

# Liberia Is Nation Going Ahead Economically by Iron Ore Route

By EVA HAMILTON  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer  
A country awaking to modern challenges and moving forward economically by the iron ore route is the description given here of Liberia by Doyle K. Casey, who recently returned from the west coast of Africa.

Lamco is spending \$200 million on an ore plant, railroad, seaport and other equipment in Liberia and will complete the investment before realizing one cent in return. Such is the company's faith in the future of Liberian iron, Casey noted. Production is not scheduled to start before April.

**A Minerals Company**  
What is Lamco? It is the Liberian American Swedish Minerals company. A 200-mile railroad is part of its construction program and it has been employing several thousand Liberians. The tribal Liberians carry on the manual labor and foreigners, plus some Liberians, perform the work requiring more training.

The company expects to export several hundred million tons of 65 per cent iron ore to Europe and the United States. American investors also have an interest in another mine located at Boni Hills. Two additional plants are being financed by German investors.

Lamco is located 4,000 feet above sea level and it is just another world, according to the man who helped Liberia reorganize government operations. The humidity is high at Lamco, as it is throughout Liberia, but the temperature is cool and pleasant.

**Moving Forward**  
"The Liberians are moving forward politically, too, al-

though not spectacularly" for another reason. And this reason is close to the work which Casey carried on there. Liberians are willing to let someone else do the work for which they are not now prepared and ready.

Casey's job was to help with Liberia's efforts in reorganizing government operations and to help stimulate economic development. As deputy chief of the public administration division in Monrovia, he worked closely with the Liberian Special Commission on Government Operations, the conduct of Liberia's first national census, the organization of the National Planning Agency, the Liberian Development Corporation and the Rural Development Program centered in the interior of Liberia.

Although a very small country, about the size of the state of Indiana, Liberia exerts great influence in Africa, and Casey gives much credit for this to the president, William V. S. Tubman, now serving his fourth term. The Americo-Liberians fill the principal government offices.

**In Highway Program**  
The country is now engaging in a rather ambitious highway program. One hundred miles of highway have been asphalted. There are many graveled roadways as gravel is plentiful in Liberia, a very rocky country. So

rocky that a person is constantly hearing blating in Monrovia as bulldozers seek footing for construction, Casey said.

"Tubman really has Roosevelt bested," Casey commented, predicting that the Liberian leader will be elected to a fifth term and inaugurated in 1964.

There is much money to be made in the service industries in Liberia, according to Casey, who explained that the Liberians know they are not prepared at present to handle all the needs in this field. The government contracts with firms from other countries for some of these services. Much improvement has been made in recent years, the Medford visitor emphasized.

**Stimulates Growth**  
Casey said when he first took his family to Monrovia he was lighting the candles almost every night because the electricity was off. The Liberians hired Americans to come in and improve these service industries and this has helped stimulate the economic growth of the country.

There are no sewage plants in Monrovia, a city of 80,000 population, but this is not an emergent problem, Casey volunteered. Most of the people use the old out-door methods, others have septic tanks. This does not create the problem one might think. It's quite all right during the rainy season, Casey explained, and the ants are great scavengers during the dry season. There are fewer flies and mosquitoes than in many parts of South America.

The Caseys were provided with a typical American house, four bedrooms with two baths, while in Monrovia. As servants, they had two house boys, indigenous Liberians. All domestics are men in Liberia, the visitor added. The women have babies, plant rice, pound rice and perform other tribal duties. The tendency to use males instead of females in domestic positions carries through to the airlines where one finds stewards instead of stewardesses.

**Problem in Hiring**  
One major problem in hiring tribal Liberians, Casey said, results from the fact that there are 29 tribes, speaking 29 dialects. Sometimes a householder will have two house boys who can't even talk to each other.

The official language in Liberia is English and the Americo-Liberians, descendants of early American slaves, as well as some tribal Liberians, speak English fluently. Some of the Americo-Liberians are recent arrivals in Liberia, coming from the United States maybe two or three years ago.

Some go to the United States and marry Negro girls and bring them back to Liberia. You have to be a citizen to own property in Liberia and only Negroes can be citizens, Casey explained.

