

Cong Free State's First Twenty Years' Progress Toward Civilization



GATHERING OF NATIVE CHIEFS AT COQUILHATVILLE, CONGO FREE STATE.



NATIVE FAMILY AT MATADI.

NATIVE POLICEMAN, CONGO FREE STATE.

MAY 6, 1908, marks the twentieth anniversary of the independence of the Congo Free State under the rule of King Leopold II of the Belgians.

When future writers compile an impartial history of our times, posterity will discover to the credit of the Belgian nation the civilization and development of one of the most resourceful of an area of 11,273 square miles, which is less than one-fourth the size of the state of New York, and a population of 5,500,000 people. It has accomplished within twenty years a task worthy of the world's greatest powers, opening up to the world a vast territory, covering an area of 900,000 square miles with a native and white population of about 30,000,000.

The philanthropic and humanitarian movement in favor of the civilization of the valleys of the upper and lower Congo was conceived by King Leopold II as early as September, 1876, when an international conference of scientists and explorers met at the royal palace at Brussels. Before this assembly King Leopold made the following remark:

"To open the only portion of our globe where civilization has not yet penetrated, to pierce the darkness which envelops whole countries of people, is a crusade worthy of this century of progress. I have led myself to believe that you would find it possible to discuss and arrange between yourselves the ways and means of placing the standard of civilization upon African soil."

Leopold's Views on Slavery.

The outcome of this international assembly was the formation of the Congo Free State, the carrying out of the king's projects and before this committee he said:

"Slavery, which still exists to an enormous extent on the African continent, is a stigma which all the friends of humanity should desire to see wiped out of existence. The horror of this state of things, the thousands of victims which the slave trade causes to be massacred each year, the even greater numbers of perfectly innocent beings who are brutally reduced to perpetual hard labor, have awakened the sympathies of all those who have studied this deplorable state of things, and they have agreed to unite in their efforts to organize an international association that will put an end to a traffic which causes the most serious of the present day to blush with shame, and to tear away the veil that now hangs over central Africa."

Products of the Country.

The first and most important of all its products are, of course, ivory and rubber, of which experts say there is a sufficient store with which to supply the markets of the world for a length of time that need not cause anxiety to present generations. Besides this the country produces nearly all the staple, tropical products in a wild state. During the last twenty years the Belgians in the Congo have directed their efforts with considerable success toward the cultivation of the native cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, coffee and cocoa. American cotton within the last three years has been planted and the result of this experiment—which promises well—is awaited with great interest. The furniture industry has been greatly enhanced by the discovery of most valuable species of ornamental woods which vie in beauty and durability with the woods already known in the cabinet makers' art. Copper and iron have been found in rich deposits and there are signs of gold in the Katanga, discovered after years of arduous prospecting.



KING LEOPOLD II OF THE BELGIANS.

Waterways Well Utilized.

The Congo Free State has on the waterways of the upper Congo regular steam navigation lines. On Stanley Pool there are about 100 steamers, half of which belong to the states. The steamers in use on the Congo river and the lakes are specially built in Europe for sluggish waters. The Congo Free State's fleet on the upper Congo river comprises thirty-three steamers, to which must be added eight steamers on the lower Congo, besides about seventy more belonging to private corporations. The terminal stations for steam navigation are: Stanleyville on the Congo river, Kuniabi on the Loamal, Lusambo on the Sankuru, Lubero on the Lulua, Popokabaka on the Kwango, Zongo on the Ubangi, Imbemo on the Itimbiri and Jambuya on the Aruwimi. From these ports wide and easy highways extend toward the interior, some of them specially constructed for automobile service and others for projected railways.

Administration of Justice.

Justice is now administered throughout the length and breadth of the Congo Free State. In the capitals of the various districts there are territorial courts having jurisdiction over both natives and Europeans and the judicial system is carried out by forty-four civil tribunals and military courts, fifty-seven bureaux of vital statistics and twenty-six official notaries. Over all these is the high council which sits at Brussels, both as a court of appeals and as a court of cassation in civil and criminal affairs. There is a court of appeal at Boma composed of a president and two associates, a district attorney and a clerk. The three judges are chosen as far as possible from different nationalities. To be appointed president of this court the candidate must be 30 years of age, doctor of law, must either have practiced, occupied a judicial position or taught law in a university for at least five years.

