

The Neighborhood Association will work to establish in Harlem:

- a. A playground.
- b. Clinics for babies.
- c. Classes for undernourished children.
- d. More milk stations.
- e. A department for advice to those eligible on how to get widows' pensions.

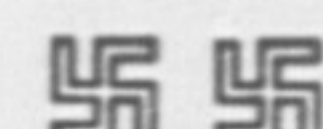
f. A department to aid the deserted mother to get support from the delinquent father.

g. A Vigilance Committee to co-operate with the Police Women's Reserve.

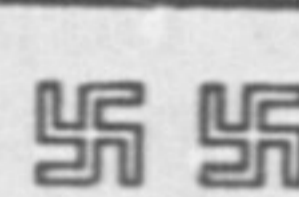
h. A department to co-operate with child placing agencies to find proper boarding homes for dependent children in an effort to offset the "Baby Farm" evil.

*The CRISIS would be glad to publish from time to time the records of similar clubs working for social uplift. We want a record of things done and not merely promised. Do not write and ask us "what it will cost" to publish such matter. It costs nothing. The CRISIS never charges for matter published in its news columns.*

## THE CRISIS IN LIBERIA



BY A FORMER RESIDENT



THE future of Liberia appears uncertain unless she receives effective American aid in some form.

In 1912 a group of New York bankers refunded Liberia's public debt at that time. A loan of \$1,700,000 was made for that purpose. The customs (both import and export), headmoney, and rubber tax were pledged as security for this loan. This security was technically called "Assigned Revenues".

The administration of these Assigned Revenues was lodged with an international Receivership. This Receivership was composed of a British Receiver, a French Receiver, a German Receiver and an American General Receiver. The American General Receiver is the head of the Receivership. The Receivers were designated by their respective governments. The Receivership never functioned smoothly as the European members seemed to regard themselves as political agents as well as fiscal officers. As a result of the war the German Receiver was eliminated under the Treaty of Versailles. The Receivership is now out of balance, unworkable, and must be reconstructed or replaced. The Liberians wanted it replaced.

A portion of the proposed \$5,000,000 was to pay off the loan of 1912 so that this international Receivership could be dissolved and American assistance put in its place. Liberia owes on the 1912 loan about \$1,600,-

000. Of this the British hold nearly \$1,000,000 and the balance is held mainly by Germans, Dutch and French. In addition to this all Liberia's internal revenues are pledged to the Bank of British West Africa, a British institution, as security for the unpaid balance on advances by the Bank of the Government, which has been continuously growing since 1916.

Therefore, practically all Liberia's revenues are tied up as security for loans. There is a constantly increasing public debt because of insufficient revenue to meet the annual budget. Because of conditions brought about by the war, Liberia has not been able to balance her budget since 1914.

At present the public debt is approximately \$2,500,000. If Americans took over this debt it would go a long way towards assuring the stability of Liberia. To further promote the rehabilitation of the Republic there should be sufficient additional funds to undertake necessary, productive, public improvements, such as road building, etc., to open up the interior. Two or three million dollars would be necessary to do anything worth while. Assuming that the money could be gotten to pay the public debt and make improvements, there remains the matter of administrative assistance to be provided for the Government. Upon this the successful application and repayment of the money borrowed would largely depend.

If the Liberian Government could be made politically and financially stable by American aid, capital would voluntarily seek investment there and the development of the country would naturally follow. At present practically all the trade of Liberia is in the hands of Europeans. They are not cultivating American markets for Liberian produce; yet there are already good shipping facilities between Liberia and New York. A. H. Bull & Co., of 40 West Street, New York City are running steamers to West Africa that call at Liberian ports about once a month. The amount of business done is understood to be very small; some cargo is sent to Liberia from New York but little or nothing is brought to America from Liberia. It is also reported that the Bull Line Steamers are carrying a few passengers.

Americans, white and black, can and ought to help Liberia. It is by no means a simple problem but it can be solved. The precise form which this help should take should be most carefully worked out to avoid failure and disaster. It now seems that any aid given must be private.

It would appear that sanction by the

Washington Government of any scheme actually to be undertaken to help Liberia is a prerequisite of success. Now that the proposed loan by the United States Government seems remote and unlikely, would it not be necessary as a starting point to ascertain authoritatively from the Liberian Government exactly what it wants?

The financial provisions of the loan plan which were to govern the proposed U. S. Loan of \$5,000,000 to Liberia were extraordinarily liberal to the little Republic. It would probably be quite impossible to get private aid on any such terms. For instance: the rate of interest was 5 per cent; Liberia was to get the full amount of the loan without the deduction of any charges, commissions, expenses, or any other reductions; the Republic's budget was guaranteed for five years to enable the Government to get on its feet financially; the repayment of the principal and interest was so arranged that it could not become a national burden; and there was no time limit imposed within which the loan had to be repaid.

Obviously therefore, the failure of the U. S. loan to Liberia is a financial misfortune of no small degree to the Republic.

## The Outer Pocket

Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Permit me to inform you that Mr. and Mrs. Williams of Tuskegee are veritable prisoners of the Officers of the Occupation and of the Police Force. These white Americans never let them be accosted by a Haitian. They have given them for a chauffeur, a white officer who goes around with them, so that if they happen to see a Haitian, there is always this American officer to take part in the conversation. Not one of us has been able to get into touch with them. I think I am right in saying they have been instructed to make a report favorable to the American Occupation in Haiti so as to influence the Negro elements in the United States against Haiti. These are the conditions which I think well to point out to you.

Topeka, Kans.

The refusal by a Republican Senate, to enact into law the Dyer Bill, justifies inde-

pendent exercise of suffrage by all colored voters; supporting such persons only, who favor the measure, and the enforcement of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution.

JAMES H. GUY,  
Attorney-at-Law.

Wilberforce, Ohio.

The Dyer-Anti-Lynching Bill is on the Senate calendar and only slumbers, not dead nor defeated. It will be revived. Let us quietly work and have patience. No great measure for the benefit of humanity was ever passed in a hurry. Let us talk less, and labor more arduously.

HALLIE Q. BROWN,  
President National Association of Colored Women.

Chicago, Ill.

The black man should split his ticket. Become an unknown factor and quantity.