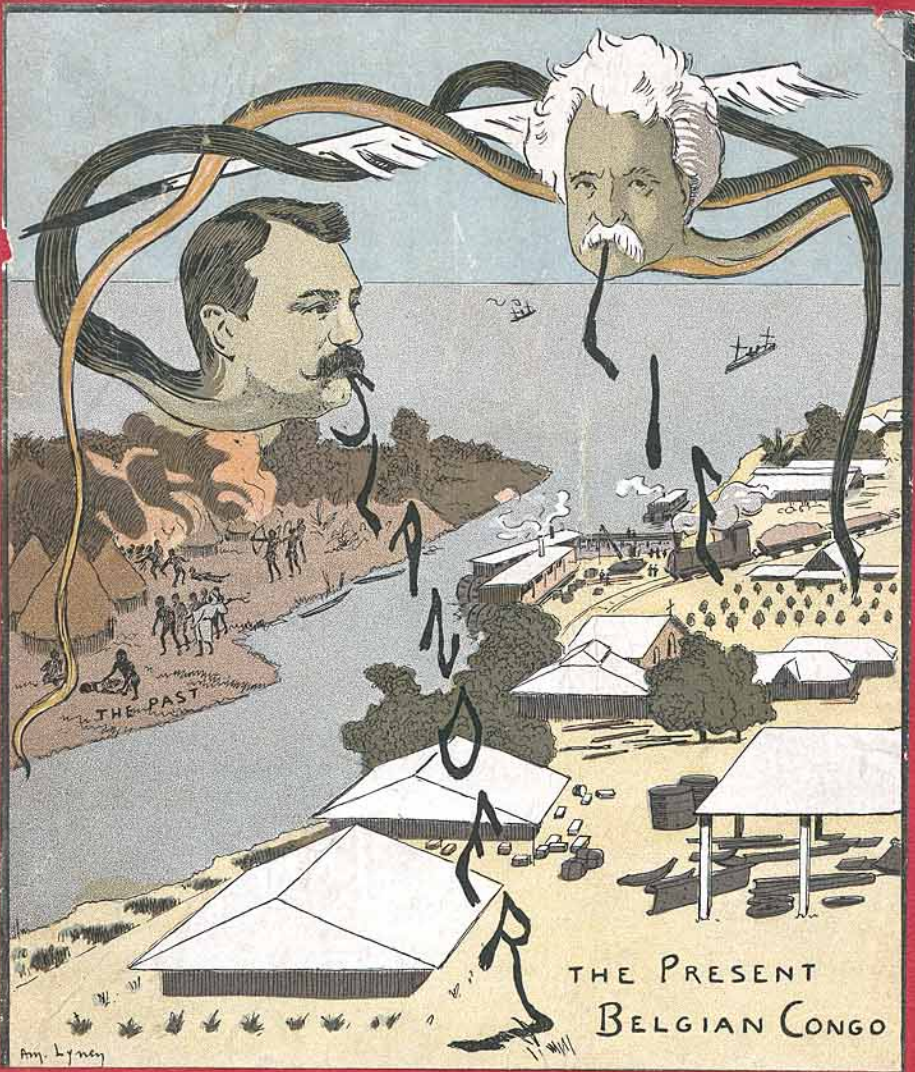


July 1907

An Answer to
Mark Twain



"The absolute and immediate necessities are the disruption of the Congo Free State and its partition among the Powers."
(The Congo Reform Association's Secretary.)

Price : 1 / Net

An Answer to Mark Twain



E. D. MOREL

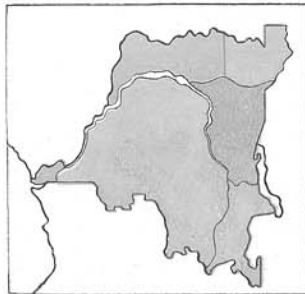
Secretary
of the
Congo Reform Association.

"The absolute and immediate necessities are the disruption of the Congo Free State and its partition among the Powers."



GUY BURROWS

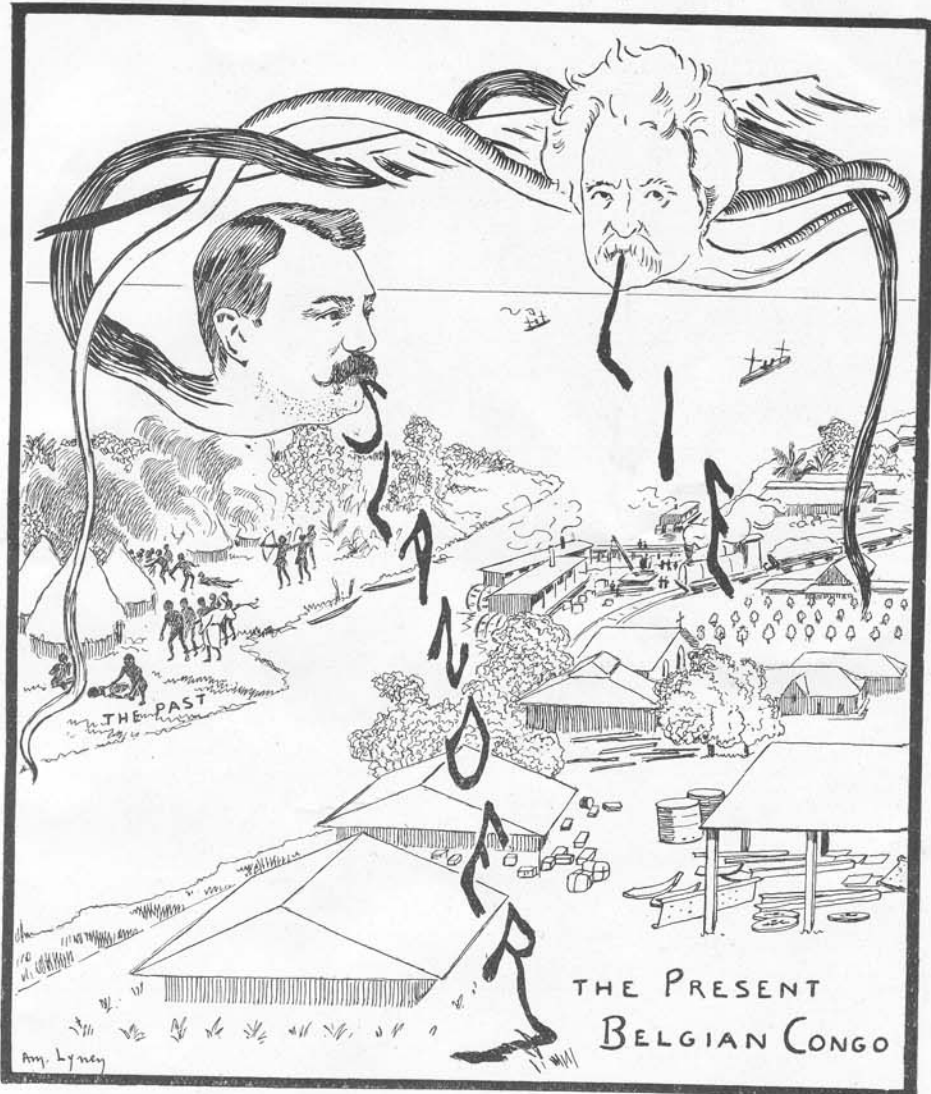
"The vast basin of the Congo readily lends itself to a scheme of partition among the Powers. The British frontier could be made to follow the waters of the Congo along its entire length from the point where the Lukungu takes its waters from Tanganika to the present Portuguese frontier below Matadi."



