musician or private, whether volunteer or Militia, who performed Military service in any regiment, campaign, or detachment in the service of this Republic, when it was a Colony in any Battle or campaign since January 1st 1822, or in any of the Wars, or campaigns since that time; shall be entitled to Lands as follows. Those who served from two days, up to one week, shall receive five acres. Those who served fifteen days, shall receive ten acres. Those who served over twenty, and less than one months, shall receive fifteen acres. And those who served over one month, and less than three months, shall receive thirty acres.

SEC. 2nd It is further Enacted, that each commissioned and non commissioned officer, musician and private, for whom provisions are made by the first section hereof, shall receive a cirtificate from his commander, or if the commander be dead, then he or they shall make oath. that he or they, are the identical persons, or if dead, his widow may make oath, that her husband was actually in service. And if minors, a competent evidence shall make oath to the above facts before any Justice of the Peace, or any officer competent to take such an oath. And that such Certificates, shall be filed in the Land commissioner's office of the County, where such persons reside. Upon the filing of such Certificates, the Land Commissioner, under the direction of the President, shall order the Land surveyed from any Public Lands, not otherwise appropriated, at the expense of the claimant or claimants.

SEC 3rd And further, in the event of the death, of any commissioned or non-commissioned officer, musician or private prior or subsequent to the passage of this Act, who shall have served as aforesaid, a like certificate being presented, a deed shall be executed in favour of his heirs.

SEC. 4th And it is further Enacted. that it shall be the duty of the Land Commissioner to have the Land located on farming districts, as may be designated by the individual applicant under the provisions laid down in the second section of this Act. He shall as soon as the Lands are surveved and ploted, and the returns made to him by the surveyors, grant a deed to the individual applying in fee simple. All such certificates shall be by him. filed in the State Department quarterly. He shall receive fifty cents for such deed, to be paid by the applicant. And that the President shall lodge or caused to be lodged in the hands of the Land Commissioner in each of the counties of this Republic a number of blank deeds signed by him in his usual manner of signing deeds for land. And on presentation of the certificate as provided for in this second section, the Land Commissioner shall have the the land surveyed as provided for, in the foregoing provisions. He shall then fill up the deed with the number of acres, mentioned in the certificate and deliver the same, countersigned by the Land Commissioner, to the claimant.

M. A. RAND
Speaker Ho: Rep: R. L.
BEVERLY PAGE YATES.
Pres: senate. V. P. R. L.
Approved Jan 9th 1857.
STEPHEN A. BENSON.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF $3000.00 FOR EXPLORING AND OPENING ROADS INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Whereas it is the policy of this government to encourage its citizens in every laudable enterprise, and as the exploring of the interior of our country is a great desideratum; and as it appears from a petition of certain citizens of Grand Bassa County that they are willing to engage in the exploration of their interior if encouraged by the government. Therefore,

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

SEC, 1st That the sum of three thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby annually appropriated for exploring and opening roads into the interior of Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Sinoe counties.

SEC, 2d That the President be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to appoint in each county, three discreete persons as commissioners of Interior Roads and explorations, one of whom shall be a surveyor. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to explore the interior of the county for which they may be appointed under direction of the President, they shall keep a correct journal of their transactions, furnish an accurate map of the country over which they travel; showing the direction of highways and water courses, situation of towns and villages;—and give a discriptive account of the number and character of the inhabitants, productions, and resources of the country.

They shall be invested with power to purchase territory from, and negotiate treaties with the independent Chieftans residing beyond the limits of this Republic according to the instructions of the President, and shall be especially commissioned to treat with the native tribes, to secure the pre-emptive right to their lands and territories should they be disposed at any future time to sell them, and shall in all cases endeavor to extend by treaty stipulation, the jurisdiction of this Republic.

And said commissioners shall also have a concurrent jurisdiction to. settle native difficulties on their rout within our jurisdiction, as the Native Commission Court.

SEC, 3d Said commissioners shall make a quarterly report of all matters charged in their commission as stated in the second section of this act; And they shall be furnished with such assistants as the President may deem expedient to carry out the provisions of this act. and they shall receive for their services twenty five dollars ($25,00) per month while employed in surveying and exploring, and ten cents per mile, and shall be allowed fifty cents per diem in addition to their salary while engaged in settling native difficulties.

SEC, 4th The time of commencing said explorations shall be as soon after the passage of this act as practicable, and in every year after, to commence on the first of November and end, on the thirty first of May following (seven months in each year.)

M. A. RAND.
Speaker Ho. Rep: R. L.
BEVERLY PAGE YATES.
Pres: Senate V. P. R. L.
Approved Febuary 3rd 1857.
STEPHEN A. BENSON.

AN ACT SUPPLEMENTARY TO AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE JUDICIARY, AND POWERS COMMON TO THE SEVERAL COURTS.

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

SEC. 1st. That from and after the passage of this act, whenever any person or persons, shall consider himself or themselves aggrieved by the non-performance of any contract or contracts, made on the part of the Government, by any person or persons, whose duty it shall be to make such contract or contracts, having sufficient authority for that purpose from Government.—That the person or persons so aggrieved, shall have his or their remedy by due course of law, before any court of this Republic having competent jurisdiction, as in other actions of contract.

