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



NATIVE POLICEMAN, CONGO FREE STATE.



GATHERING OF NATIVE CHIEFS AT COQUILHATVILLE, CONGO FREE STATE.



NATIVE FAMILY AT MATADE

Belgians.

tion the civilization and development of one of the most resourceful of African dominions. Though Belgium has an area of 11,373 square miles, which is less than one-fourth the size of the state of New York, and a population of 6,500,000 people. it has accomplished within twenty years a task worthy of any of the first-class territory covering an area of 800,000 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 Kink Leopold II as early as September, 1876, when an international at the royal palace at Brussels. Before opinion had begun to lose confiedence in the have made Antwerp the general world 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 this century of progress. I have led myself to believe that you would find for enteprise and speculation. it possible to discuss and arrange between yourselves the ways and means of planting the standard of civilization upon Af-

Leopold's Views on Slavery. bly was the formation of a Belgian national committee for the carrying out of the king's projects and before this com-

"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 perpetua 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 civilized world of the present day to blush with sharne, and to tear away the vell that now hangs over central Africa."

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 impor tant being Karema and M'Pala, on Lake Tanganytica. In 1876, when the first of these xpeditions was preparing to leave Brussels, Henry M. Stanley, who had left Zanzi bar enroute 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. This event struck the keynote and inspired by the remarkable discovery. King Leopold, in November, 1878, founded the committee for the exploration of the Upper Congo, composed of Belgian, Dutch, English and French capitalists. This committee had practically the same mission on the west coast as that of the International African association on the east, and was commissioned to explore the entire valley of the Congo, to acquire as much knowl edge as possible of the resources of the country, to study the customs of the people and begin trade by exchanging European manufactures for the natural prodects. The management of this mission was given to Henry M. Stanley, who returned to Africa at its head early in 1879. Thanks to the greaf experience and unlimited energy of Stanley, the valley of the Congo was explored as far as Stanley Falls and thirty stations with regular connection to

the coast were established. New Government Formed.

This undertaking soon became too vast for such a committee to handle and it was decided to hand the management over to an administration which should be stronger, more independent and worthy of recognition by the great powers. This gave birth to what was known as the International Association of the Congo, which body, at the end of 1883. had made nearly 1,000 treaties with the chiefs of native tribes. who voluntarily ceded to the International association their sovereign rights over their territories. The United States of America, the government of which had followed the progress of the development of the Congo valley, was the first power to recognise the International Association of the Congo as a friendly nation, and Germany, a few

years later, did the same. In November, 1884, a conference of the wers was held in Berlin and traced the limits of the valley of the Congo, determined its form of government, gave it political neutrality, laid out the rules for the protection of natives, prohibited slave trade and declared free the navigation of the Congo river, its affluents and the lakes connected with it. In the meantime the greater part of the nations officially recog-

nized the new state. On May 6, 1885, the local government was organized, its neutrality officially declared and the nations unanimously proclaimed Leopold II as sovereign, thus giving him due credit as the creator of the new coun-

The state covers an area of 800,000 square miles, or nearly four times that of France; bying on the equator, it extends five degrees

State in direct communication with the arduous prospecting. conference of scientists and explorers met International exposition of 1894, public mercial enterprises in the Congo Free State ultimate success of King Leopold's vast market for the Free State products. that the Congo Free State was a new field principal city and port of the Congo.

Products of the Country.

United States. The managers say that the

ore can be shipped as cheaply from Nipe

bay to the great works on the Chesapeake

Iron Mines Owned by Americans.

the same syndicate of capitalists which al-

ready controls the chief iron mines of

Cuba. It is a combination of the Pennsyl-

vania Steel company, the Maryland Steel

company and others. They own the Jura-

Spanish-American Iron company and in the

The Juragua mines are among the oldest

in Cuba. They were first opened about

1861, 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

The Spanish-American Iron company is

operating mines near Daiquiri, which lies

on an open roadstead twelve miles east of

Morro Castle. The deposits are four miles

back of the seaport, and about sixteen

miles east of Santiago. The company has a

standard gauge railroad from the mines to

the bay, and steel docks similar to those of Lake Superior. It was just beside these

docks that our troops made their first land-

The Daiquiri mines are valuable. They

were located by Samuel P. Ely of Cleveland

American Iron company to operate them.