Suggested Partition of the Congo State.
■ to England.

An Answer to

Mark Twain



“ The absolute and immediate necessities are the disruption of the Congo Free State and its partition among the Powers. ”

(The Congo Reform Association's Secretary.)

An Answer to Mark Twain

Two years ago, an infamous libel against the Congo State was published in America under the title of « King Leopold's Soliloquy ». It was somewhat surprising to find the publication bearing Mark Twain's signature as one would scarcely have expected an author of such past reputation to lend his hand to an ugly piece of work of this description.

As the pamphlet met with no success in America, the issue of a second edition, with several additions by the secretary of the Congo Reform Association, was undertaken. This edition, apparently better prepared, was to serve for the English public.

No Belgian would take the trouble of discussing such filthy work. According to this book, all the Belgians who are in the Congo under the direction of their King, are nothing but vile murderers shedding the blood of the natives in order to ring rubber out of them. Every pound of rubber, writes Mark Twain, costs a rape, a mutilation or a life. And the lies and slanders are accumulated and, as stated by Mark Twain — the only true thing in his soliloquy — « they slander and still slander. »

The natives are illtreated and overtaxed. A lie! The

natives are mutilated by the State. A lie! The State provides nothing for the country. A lie! The State establishes a worse form of slavery right in Africa. »
A lie!

Truth shines forth in the following pages, which summarily show what the Congo State is -- not the hell as depicted by a morbid mind — but a country which twenty years ago was steeped in the most abject barbarity and which to-day is born to civilisation and progress.

No soliloquy will prevail against the real state of things in the Congo, no more than a soliloquy attributed, for instance, to King Edward VII would, minimise the great things accomplished by the British in India.

« I am truly grieved », Mark Twain might have the King of England say, « at all the bad news which » reaches me from Calcutta. The Hindus now find » that the British rule is not the best in the world. » They are going about preaching sedition, talking » about overtaxation, forced labour, exaggerated » water rate, as if the first consideration is not, as » stated by my Minister Mr. Morley that « British » rule shall continue, ought to continue and must » continue. » There is, it appears, some starvation... » There still seems to be much room for improve- » ment in the public medical service, judging from » the number of deaths due to the plague, which » was 642.000 in the first four months of this year, » or, say 2.500.000 deaths for the year. The people, » I very much regret, complain that the Government » is compelled to deport them or to imprison them

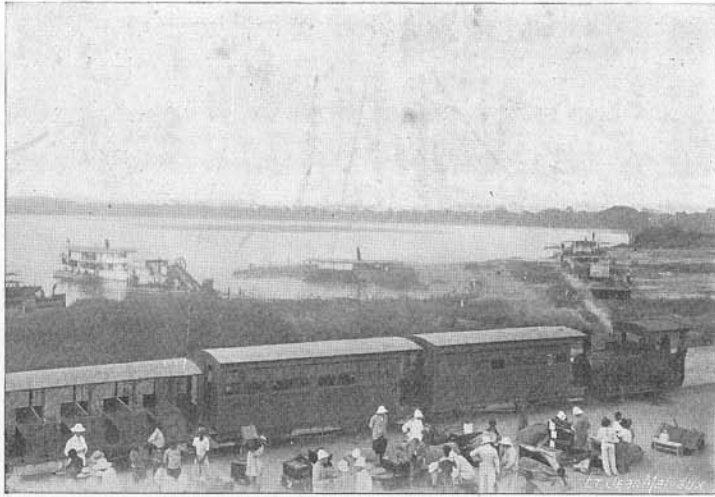
» without a trial. Circumstances, as Mark Twain » says, render this discipline necessary. »

We are far from holding the British administration responsible for these seditious movements and high death rate. Fairness commands us to consider, in all human work, not the details, but the general state of things, and no serious man will ever think of » definitively condemning the British administration » in India, without allowing time to carry out the » reforms, which, it is stated, are contemplated.

It is somewhat surprising to find Mark Twain glorifying the laziness of the natives in the Congo, this laziness which is sacred in his opinion, but which in ours is the mother of all vices and the cause of the misfortune of the African race which can only be regenerated by work.

Mark Twain's sympathy is exclusively extended to the Congo natives. He is not in the least interested in a better understanding between blacks and whites in the United - States, he takes no interest in the people of India who are clamouring for more freedom, nor in the Egyptians who are claiming self-government, nor in the natives of the British colonies.

The fact is, that the Congo Reform Association, of which Mark Twain is the mouth-piece, is not in quest of the happiness of the negroes, but is simply endeavouring, by all possible means, to overthrow the Congo Government, and with this object in view, has set up a fabric of imaginary crimes and lies, in the hope, by dint of slander, to reach its distinctly revolutionary ends.



Léopoldville — The Railway Station



An Intermediate Station

THE LOWER-

« The old caravan route was flanked with the graves of carriers and of whites who fell by the way and diseases were developed by



A Bridge on the Railway



Another Bridge

CONGO RAILWAY

the journey. Now many sufferings are avoided.»
(Edgard W. Geil, American traveller.)



Et Jean Malvaux

The Line under Construction



Et Jean Malvaux

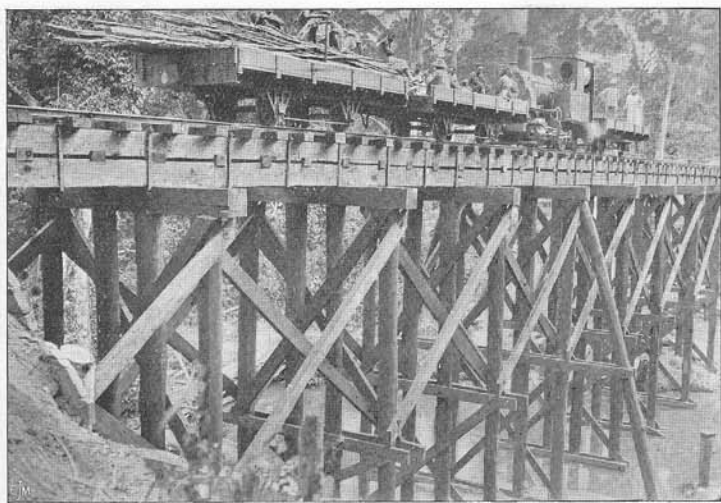
Temporary Bridge in course of erection

**THE UPPER-
2,000 miles in**

« The route way is a fine piece of work. It will certainly be a most important factor in opening up the country. The workmen on



Stanleyville Station

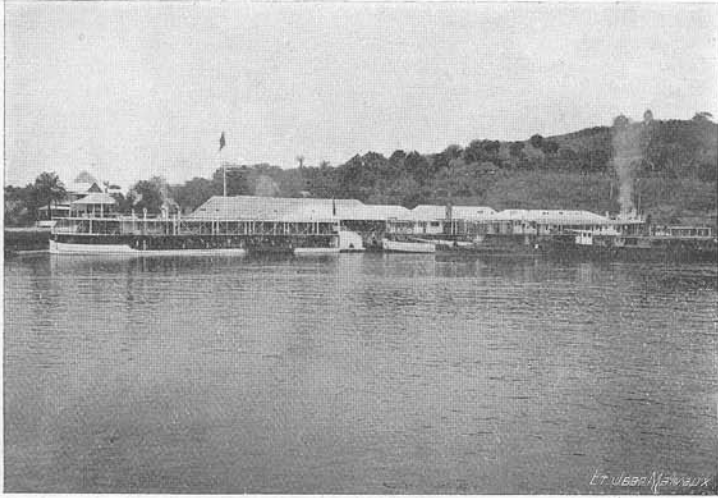


Temporary Bridge completed

CONGO RAILWAY

the heart of Africa

the line looked smart and cheerful. The work is popular. »
(British Vice-Consul Michell.)



