

# Key Wester Helps Liberia Solve Economic Problem

By JAMES J. FOREE

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Although Liberia was colonized by American Negro freedmen in 1820 and declared its independence in 1847, many of its economic problems were not solved until during World War II and the arrival of a U.S. mission on health and economics.

With the mission came Frank Pinder, 35, native of Key West, Fla., and a graduate of Florida Agriculture college. Pinder was well equipped for his work in Liberia. He had worked with poor sharecroppers in the Everglades, taught at Tuskegee institute and served as an economist in the Farm Security Administration. Pinder was not only an experienced farmer and teacher; he also was a diplomat who knew how to get people to cooperate in doing things.

In Liberia, although there was an abundance of farmers and farm land, Pinder soon observed that the 1,600,000 inhabitants were not producing enough food to keep themselves healthy. His first effort was directed toward removing this situation.

A plan submitted to relieve this acute problem gained the support of the government. Pinder renovated the produce and poultry market.

When he first arrived in Liberia onions sold in the market for five cents each and cabbage for one cent a leaf. Now you can buy onions and cabbage for a few cents a pound. The same thing happened to tomatoes, rice, sweet potatoes, eggplant, sweet peppers, corn, string beans, cucumbers and many other products.

One of his most successful experiments was with the chicken.

"The chickens were pretty scrawny," Pinder said, "and the eggs were so small you might have thought they came from a robin's nest."

The mission and the Liberian government, with the cooperation of the Booker T. Washington Institute, imported several hundred giant roosters from the U. S. With

these, Pinder and his co-workers began breeding big, meaty chickens that produced big eggs.

Soon news of this improved chicken got around and Pinder agreed to sell them to local farmers provided they would feed them according to rules he had impossible for Pinder to get many worked out.

Wartime restrictions made it of his supplies, so he started by throwing a couple of bags of seed and some light tools on his back and disappearing into the jungle with a Liberian helper.

As a visiting diplomat Pinder could have commanded the best for his transportation. This would have included when traveling on land a hammock slung between four bearers, and on water, a canoe with someone else to do the paddling. However, in seven years he has never ridden in a hammock or been paddled. Sometimes he goes by air or jeep, but mostly he walks.

Travelling in swamp lands has given Pinder his share of tropical diseases, such as malaria, and dysentery.

"But they don't give me much trouble anymore," he said on a trip to Washington for consultations in July. "We have lots of better medicines now."

Along the trails, worn through the low jungles and the higher ground of the "hinterland" by generations of Liberians, Pinder's usual costume was a white shirt, khaki pants, and heavy work shoes.

A stocky figure of medium height, he swung along with an easy stride, thin wisps of smoke drifting from the pipe he invariably had clamped in his teeth.

He made friends with the people. At every village he came to, he went to the palaver house, which was also the guest house, and presented himself to the chief. During the ensuing discussion, he turned the conversation to crops, seeds, and methods of cultivation. People who lived close to hunger were always interested in this.

## NAACP BEING REBUILT IN FLA.

MIMS, FLA., SEPT. 4— Forward steps in rebuilding the NAACP in Florida have been taken recently with the organizing of new groups in Green Cove Springs, Holly Hill, Center Hill, and Lake Worth, and with the reviving of old branches in St. Augustine and Palatka.

The initial effort in Green Cove Springs was made on the 3rd Sunday in July, when Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida NAACP, was invited to meet with a group there. Officers elected were: Acie Strong, president; Mrs. Ola Mae Berring, secretary; Mrs. Annie L. Small, treasurer. Application for a charter has been made with 62 members. On this same Sunday Secretary Moore spoke to large audiences during morning and night services at St. Mary Baptist and Shiloh Baptist Churches in St. Augustine, where committees were appointed to solicit memberships. Reorganization of the branch was completed on Aug. 19th when solicitors reported 44 full memberships and 12 partial memberships. Officers elected were: Ellie Smith, president; Oscar Turner, vice president; George Davis, secretary; Leonard Adger, treasurer.