He had made a fortune in mining in the

ing during the Spanish-American war.

Cuban Steel Ore company.

there for shipment.

These deposits are being investigated by

down to the smelters on Lake Erie.

as that of Lake Superior can be brought

AY 6, 1905, marks the twentieth an- from the equator at its most northern ex- the world for a length of time that need niversary of the independence of tremity and fourteen degrees south. The not cause anxiety to present generations. the Congo Free State under the river Congo is, of course, the most valuable Besides this the country produces nearly rule of King Leopold II of the feature of the new country; it is navigable all the staple, tropical products in a wild from its mouth to Stanley Falls, a distance state. During the last twenty years the When future writers compile an impar- of 800 miles, with the exception of the Belgians in the Congo have directed their tial history of our times, posterity will rapids and falls from Yelala to Leopoldville efforts with considerable success toward discover to the credit of the Belgian na- on Stanley Pool, a distance of 20 miles, the cultivation of the native cotton, sugar The connection of the navigable portions cane, tobacco, coffee and cocoa, American was, of course, absolutely essential to the cotton within the last three years has been future prosperity of the state and in regard planted and the result of this experimentto this Stanley is known to have said to which promises well-is awaited with great the king of the Belgians, "If a railroad is interest. The furniture industry has been not built here, all the Congo Free State greatly enhanced by the discovery of most will not be worth a farthing." This the valuable species of ornamental woods Belgians fully realized and in July, 1898, the which vie in beauty and durability with the powers, opening up to the world a vast railway from Matadi to Stanley Pool was woods already known in the cabinet makinaugurated in its full length (about 250 ers' art. Copper and iron have been found miles). The opening of this railway has in rich deposits and there are signs of gold brought the resources of the Congo Free in the Katanga, discovered after years of

markets of the world and has fully justi- Since the opening of the railway in 1898 fled Stanley's prediction, for without the the impostance of the Congo market at railway, successful trade was practically Antwerp has been steadily increasing, for hopeless. In fact, prior to the Antwerp it must be remembered that all the com-

project. At this exposition, however, there A regular tri-weekly service of elegant, was a most complete Congo department, first-class passenger mail steamers, spewhich opened the eyes of Europe to the cially built for the trade by English ownwealth of resources in this enormous, fer-tile territory and it was then recognized between Antwerp and Boms, which is the

> Railroads in the Country. The Matadi-Stanley Pool railroad above

The first and most important of all its referred to was commenced in the beginproducts are, of course, ivory and rubber, ning of 1891 and reached Stanley Pool in of which experts say there is a sufficient 1898. The line covers a distance of 400 The outcome of this international assem- store with which to supply the markets of kilometers (about 20 miles) over a very



KING LEOPOLD II OF THE BEL-

hilly country, necessitating the construct on the Loamai, Lusambo on the Sankuru, tary courts, fifty-seven bureaux of vital Stanley Pool. The cost of building this and others for projected railways. terminus, Lukula, in December, 1901.

ville with Mahagi and Duflii with Redjar, tion.