Leopoldville, The Harbour



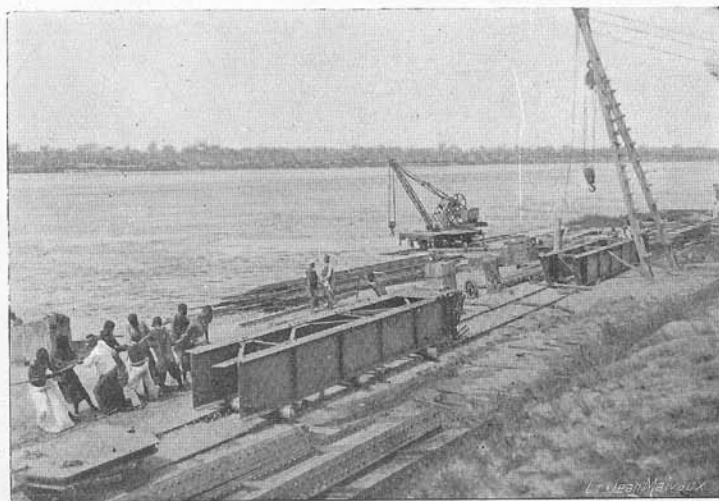
Leopoldville, The Docks

THE PORTS OF

• Léopoldville, the headquarters of the principal river service is equipped with extensive building and repairing slips and with a



Stanleyville, The Harbour

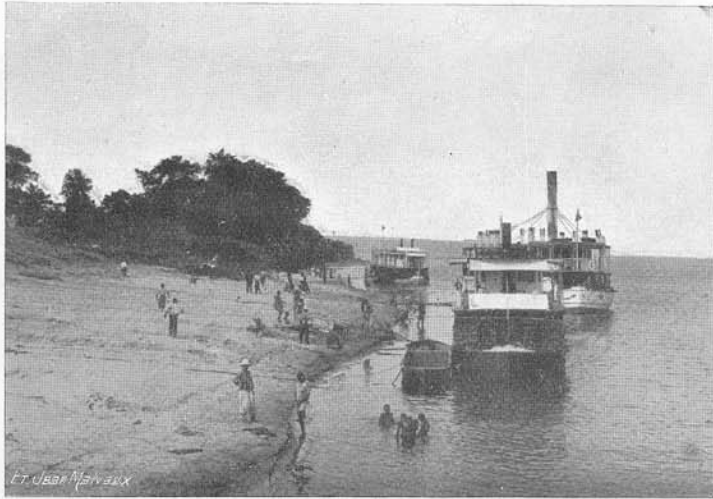


Stanleyville, The Wharf

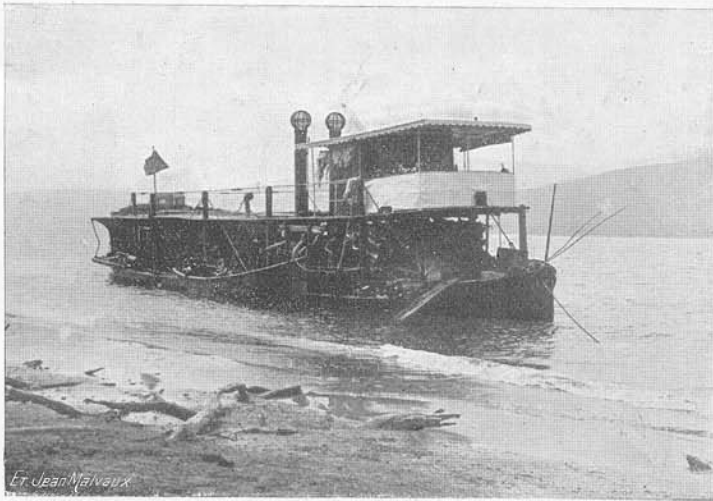
THE UPPER-CONGO

considerable deep water dock in which the largest steamer can be brought along side. *

(Lord Mountmorres).



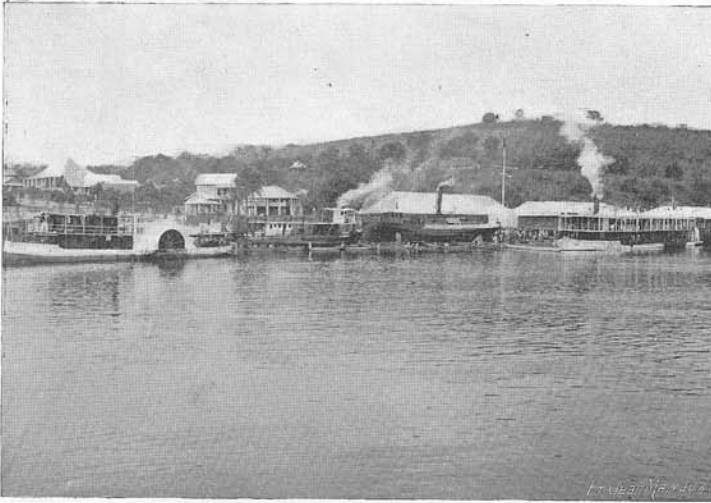
Some of the River Steamers



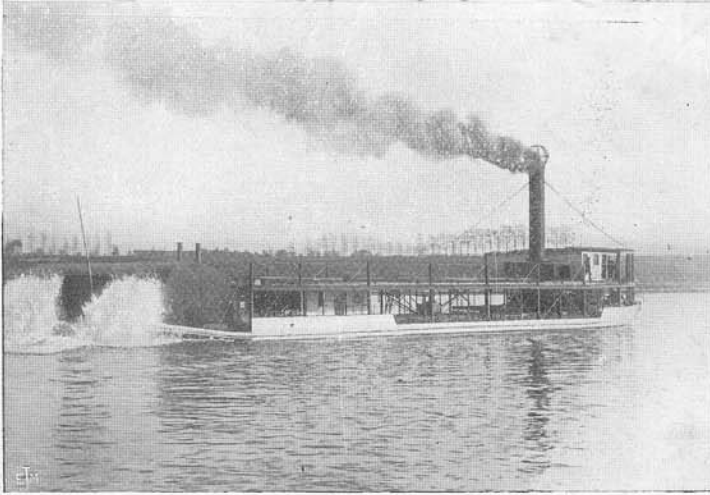
One of the small Crafts

THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RIVER

To day these thousands of miles of navigation are utilized by a fleet of steamers eighty or more in number. By means of these boats it is easy now for travellers not only to go over the chief part of the