Sec. 2nd. It is further Enacted: That it shall be necessary, in order to bring up said suits that a regular complaint, stating the cause of action &c, be brought before the courts, in the manner and form prescribed for bringing up such suits against individuals, substituting the words "Republic of Liberia as defendant" the clerk of the court notifying the attorney, acting in behalf of the Republic, to appear to defend said suit.

Sec. 3rd. It is further Enacted; That whenever any person or persons, shall receive any damage by the application of any part of his or their property by this Republic to its use, or otherwise, so as to occasion any damage or loss; he or they, shall on proof thereof before the court of quarter session, entering his or their complaint according to law, as in individual suits, with the exception as made in the 2nd. Section, receive such compensation as a jury shall under the circumstances award.

Sec. 4th. It is further Enacted: That whenever the person or persons, so aggrieved. or damaged, shall obtain a judgment in his or their favor, that the court before whom the cause or causes shall be adjudicated, after having ascertained the amount of judgment so rendered in favor of the Plaintiff, which order shall be signed by the President in his usual manner of signing orders for the payment of money—the Treasurer or Sub Treasurer, on the receipt of said order orders, shall immediately pay over to the party, or parties, the amount specified therein; nevertheless, this section shall not be so construed as to destroy the right of appeals in case where the Republic is defendant.

M. A. RAND.
Speaker Ho: Rep: R. L.
B. P. YATES.
Pres. Senate. V. P. R. L.
Approved January 24th, 1857,
STEPHEN A. BENSON,

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO DEPOSIT IN EACH COUNTY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THE FRENCH UNIFORMS.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled.

That the Secretary of the Treasury under the direction of the President be, and he is hereby authorized to deposit in the commissarys department, say Montserrado County 500 suits Grand Bassa 250 suits and sinoe County 250 suits of French uniforms to be given to the Captains of the several companies of the regiments, to be by them distributed among the soldiers of the same.

SEC. 1st Resolved that it shall be unlawful for any soldier or officer to wear said uniform on any occasion other than on days of parade, and he or they shall be compelled to keep said uniforms clean and in good order. Any violator of this law shall be fined by the Regimental court martial in any sum between 50 cts and $5, 00 in the opinion of the court.

SEC. 2d Resolved that all fines collected by the Sheriff agreeable to the 11th section of an "Act to regulate the "Militia" be and the same are hereby granted to the respective regiments of the several counties of this Republic for the purchase of drums and other musical instruments as the court martial may direct, and that the President be, and he is hereby authorized to draw on the public Treasury for the aforesaid fines, and that all law or parts of laws that conflict with the provisions of this section be, and the same is hereby repealed.

M. A. RAND.
Speaker Ho: Rep. R. L.
B. P. YATES.
Pres Senate V. P R. L.
Approved Febuary 6th 1857,
STEPHEN A. BENSON

AN ACT SUPPLEMENTARY TO AN ACT ENTITLED AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CIRCULATION OF COPPER COIN, AND MAKING THE SAME A CIRCULATING TENDER IN THIS REPUBLIC.

Whereas it appears from the communication of His Excellency the President that on an examination by the Secretary of the Treasury of the Copper Coin of one cent pieces, legalized by an act of the Legislature, passed and approved December the 22d 1856, that there are an equal proportion two cent pieces, making the £200 or nine hundred and sixty dollars. And whereas said act only provides for one cent pieces. Therefore,—

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

Sec. 1st. That the said Copper Coin be, and the same is hereby declared to be a legal tender in this Republic, of the value of Two Cents or one fiftieth part of a dollar, and the said copper coin shall be received in payment of all claims for and against this government, and shall be of the value above mentioned, in the business transactions within the same. And shall also be received at the Treasury and Sub-Treasury Departments, in payment of all dues in favor of this government.

Sec. 2d It is further Enacted, That the President be, and he is hereby authorized to put in circulation the afore said Two Cents pieces taking a portion of the £200 or nine hundred and sixty dollars, as soon after the passage of this act as is expedient.

M. A. RAND
Speaker Ho. Rep. R. L.
BEVERLY PAGE YATES.
Pres Senate. V P. R. L.
Approved Febuary 2 1857
STEPHEN A. BENSON

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFORM CURRENCY.

Whereas the Secretary of the Treasury, did pursuant to an Act of the Legislature, procure for the use of this Government, a set of engraved plates, for striking off engraved bills of five, denominations; ten, five, three and one dollars, and fifty cents, to be used as a paper currency in the Republic of Liberia; and whereas for good reasons the President thought it not best to issue or put in circulation a larger amount than three thousand dollars; but as the Legislature believes, that at this present crices an impetus would be given to the finance of the Republic by the circulating of an additional amount of the aforementioned engraved bills. Therefore,—

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled,

Sect. 1st. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized, and requested immediately to issue an additional amount of five thousand dollars of the said engraved bills.

Sect. 2nd. The Secretary of the Treasury is further authorized and requested to deposit two thousand dollars of the aforementioned engraved bills, in the Sub-treasury of Sinou County; and two thousand dollars of the aforementioned engraved bills in the Sub-treasury of Bassa County, the remaining four thousand are to be deposited in the general Treasury.

Sect. 3rd. The President is hereby authorized to draw from the public Treasury, a sufficient amount of money to meet the expences necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

M. A. RAND.
Speaker Ho: Rep: R. L.
B. P YATES, Pres Senate
V. P. R. L.
Approved January 24th, 1857,
STEPHEN A. BENSON..

A. RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SCHOONER LARK.