Medical Service.

The medical service is composed of a chief doctor domiciled at Boma, and one doctor for every district, domiciled at the capital, each of which has at his disposal a certain number of native nurses. There are now twenty-seven of these government doctors scattered throughout the Congo Free State. In addition to these are private practitioners. In the capital of each district there is a pharmaceutical depot, which supplies the drug stores of the various stations of the district. The capitals of each district, as well as the important stations, have government hospitals for the care of the natives in the government service; they are generally built in brick and are well-fitted. In Boma and Leopoldville there are hospitals specially fitted out for the care of white people.

Inspired by Stanley's Discovery.

As a result of these preliminary labors the International African association sprang into existence, having for its object the establishment of a line of stations from the east coast to the center of Africa. Four different expeditions were sent out and established several stations, the most important being Karama and M'Pala, on Lake Tanganyika. In 1878, when the first of these expeditions was preparing to leave Brussels, Henry M. Stanley, who had left Zanzibar en route to the heart of the continent two years before, appeared unexpectedly on the Atlantic coast, thus demonstrating to the world the existence of the great Congo river, which, owing to its navigability, opened up a natural highway in the center of Africa through a vast well populated country, very rich in mineral and vegetable products.

Iron Mines Owned by Americans.

The Juragua mines are among the oldest in Cuba. They were first opened about 1851, but it was not until 1883 that foreign capital became interested in them. Since that time they have produced about 4,000,000 tons of ore, and they have now an output of 40,000 tons per month. These mines belong to the Bethlehem Iron company, the Pennsylvania Steel company and the Maryland Steel company. They are not far from Santiago and the ore is brought there for shipment.

Manganese Mines.

Speaking of manganese, this is a metal which looks like iron and has a strong affinity for it. It is not used by itself in the arts, but only in combination with other metals, and is of great value in making steel. The best of the manganese mines are situated about sixteen miles northeast of El Cristo and the ore is brought into Santiago by railroad for shipment. The ore occurs in pockets, the bulk of it being washed dirt, although by picking some good manganese is obtained which does not require washing. The richest mines are owned by the Pompo Mining company of Santiago, and others, known as the Standard Manganese company of New York. The latter company began shipping in 1902. Its works are well equipped, having a Corliss engine, large pumps and other powerful machinery. The manganese usually lies in limestone and sandstone associated with Jasper. The deposits vary in size from a ton to masses that weigh several hundred tons.

Millions in Cuban Copper.

The copper mines of Cuba have produced millions in the past, and the prospect is that they will yield millions in the future. Copper is found in nearly every province, but the real copper province is Santiago, which was long noted as having the richest copper mines in the world. These were the famous El Cobre mines, which lie in the mountains about twelve miles west of Santiago, and which are now again being worked by the Spanish-American Iron company. El Cobre was opened up about 1520 as a crown possession of Spain. It was worked by the Spanish government for 300 years and then abandoned. A hundred years later an English company with a capital of \$240,000 reopened the mines, employing about 2,000 men in their development. Shortly afterward another company was formed to take possession, and the

working was continued up until 1928. Between the years of 1830 and 1928 these mines are said to have produced about 100,000,000 worth of copper, which is in addition to the amount mined by the Spanish government for 200 years. Between 1881 and 1892 the ore exported from El Cobre was valued at \$16,000,000; and they were, as I have said, the richest copper mines of the world until the Calumet and Hecla mines of Lake Superior were discovered.

Up the Mountains by Automobile.

Leaving the smelter Mr. Cox and I rode to the mines on the automobile kept for the purpose. Our track was the railroad, the wheels of our machine fitting the rails. The road goes in and out along the Cobre river, winding its way through a deep canyon, until it reaches an altitude of about 1,500 feet above the sea.

Educational Facilities.