Steamers taking Cargo

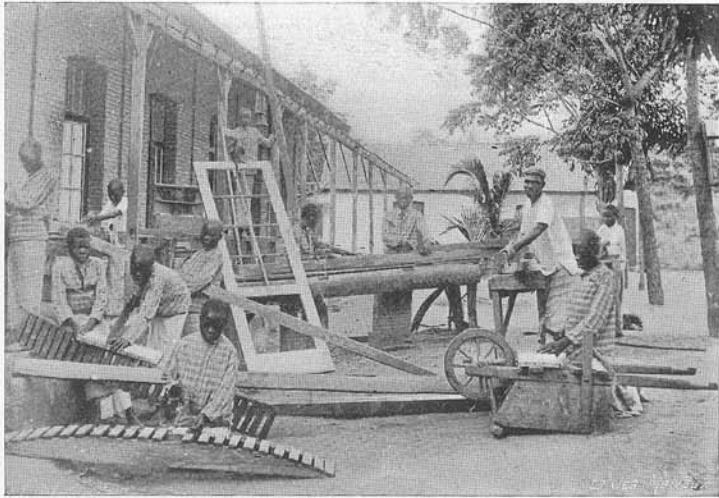


A 500 T. river Steamer

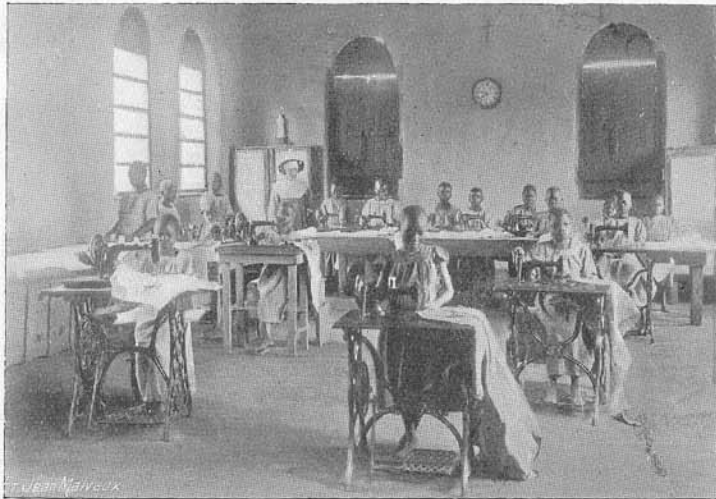
STEAMERS ON THE UPPER-CONGO

main river but to enter the larger tributaries at their mouth and travel hundreds of miles towards their sources. »

(Professor F. Starr of the University of Chicago)



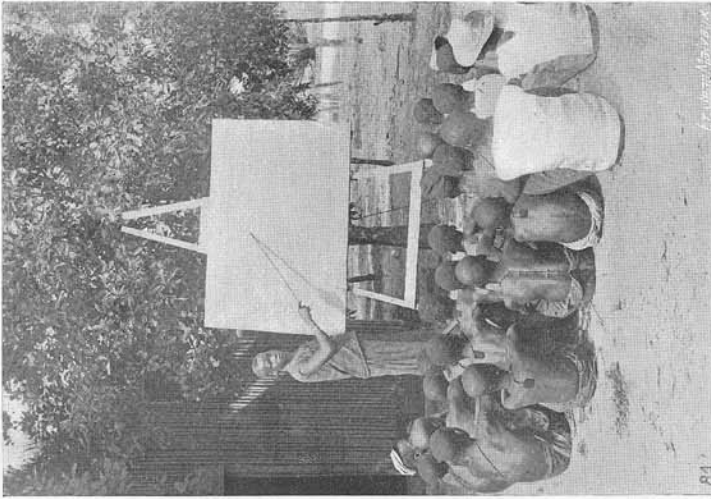
Carpentry School



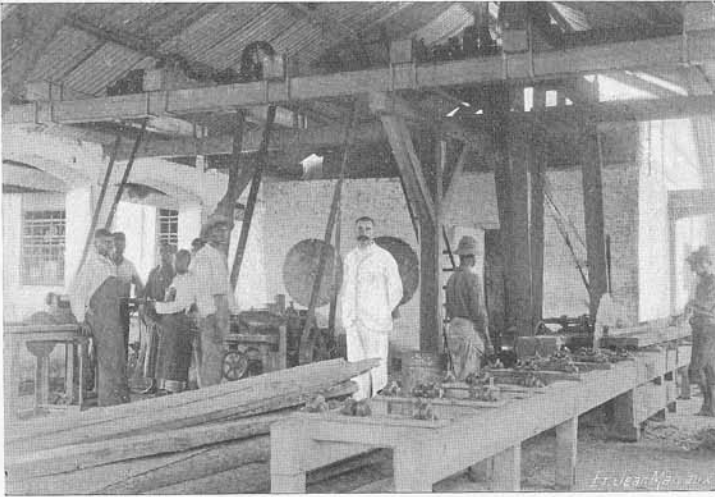
Sewing School

NATIVE

.. Some of the schools run by natives here, have over a hundred in daily regular attendance, and smaller villages club together to



A native Teacher



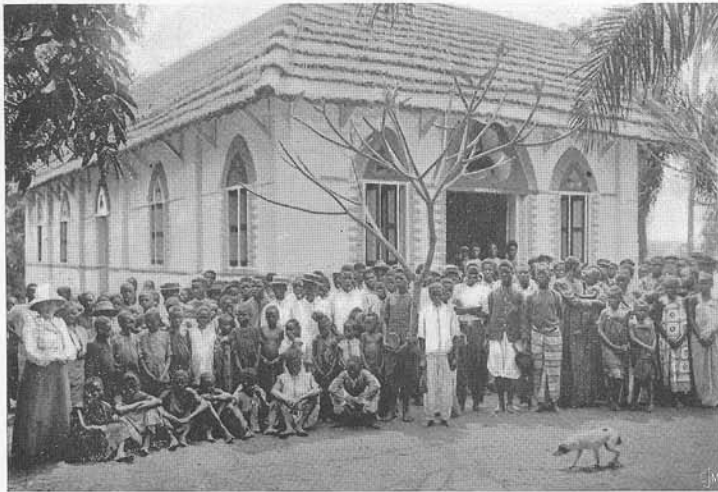
Technical School. Stanleyville

SCHOOLS

get a teacher between them. •
(Edg. W. Geil, American traveller.)



One of the Congo Churches



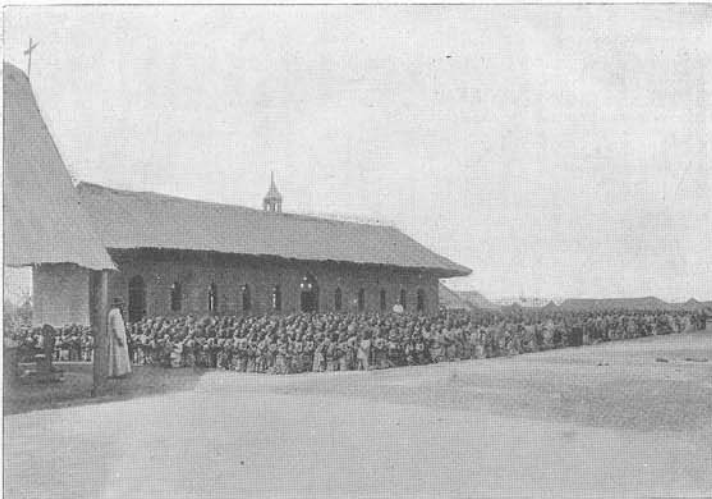
Mission Scene. After Sunday School

CHRISTIAN

• We must not forget the important work carried on by missionaries of all creeds side by side with the State. With their comfortable meeting-halls, their chapels, their schools, their fertile