The state secretary also has helped to organize NAACP committees in Lake Worth and Holly Hill with 16 members each. Lake Worth officers are: Archie Patrick, chairman; Rev. I. A. Banks, secretary. Officers at Holly Hill are: Timothy Gadson, chairman; Mrs. Elsie Peterson, secretary. Capt. L. E. Hall, chairman of the 5th District, recently organized a committee at Center Hill with 14 members.

The first effort to revive the Palatka Branch was made on July 31, when the state secretary spoke to about 125 veterans at the night school under the principalship of Joseph Green. Seventeen veterans paid dues then, while 69 others pledged their memberships.

Other Florida branches organized this year are Eustis, Liberty City, and Homestead, while progress has been made in reviving the NAACP in Alachua County, Apopka, Gifford, Oviedo, Boynton Beach, and Dunnellon. Efforts also are being made to revive branches in Leesburg, Crescent City, Coconut Grove, Stuart, and Kissimmee, and to organize the NAACP in Dania, Bunnell, Altamonte Springs, and Boca Raton. Persons interested in organizing or reviving the NAACP in their communities are urged to write Harry T. Moore, state secretary, Mims, Fla.

## Coupon Saving Plan To Help National Trade & Professional School

BAPTISTS, throughout the nation, and friends who are active supporters of and all who are interested in the National Trade and Professional School, Washington, D. C., will have a special opportunity to help the institution enlarge its facilities through gathering the valuable coupons, coming with certain well-known products, which can be redeemed for cash in a "CASH FOR COUPONS" RALLY.

During the early '30s, a similar appeal for coupon contributions was made. The response was so generous that the cash secured saved the school from tragic financial embarrassment at that time, and was directly responsible for the beginning of one of its largest buildings—Trades Hall.

The current drive is being undertaken through the cooperation of the manufacturers of Octagon Soap Products, Kirkman Soap Products, Rumford and Hearth Club Baking Powders, La Rosa Macaroni Products, Mrs. Filbert's Margarine, Mayonnaise and Salad Products, Luzianne Coffee and Tea, Ballard's Obelisk Flour, Borden's Silver Cow Evaporated Milk and Magnolia Condensed Milks.



Miss Nannie H. Burroughs . . . directs coupon-saving drive.

have either frozen in debt, or have been forced to close the school entirely. The coupons actually kept the doors of the institution open." Friends of the National Trade and Professional School sent in over three thousand dollars worth of coupons during the original drive!

As an experienced executive, Miss



Trades Hall at the National Trade and Professional School, Washington, D. C., which will be enlarged as the result of the school's current \$10,000 "CASH FOR COUPONS" campaign.

Money realized from the redemption of these coupons will be used to help build a much-needed dormitory, the Memorial Chapel and aid in the completion of Trades Hall. A goal of \$10,000 from coupons has been set for this drive and the slogan for the drive is "CASH FOR COUPONS."

The dynamo behind the campaign is Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, President of the Woman's Convention, Auxiliary National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and head of the school where girls get an invaluable opportunity to learn a trade and profession, correlated with standard High School and Junior College courses.

It was Miss Burroughs who, in 1933, informed the Woman's Convention, Auxiliary National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., that the Octagon Coupon Plan might be the answer in helping to meet a heavy mortgage debt on Trades Hall at the school.

A year later, Miss Burroughs addressed the Annual Convention saying: ". . . Without the help which these coupons brought us we would

Burroughs suggests the following techniques to speed the flow of coupons in this new campaign in which all friends of the school are urged to participate:

1. Organize a Coupon Club in your community and start saving them.
2. Urge your grocer to keep well-stocked in coupon-carrying products.
3. Have your church appoint a "go get 'em" chairman with a strong committee to interest members to save and send in coupons.
4. Call for coupons by public announcement in your church each week.

"The whole plan," adds Miss Burroughs, "offers a practical plan to teach self-help, to salvage what might otherwise be waste and make it save and serve this worthy cause."

Coupons should be trimmed, put into like, marked bundles of 25, 50 or 100 each and sent directly to the National Trade and Professional School, Lincoln Heights, Washington 19, D. C.

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