Waterways Well Utilized.

long to the state. The steamers in use on successfully experimented with. the Congo river and the lakes are specially built in Europe for sluggish waters. The Free State's ficet on the upper Congo river Justice is now administered throughout comprises thirty-three steamers, to which the length and breadth of the Congo Free punished, must be added eight steamers on the State. In the capitals of the various dislower Congo, besides about seventy more tricts there are territorial courts having belonging to private corporations. The ter-jurisdiction over both natives and Euro-minus stations for steam navigation are: peans and the judicial system is carried Stanleyville on the Congo river, Kunimbi out by forty-four civil tribunals and mill-

tion of over 100 bridges, varying in length Lubeo on the Luiua. Popokabaka on the statistics and twenty-six official notaries. from thirty to 330 feet. The time occupied Kwango, Zongo on the Ubangi, Ibembo on Over all these is the high council which

the building of 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) river, enjoys the great advantage of having for at least five years.

and another will connect Kasango, on the Communication in the Free State has state. Its competency is general, covering River Lualaba, with the environs of Ki- within the past ten years largely devel- civil, commercial and criminal affairs. If banga, on Lake Tanganika. Another oped by telegraph and telephone, the first consists of a judge, a clerk and a district branch of this important railway system telegraphic line being established between attorney. The territorial courts are comwill run from Stanleyville to the south Boma and Matadi, July, 1895, on the 15th of petent to deal with all the infractions of into the center of the Katanga district. September, 1898, both telegraphic and tele- the law committed within their districts or The greater part of the railway along the phonic communication was established be- even beyond the limts of the same, even Lualaba from Stanleyville is well under tween Matadi and Leopoldville. At the end if the parties reside or are found therein. of the same year the wires ran for a distance Crimes committed by the white people of 685 kilometers (425 miles) and in 1809 there and punishable by death are tried exclu-The Congo Free State has on the water- that time long distance telephoning has of the Lower Congo at Boma, where the ways of the upper Congo regular steam been perfected and communications are accused parties enjoy all the privileges of navigation lines. On Stanley Pool there practically easy for distances of 300 and 400 a fair trial guaranteed by civilized counare about 100 steamers, half of which be- miles. Wireless telegraphy is now being tries.

in making the journey, which is only con- the Itimbiri and Jambuya on the Aruwimi, sits at Brussels, both as a court of appeals tinued in the daytime, is about forty hours. From these ports wide and easy highways and as a court of dessation in civil and The night stop is made at Tumba, a little extend toward the interior, some of them criminal affairs. There is a court of appeal less than half way between Matadi and specially constructed for automobile service at Homa composed of a president and two associates, a district attorney and a clerk. rallway was \$12,500,000. Another rallway Steamers and sailing vessels have been The three judges are chosen as far as posfrom Boma to Lukula, a distance of 100 launched on Lake Tanganika, Lake Kivu sible from different nationalities. To be kilometers, or sixty-two miles, was com- and Lake Moreo. The ports of Banana appointed president of this court the candimenced in October, 1898, and reached its Boma and Matadi, on the lower Congo, date must be 30 years of age, doctor of law, are accessible at all times to transatlantic must either have practiced, occupied a ju-The Congo Free State has now in view steamers, and Banana, at the mouth of the ditial position or taught law in a university of railway. One line is to connect Stanley- no sand banks to interfers with naviga- The Court of First Instance of Boma may sit in any part of the territory of the

were some \$00 miles of wire in use. Since sively before the Court of First Instance

The government is constantly giving its judicial agents strict instructions for the protection of the blacks and any infringement of the rights of the natives is severely

Mcdical 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, besides of course, the 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 governmental hospitals for the care of the natives in the govern ment 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.

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, the name by which the

army of the Congo Free State is known, The Belgians in 1885 had only three mis sions and six missionaries in the Congo Free State: today they possess fifty-nine permanent missions and twenty-nine traveling missions, attended by 284 missionaries and Sisters of Charity. There are 523 chapel farms, 113 churches and chapels, 523 lecture hails, 3 istermediary schools, 75 primary schools and 449 elementary schools. In the latter the natives themselves teach reading and writing. There are 7 poor asylums, 71 Christian villages and 72.382 con-

The schools arre meeting with success learn with ease and rapidity, speak French well and are apt for high education. Many said, the richest copper mines of the world the smelters. The lowest grade ore is first is not always the case, they follow vauntil the Calumet and Hecla mines of crushed to a dust and then flowed over rious callings with a certain degree of

> -0-Commerce.