The Governor's Visit to a Mission

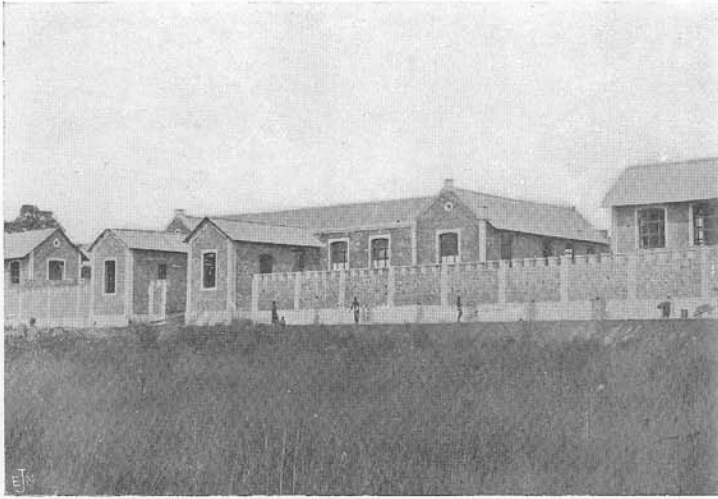


Mission Scene. Morning Prayer

MISSIONS

farms, their workshops, they have in many a place, given valuable help in the cause of civilisation. »

(Report of the Commission of Enquiry.)



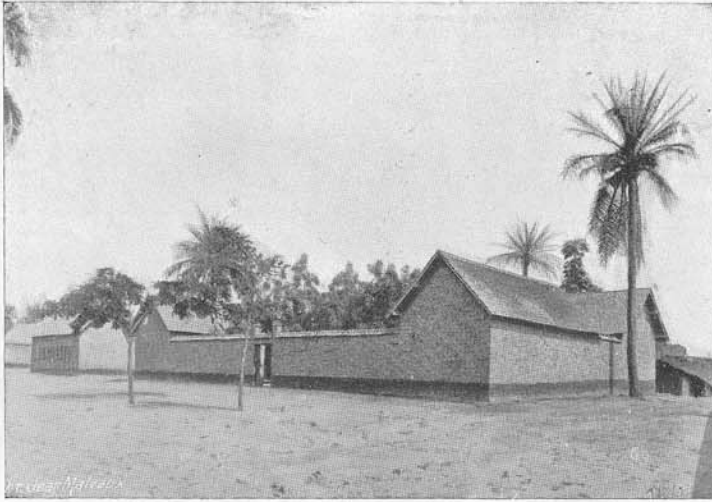
Native Hospital, Boma



Native Hospital, Leopoldville

NATIVE

« At Boma a fine new hospital has been erected. It is composed of separate buildings. This beautiful building is for the exclusive accomodation of black-skins and is a useful piece



Native Hospital, New Antwerp



Vaccinating Station near Stanleyville

HOSPITALS

of philanthropy. The State has certainly been transacting business on the wholesale in the matter of vaccination for smallpox. »

(E. W. Geil, American traveller.)

THE CONGO STATE IS WIPING A NATION OF FRIEND



Government Physician on duty



Doctor attending Patients

MEDICAL

« Medical missions have been at work in various parts of the State making a thorough investigation into various tropical



Bacteriologic Institute



Scientific researches of tropical Diseases

SERVICE

diseases, more particularly in sleeping sickness and tic fever.»
(Lord Mountmorres.)

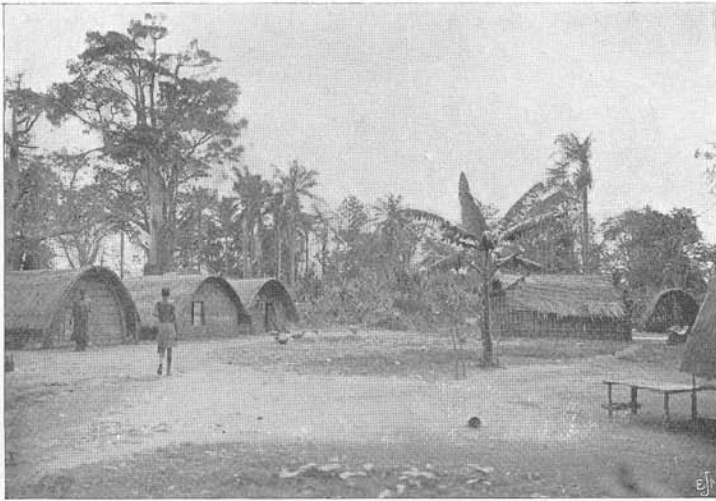


Untidy Villages

The past

NATIVE

« All I can say of the Belgian Congo is that the country is kept in excellent order; that the natives are quite happy and well cared



Villages kept according to Medical Officer's Instructions

VILLAGES

The present

for, and that the country far from being damaged, is greatly improved.

(Savage Landor.)



The Motor-car Road



A Motor-car on its way from Congo to Nile

MOTOR-CARS

• An experiment of great interest is that being carried out in the Uelle province where a great artificial motorroad has been laid from the Nile to within a few miles of the Congo River at Buta and



One of the difficult points on the Road



Type of Motor-car in use on the Congo

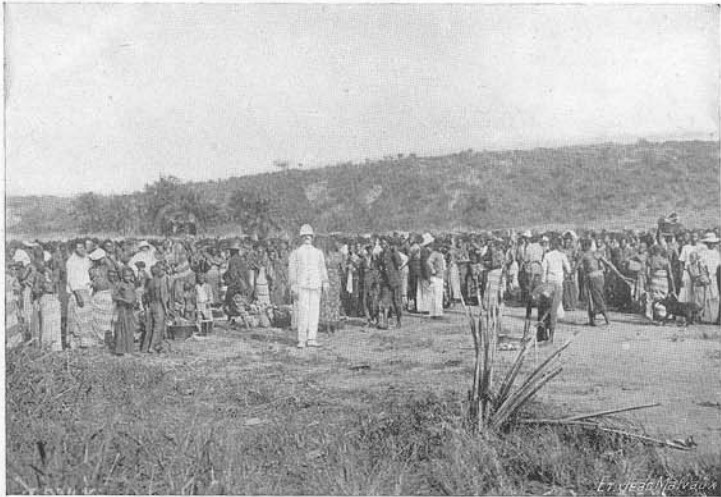
IN AFRICA

a regular service of traction engines established. Similar essays on a smaller scale are being made in other parts to solve the portorage difficulty.

(Lord Mountmorres.)