"Society in Liberia is much more formal than in this country. That is, with the Americo-Liberians," the former resident of Monrovia emphasized, adding "I didn't attend a number of functions because I didn't have the required top hat, striped pants and white tie and I wasn't going to invest in them. Many of the women wear very expensive clothes, all imported from other countries. My wife could tell you more about that."

**Tribal Liberians**  
Describing the tribal Liberians, Casey said there were many differences in their facial features. Although they live in a small country, each tribe has maintained its individuality.

All the men are called the "Boss" and all women "Missy" when addressed by the tribal Liberians.

The iron which is making Liberia a land of wealth also makes it a poor agricultural region. Even the waters are colored with the mineral, Casey said. The country doesn't produce enough food to feed its own people. Upland rice is grown but more is needed. It is imported from Italy and the United States. All food, with the exception of fruit, for the foreign community is imported. All food is called "chop." The pantry is the "chop closet" and fresh produce is called "fresh chop."

**Native Fruits**  
There are many native fruits - oranges, grapefruit, avocado, called butter pear, the papaya, called paw paw, and pineapples. The pineapples are so sweet people think sugar has been added.

Liberian children don't drink milk. Babies are nursed until they are several years old. After that milk is no longer a part of the diet. They never have had milk in Liberia. One reason is that the taste



RELAX IN MEDFORD—Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Casey are relaxing here with their five daughters at the home of his brother, Richard W. Casey, between house hunting tours around Medford. Janet, 14, now a student at McLoughlin Junior High school, is wearing a lapa, the Liberian costume, extra yardage of which is used as a stole or a carrier for babies. The other daughters are Sandra, 10, and Patricia, 8, who have enrolled at Jackson school; Cynthia, 5, and Pamela, 2. Mrs. Casey plans to remain in Medford to keep their daughters in school until the end of the term.

fly is still a problem. The cows seen in Liberia are there for scientific testing and for beef.

Malaria is very common, much of it, in infants, of the fatal cerebral type. The Caseys took malaria suppressives, but Casey had one attack, which was mild.

Temperature in Liberia is equalled by humidity, which is always high. A temperature as low as 87 degrees is seldom recorded. It can, and does rain 11 inches in 18 hours. The humidity is high even in the "dry season" when the dust boils up until shrubs along the roadways are so coated it is difficult to identify them.

**Sets Up Training Program**  
In addition to his Liberian assignment, Casey was asked by the U. S. Mission in Nigeria to come there and assist in training officials at the cabinet level, who will be replacing the British in these positions. He spent a month just setting up the training

program and found the Nigerians wonderful people.

Casey received his degree in political science at the University of Oregon in 1947 and worked two years for the League of Oregon Cities in Eugene. He received an Alfred P. Sloan fellowship in government management for graduate work at the University of Denver where he obtained his master's degree.

He worked with legislative committees in Sacramento, Calif., before joining the foreign operations administration.

His next assignment, according to tentative agreements, will be to Uganda for a training program similar to the one developed in Nigeria.

Mrs. Casey and their daughters hope to remain in Medford at least for the remainder of the school year.

Casey was with the foreign aid program overseas before going to Africa. His previous post was with the aid mission in Asuncion, Paraguay.

## Medford YMCA Names Delegates

Five delegates to the Area Council of the Pacific Northwest YMCA were elected by the board of directors of the Medford organization at a recent meeting.

They are Dr. William H. Roberts, Mrs. Scott Wickersham, Terry Green, William J. Williams and Robert E. Nelson.

The Medford members will attend the council meeting in Seattle March 1, 2 and 3. The program there will give consideration to the purposes for which the YMCA works and to the implementation of these purposes in program activities.