The government has established school colonies, managed by Belgian Sisters of Charity, where the scholars acquire a practical, solid, professional training. From these institutions the government has acquired the services of capable employes, foremen and non-commissioned officers for the Public Force. There are 233 chapels, 113 churches and chapels, 523 lecture halls, 3 internedial schools, 75 primary schools and 440 elementary schools. In the latter the natives themselves teach reading and writing. There are 7 poor asylums, 71 Christian villages and 7,332 converted Christians.

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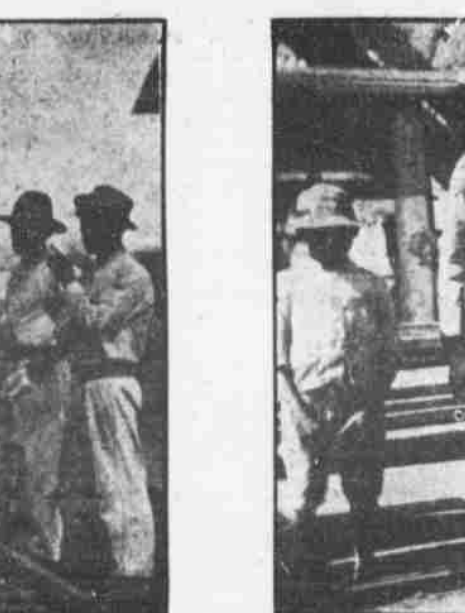
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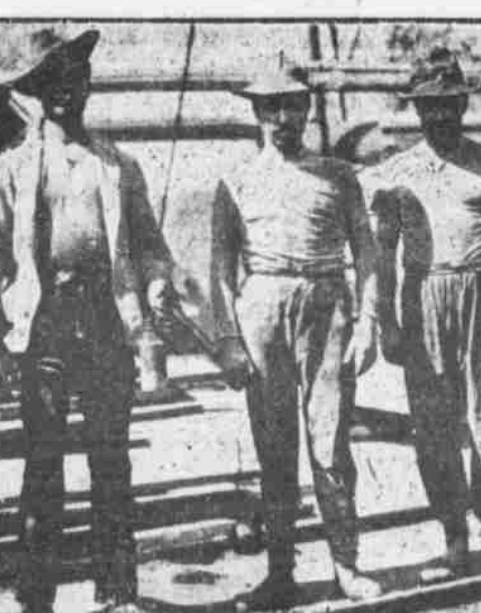
MR. COX AND MR. CARPENTER IN A RAILWAY AUTOMOBILE.



CUBAN COPPER MINERS.



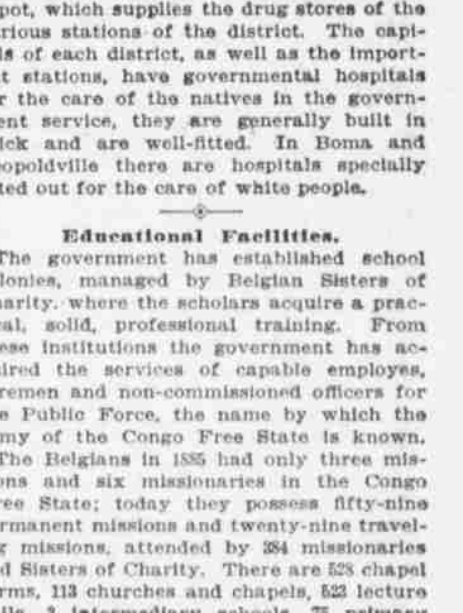
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Cuba is said to have deposits of gold and silver. (Continued on Page Six.)

A Whittier Roast

A young woman once sat at a boarding house table beside a reserved and awkward country boy whom she delighted to tease, relates the Boston Transcript. When she left she asked him to write in her autograph album. The poem which John G. Whittier wrote there and which had just been published stands as a warning to other young ladies, that she who laughs at a seemingly dumb countryman may herself be laughed at many years later. The quaint concluding stanza is:

Thy life may nothing vex it—
Thy years be not a few,
And at thy final exit
May the devil miss his due.