Ready for the Dance



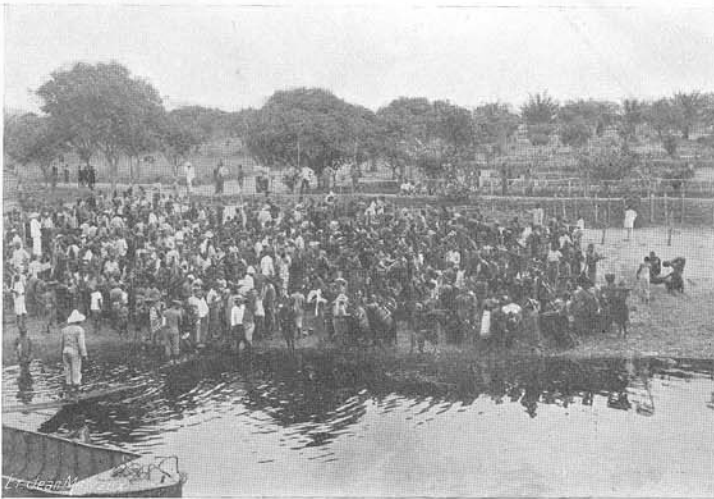
Assembled to meet the White man

NATIVE

The natives are peaceable and law abiding, and seem to be happy and contented under the Belgian rule. It was these same people who tried to hinder Stanley on his journey to relieve Emin Pasha at



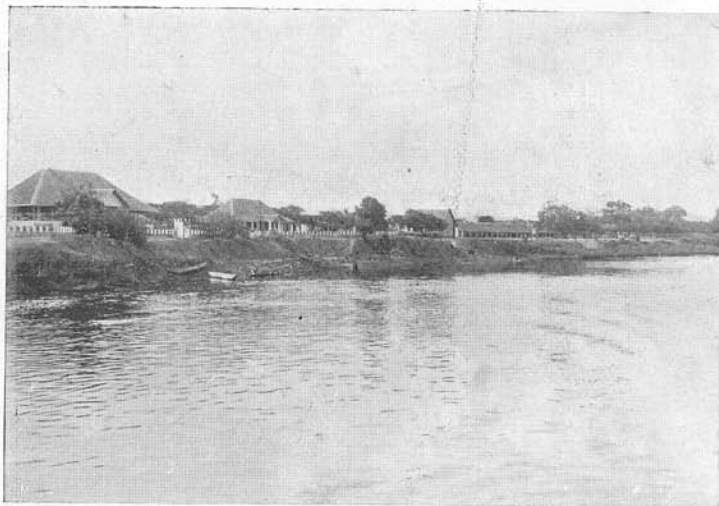
Market day



River scene on the Upper Congo

TOWNS

Dufile, but now, instead of trying to kill the white man, they welcome him and do all in their power to assist him. " (M. J. Penman-Browne M. E.)



Basoko



Leopoldville

ADMINISTRATIVE

• The station of Banalya (Upper Aruwimi) shows every sign of care, skill and energy. At Ponthierville the station is well built. At



Bomili

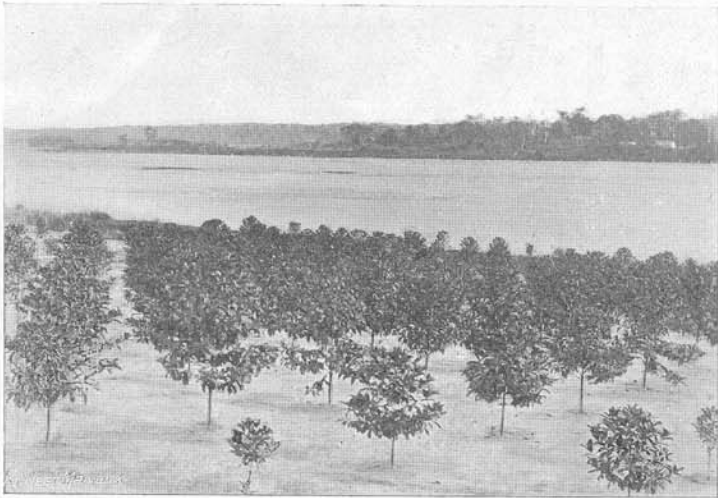


Coquilhatville

CENTRES

Yambuya the station is a model of care, cleanliness and good taste. »

(British Vice-Consul Michell.)



PLANTATIONS AS PLANNED

“ I found at many places a condition of the negro population far happier than I had dreamed it possible. I saw hundreds of natives who were working happily, living in good houses. That this number will rapidly increase, I have no doubt. ”

(Professor F. Starr of the University of Chicago.)



BY THE BELGIANS

« At Yambuya I was deeply interested in the rubber plantations. The agent in charge has laid his plans in an admirable fashion. »

(British Vice-Consul Michell.)



A Beautiful Spot



A Shady Avenue

AGRICULTURAL

« The department of Agriculture is very fully organised and very highly developed. At Eala, near Coquilhatville, there exists a large tract of country which has been devoted to botanical gardens



The Grounds



Another Avenue

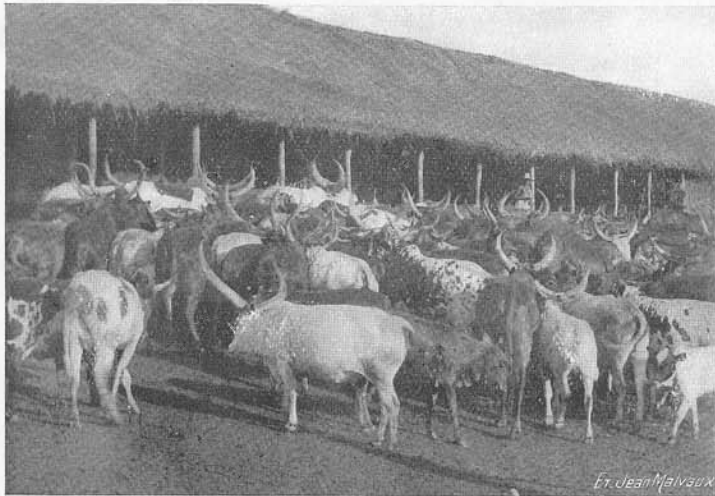
GARDEN

and nurseries, and also to experimental farming and stock raising on an exceedingly large and comprehensive scale.

(Lord Mountmorres.)



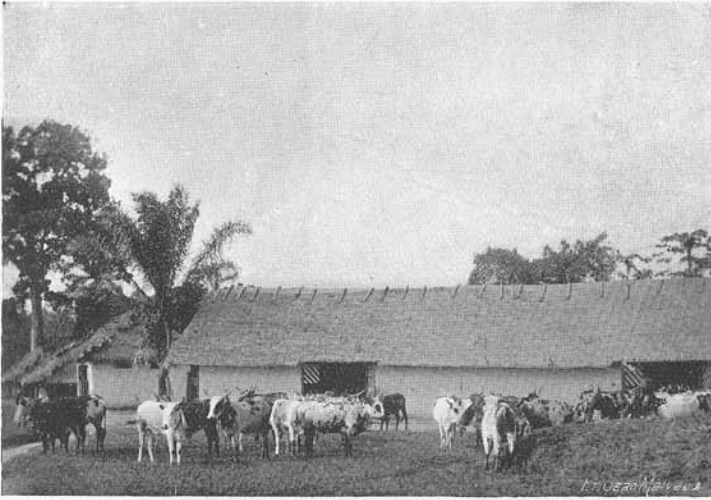
On the Veld



A Cattle Ranch

CATTLE

« At Yakoma there is a large horse-breeding establishment, with something like thirty head of thoroughly acclimatised and principally locally bred animals. In many other stations both horse