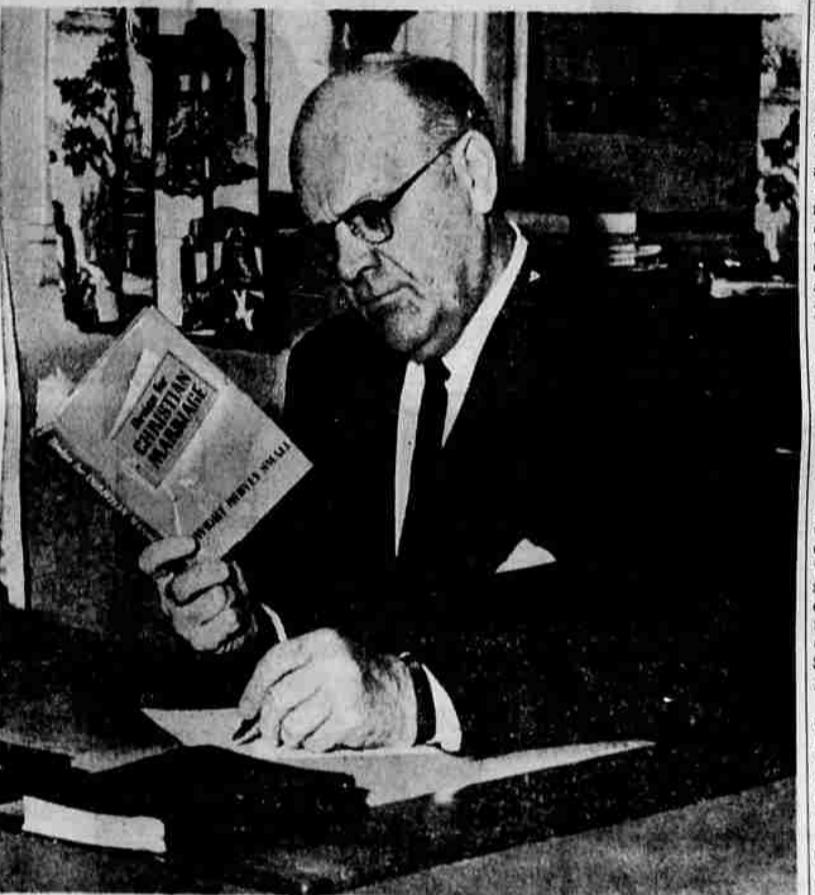
It will devote considerable time to legislation concerning inter-association affairs and opportunities for exchange of ideas, according to advance reports of the program.

Nine new directors will be elected to the Medford YMCA board at the annual meeting of the membership Jan. 22.



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## Solution to Problem of Broken Home Is in Home



COUNSELING HELP — Dr. D. Kirkland West finds helpful in his counseling of young married couples a book, "Design for Christian Marriage," written by Dwight Hervey Small. It is one of many on the subject of marriage he keeps on his library shelves.

By EVA HAMILTON  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer  
For many months ministers and judges throughout this country have been devoting their time to a study of the nation's "appalling divorce rate," and the accompanying break down of family life.

Everyone reads about it. Everyone talks about it. But, does anyone do anything about it? That's the question they ask. The answer is yes, at least here. And, the doing is starting at the grass roots as it does in most campaigns that reap results.

Calling for cooperation of all ministers in coping with the "growing tide of broken homes," Dr. D. Kirkland West of the First Presbyterian church in Medford recently revealed some "shocking figures" pertaining to the situation right in Jackson county.

**Gathers Statistics**  
During a four-month period, Dr. West gathered statistics from the Jackson county courthouse.

They showed that this county recorded during that time 122 marriages and 85 divorces, affecting 105 children. The last figure is the one that worries him most.

The second month the number of divorces stayed the same, 22. The marriages increased from 29 to 32, a healthy sign at first glance. But, the number of children involved in the broken homes increased from 22 to 24. So, the situation was not so promising as the first impression might indicate.

The third month chosen by Dr. West saw marriages out-

numbering divorces by a larger margin, 30 to 11. Again, the number of children involved stayed at approximately the same number, 23. The ratios in the fourth month were "the most regrettable." There were 31 marriages and 28 divorces, leaving 36 children "victims of the broken home stigma," Dr. West noted.

**Suggests Several Answers**  
What is the cause of all this? Dr. West suggests several answers but he hasn't decided which one, if any, is correct.

He is sure of one thing. The "death do us part" routine means little if anything to a growing number of people today. Fewer and fewer people think of marriage in terms of life. The truism is, according to Dr. West, "If I don't like it, I can change it."

A marriage, he has found, is viewed in the same light as a new car by many couples. If you don't like this model trade it in for a new one.

The attitude is not confined to any one class of people. The rich, the poor, the educated, the uneducated fall into the same pattern, in lesser numbers in some places, perhaps, Dr. West said. But, never in a sufficiently notable trend to enable those who study the problem to label any particular group as the "most divorced" or the "least divorced."

