

NEW FACES IN VIRGINIA COLONY

For the first time the London Company is actively recruiting single women to immigrate to Virginia to become the wives of the single male settlers there. Until now only a few women have gone to Virginia, but the London Company feels that women are important to the growth and prosperity of the colony. The men there need the support of a wife and family as they try to make a life for themselves in this new country. Therefore, the company is seeking young, single women to go to the colony as potential wives. Only young women with high morals will be considered.

It will be recalled that one of the reasons for establishing a colony in the New World was to provide a place for the poor and the unemployed. With this in mind, the London Company in union with the city of London has decided to send a number of poor children to the Virginia Colony. So far they have rounded up 75 boys and 24 girls—orphans, homeless vagrants and poor children whose parents have agreed to give them up. The children will work in Virginia as indentured servants. The boys will be required to work for their master until they are 24 while the girls will only have to work until they are 21 or married. At the end of their indenture they will be given 50 acres of land. It is quite an opportunity for these children and will relieve the city of the expense of carrying for them.

It appears that the Virginia Colony has become international. There are Dutchmen, Poles and Italian craftsmen in the colony and now we understand that some Africans have arrived there. According to a letter from John Rolfe some twenty or so Africans were landed at Point Comfort at the mouth of the James River this past summer. The Africans had been taken from their homeland on the west coast of Africa and were on board a Portuguese ship, *San Juan Bautista*, bound for Vera Cruz when the ship was captured by two English privateers, *White Lion* and *Treasurer*, and her cargo taken. *White Lion* made her way to Virginia stopping at the fort at Point Comfort to trade the Africans for provisions before sailing away. The Africans are now working in the colony for the officials of the London Company.