Stock raising Farm

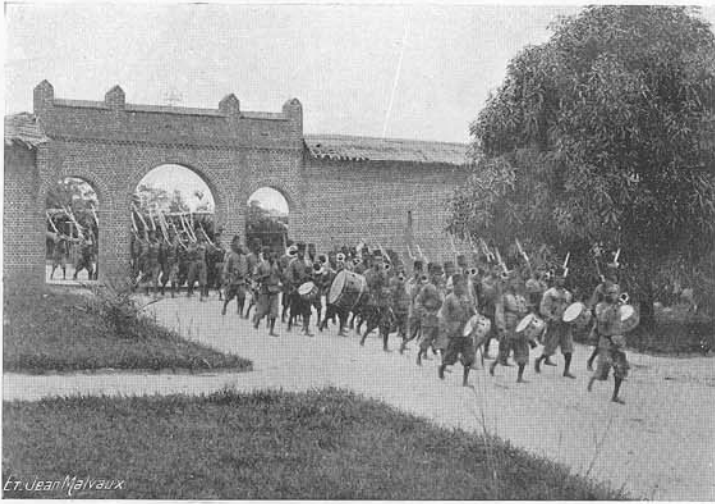


A Team of Oxen

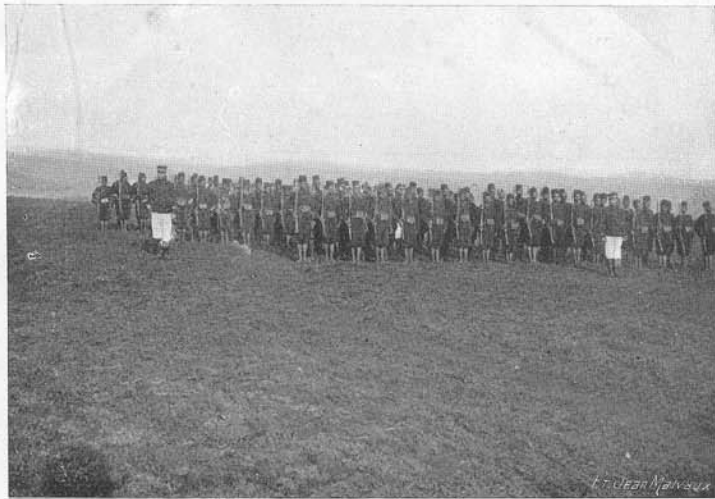
BREEDING

and cattle are to be found in considerable quantities. Mules are being bred in the eastern province Uele.

(Lord Mountmorres.)



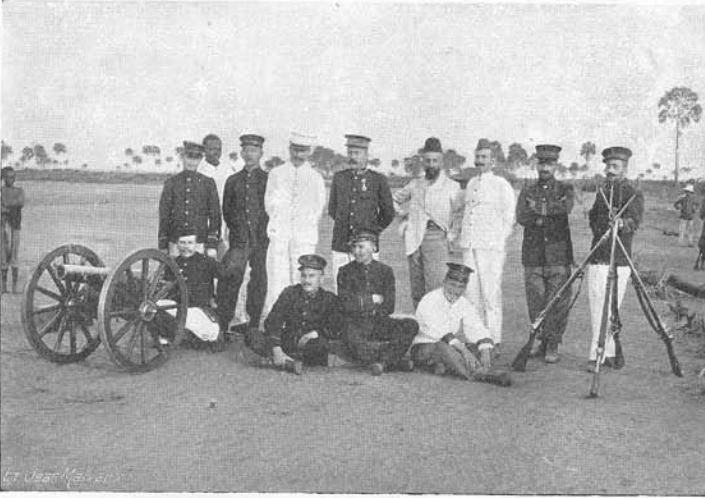
The March Past



Drilling

THE NATIVE

« It is only fair to remember that the Congo State has done a great work. By its administration the cruel raids of the Arab



Members of the Staff



On Parade

ARMY

slave dealers have ceased to exist over many thousand square miles.

(Lord Curzon.)

Alleged Atrocities

The Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, on presenting to the public Mark Twain's soliloquy which he had prompted, knew perfectly well that the soliloquy could not meet with success unless it was illustrated by the usual drawings of alleged acts of cruelty which have been promenaded all over England for years in the West African Mail. These illustrations represent mutilations of natives alleged to have been committed at the instigation of the Congo State agents. Now it was just to these alleged acts of cruelty that the Commission of Enquiry devoted special attention; it made a great many researches and thoroughly investigated the alleged cases of maltreatment which were brought to its notice.

After an exhaustive enquiry, it came to the following conclusion, which was recorded in its Report :

« One thing is beyond doubt, the white man has never
» inflicted or caused to be inflicted as a punishment for short-
» tage in taxes or for any other reason, such mutilations on
» living natives. No evidence of this kind ever reached us
» from any witness, and notwithstanding all our investiga-
» tions we did not discover any grounds for believing such
» torture to exist! »

Notwithstanding these conclusions of the Commissioners, whose impartiality and patience in the

investigation of truth have been acknowledged by the missionaries themselves, Messrs Morel & Co have continued to falsely assert that mutilations were committed in connection with the collection of rubber, and what shows up their bad faith, is that they precisely represent as such, the cases which have been enquired into by the Commissionners.

These cases are again reproduced in Mark Twain's pamphlet and it may prove useful to examine some of them in detail.

The first is the case of the boy Epondo. It has now been ascertained without a shadow of a doubt, that this case is the result of a hunting accident and Mr Morel's assertions to the contrary have been most conclusively and flatly contradicted.

He contended that the « little boy Epondo had been » mutilated by an armed ruffian » (West African Mail). The protestant missionaries have flatly contradicted this statement and here is their version : « The » said boy has, this day, told me that he lost his hand » wrought by the bite of a wild boar ». (Rev. Mr. Faris, local missionary). — « I believe the boy's account of » the wild boar biting his arm and causing him to » lose his hand. » (Rev. Mr. Week's letter to Mr. Morel).

After investigating the matter, the Commissionners stated in their report :

« The commissionners rely on their own observation and on a thorough medical examination made at Coquilhatville by Dr Védy and come to the conclusion that Epondo really did lose his hand as the result of a bite from a wild beast. In addition to this,

the Rev. Mr. Weeks told us that during a recent visit to Malele, Epondo's native village, he saw that this was the general opinion throughout the village.» (Report of the Commission of Enquiry).

The Anti-Congolese newspaper « Le Peuple » was itself so convinced of the truly dishonest practice of continuing to make a handle of the Epondo case that it stated in its issue of October 28, 1905 that Mr Morel had given up making use of it, although this has not prevented Epondo's photo from being again reproduced in Mark Twain's book, the preface of which is by Mr Morel.

Epondo's case is not the only example of such dealings. Several photos of other mutilated natives have, for instance, also been reproduced in this pamphlet and are cited as examples of cruelty of the Congo agents, although it has been proved, beyond all doubt, that such is not the case.

The Commission of Enquiry has proved :

1° That the native represented with the two hands cut off, called Mola in the Report of the Commission of Enquiry, lost his two hands as a result of wounds on his wrist which gangrened.

2° Another child shown with the right hand and left foot removed, is Imponge, in connection with whom the Commission of Enquiry concluded that this mutilation « had robbery as a motive ». The natives who thought he was dead, cut off his two limbs in order to secure the copper anklets and bracelets he was wearing.

3° The woman with the foot cut off is Boali, in connection with whom the Commission of Enquiry

reached a similar conclusion, namely, that robbery was the motive of the mutilation.

4° With regard to Ikabo and Isekosu, the Commission of Enquiry stated, according to the evidence of these natives. that their village had been attacked and that they were wounded and fell to the ground unconscious. The enemy thinking they were dead, cut off their hands according to the barbarous custom which the State has succeeded in rooting out.