**Figure In Answers**  
The working wife, the too-young bride, and the immature bridegroom all figure in answers frequently given to the problem.

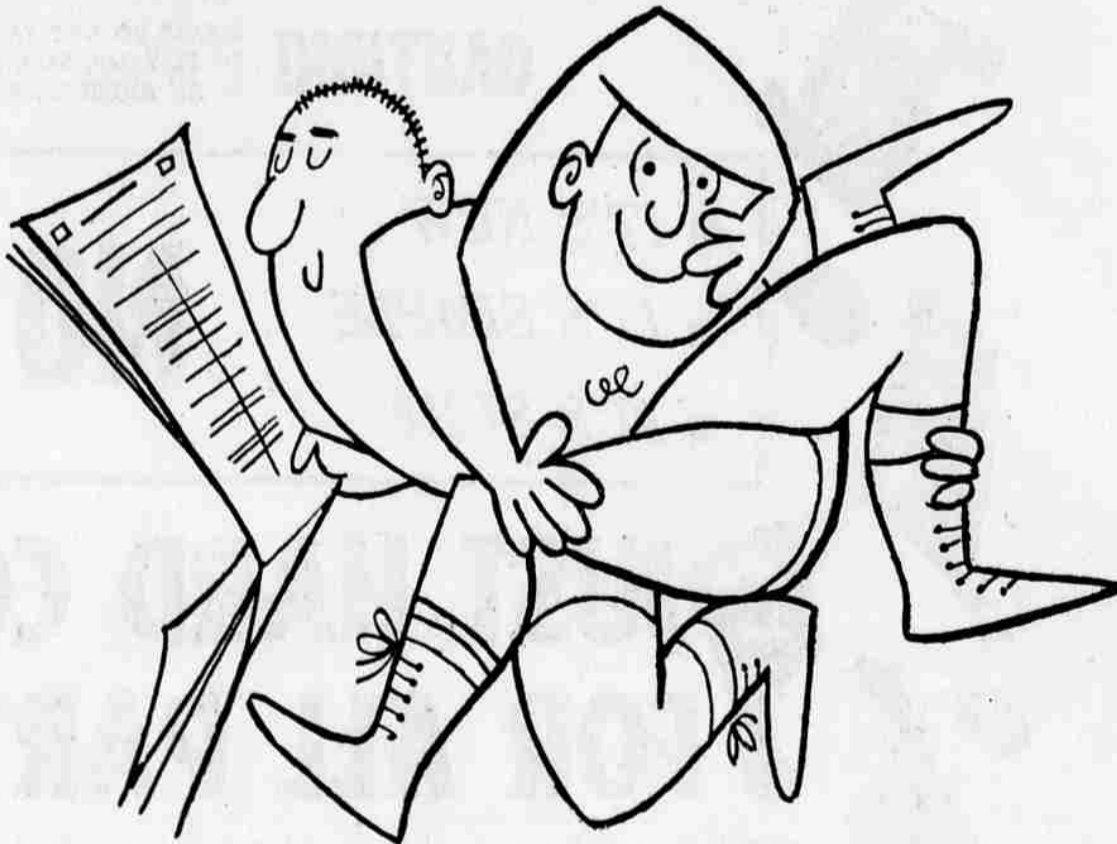
It's too easy to get married, some experts volunteer. Women have too much money. They have become too independent to stay married, another offers. Of all America's families in the \$7,000-and-up income bracket, two thirds have more than one wage earner, and in nearly 60 per cent of these cases the second worker is the wife.

In the \$7,000 to \$10,000 income bracket, half of all working wives bring home more than one-third of the family's total paycheck. These are figures released by Sylvia Porter, financial writer, and in no attempt to throw light upon this particular problem. But, Dr. West believes, such figures may be significant.

**Vote of Majority**  
"Too-easy, too-early marriages" seem to get the vote of the majority of people reporting their findings when they try to answer why. But what's to be done about it?

Few people favor more laws to dictate more regulations, except, perhaps, where a change is necessary to the protection of the individual and society.

The most desirable answer, ministers and judges agree, "will come by way of the home." Schools and many churches, here and elsewhere, are now giving instruction in marriage and family relationships. But it gets a little embarrassing sometimes, they are quick to admit, when the teachers and ministers have to condemn to the children they are trying to counsel, the very mistakes their parents are making.



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