This ancient barbarous custom afforded the missionaries with another opportunity of taking a photo which has already been reproduced on several occasions, and once again in Mark Twain's pamphlet.

This photograph which is calculated to cause an impression of horror represents a native contemplating a human hand and foot cut off. Now it appears from the report of the Commission of Enquiry that this native committed the mutilation himself as it is stated in the report that « the natives who desire to furnish a tangible proof of the death of one of their number, and who cannot or will not produce the dead body itself, are still accustomed to exhibit the hands or the feet of the deceased. »

Of all the identified cases of mutilation reproduced in Mark Twain's pamphlet there is not one, according to the report of the Commission of Enquiry, which can be said to have been committed in connection with the collection of taxes. Now, it is always these same photographs which we see reproduced in connection with the rubber question in the West African Mail and in all the books written by Mr Morel or inspired by him.

Such is the value of the photographs produced, and as it is not proved by specific dates and places that these acts of cruelty can be directly or indirectly imputed to Belgians having resided in the Congo they must be considered as slanderous.

When, in a book entitled « The Curse of Central Africa » Capt. Guy Burrows charged a Belgian officer with abominable outrages against the natives, against men and women, he was condemned before an English Court for libel.

When a British missionary, in the West African Mail, publicly imputed acts of ill-treatment to an officer of the Congo State, he was condemned for libel.

And so long as the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, with or without the co-operation of Mark Twain, continues to insinuate that the whites in the Congo order the mutilation of natives in connection with the collection of rubber, he will be treated as a slanderer until he substantiates his allegations.

Another fallacious utterance is made when, in order to suit the case, it is stated that mutilations were not formerly practiced by the natives. On the contrary :

«For the least offence, Mr. Lovett Cameron stated in 1876, they cutt off a finger, a lip, etc.; for more serious, they cut off the hands. »

Dr A. R. F. Wollaston, a member of the British Museum expedition to Ruwenzori, who has just returned to England after an interesting Central African journey, states that « after leaving Ruwen- » zori he saw no evidence of ill treatment of nati-

» ves in any part of the Congo. The Manyema
» country, however, abounded with evidence of
» atrocities committed by the Arabs, and he saw
» people whose hands and ears had been cut off.
» These, however, were certainly not and in any
» case not due to the Belgians.

And Mr. H. Savage Landor, F. R. G. S., in the course of a lecture delivered at the Royal Institute of London on the 31st May of this year, made the following statement .

« I will not enter into the controversy regarding the
» administration of the Congo Free State. As I have
» been there, may be my words may not carry the
» weight of those writers who know nothing of that
» country. All I can say of the Belgian Congo is that
» the country is kept in excellent order; that the
» natives are quite happy and well cared for; and
» the country, far from being damaged, is greatly
» improved by the construction of roads, by enormous
» plantations of rubber, as well as immense
» plantations of rice, millet, Indian corn, etc., which
» the natives prefer to receive in payment for the
» rubber instead of money which is useless to them.
» Many of the statements popular in this country are
» grossly exaggerated, if not unfounded altogether.
» But of course I am not a politician, and I only
» tell people what I see ».

Last Reports of His Britannic Majesty's Vice- Consuls in the Congo Free State. (1906.)

« The political conditions of the district are reported to be entirely satisfactory and no complaints have reached me from any quarter. » —

— « Though some of the tribes are said to be hostile to all ideas of progress and civilization, the villages are increasing in which signs of advancement are very evident. They are clean, well kept, and surrounded by plantations. The inhabitants are decently clothed and seem happy. » —

— « The industry and good conduct of [nearly all the State agents I have met] are greatly to their credit. » —

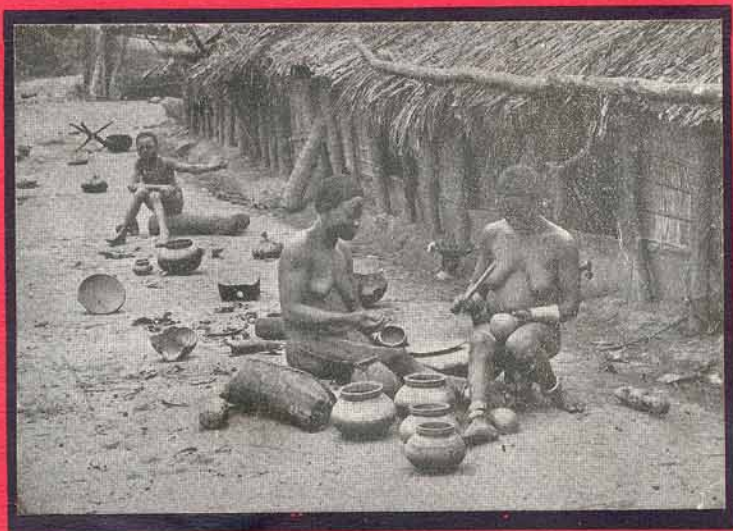
— « As the result of my journey I found that in the district I passed through the natives are quiet and contented. The pressure of taxation has been lately much relaxed. Small payments are made for bringing in caoutchouc, for work, canoes supplied, etc. » —

— « The recruits seldom return to their village when their term of service expires. They prefer to build new villages for themselves near the State posts, often within a few hundred yards of their native towns. The « licenciés » frequently volunteer for a further term of service, and those who do not do so pay their taxes without difficulty. » —

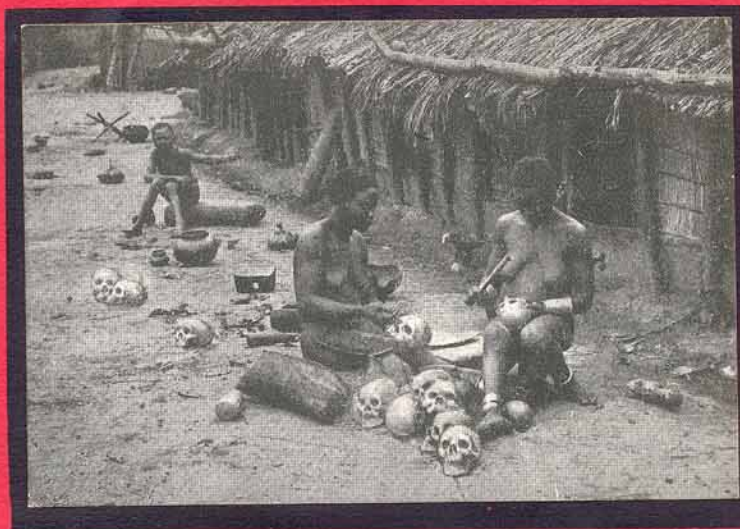
— « The value of the Decree on native lands is a generous measure, securing his rights to the native, and leaving him a wide margin for further development, especially if « occupation » is to be taken in the native sense. » —

— « The workmen of the line looked smart and cheerful. In fact, all along the route were new villages of natives from the inner forests, who had come to plant and to trade with the employés on the railway, and from these most of the workmen were drawn, the work being popular. » —

— « It is satisfactory to be able to state that the judicial officers now appear anxious and willing to put a stop to the abuses of the past, and I believe are honestly desirous of seeing that the natives are fairly and properly treated in the future. » —



Potters at Work in the Congo



The Same Photo at Liverpool

A. & G. BULENS BROTHERS

Editors

34, Houzeaustreet, Brussels