The increase of trade with the Congo Free State during the last seventeen years gravel is again crushed and washed until has been remarkable, exports jumping from the copper is about all out of it. Much of \$280,850 in the year 1887 to some \$10,000,000 a gravity railroad down to the steamers two wharves and a steel dock 1,000 feet value of the mineral products of Cuba in Cientuegos and there are a number of the ore is smelted, being mixed with lime- in 1904. The imports rose from about \$990,-1901 was \$3,000,000, of which the most came mines in Puerta Principe. Some of the stone, coke and from oxide from Filley's 009 in 1892 to some \$4.600,000 in the year 1904, Of this latter sum \$3,500,000 worth of goods were exported direct from Antwerp, while only goods to the value of \$1,400 were exported from the United States direct. Of the total exports from the Congo during 1904, \$9,700,000 worth were shipped direct to Antwerp and \$270 worth direct to the

The fact that the great bulk of the trade with the Congo Free State, as shown above, is concentrated at Antwerp is due to that port's being the universal market for all Congo products, and Americans desirous ened together by chains and pinned to the of extending their trade with the Congo ties by wooden pins. As we rode, Mr. Cox Free State must, under the circumstances, do so through the business houses of Ant-

up a new and needed outlet for their industry and stimulated their home markets Spaniards used mules as a motive power, by the steady increase of the Congo's tropcivilization of Central Africa, and King Leopold may well be proud of the first twenty years of his cherished project in bettering the condition of his wards in ains back of Santiago where these copper the Dark Continent and for which, for a period of fifteen years, he sacrificed his

A Whittier Roast

Cuban Iron and Copper Owned by Americans



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

ANTIAGO DE CUBA, Aug. 24 -- are now turning out 40,000 or 50,000 tons of pay only \$2 per hectare. (Special Correspondence of The ore a month; they can produce 62,000 tons. At present the Cuban government has are said to have produced about \$60,000,000 grades of ore into the copper which is Bee.)-New iron mines have been and the only limit to their product is the granted over 200 from concessions. It has worth of copper, which is in addition to shipped from here to the refineries of the and it is stated that the young Congolese recently discovered on the high- labor supply. The company started by granted 145 concessions for mining manga- the amount mined by the Spanish govern- United States. lands above Nipe bay. Borings opening three mines. They are now work- nese, 112 for copper, twenty-nine for gold, ment for 200 years. Between 1851 and 1862 Most of the ore is of a low grade. When have already been made to determine the ing ten and have recently begun the devel- ten for lead, four for quicksliver, three the ore exported from El Cobre was valued mixed with the rock it is a greenish col- go to Belgium, where, if they become acextent of the deposits, and it is said that opment of another district which will feed for zinc, six for petroleum and seventy- at \$16,000,000; and they were, as I have ored stone, in which shape it is brought to climatized, which it must be borne in mind millions of tons of iron are almost in sight. into Dalquiri. I am told there is more ore eight for asphalt. Mining engineers are now testing the ore in sight than the amount so far mined.

to determine its value and how it may be best treated, and if their experiments are mines in the mountains forty miles west of are found in every province, from Pinar Some of the best prospects among Cuban twenty feet long. Each table moves so successful the mines will be of enormous Santiago and about six miles back from the del Rio to Santiago, although the latter is, minerals are copper. This metal is found that the copper sinks to the bottom and value. The deposits are such that the seaport of Chirivico. The mines are con- above all others, the richest in Cuba. The in nearly every province. Copper deposits finds its place at one side of the table, mines can be worked with steam shovels, and the ore will be handled by machinery said to be one of the best equipped of its of which the largest number are for iron, and and Matanzas. In Santa Clara valufrom the time it leaves the earth going on kind on the island, and at the Chirivico are manganese, copper and lead. The total able beds of this ore have been found near

Mining With Steam Shovels.

The iron ore of Cuba is both magnetite and hematite. It is found chiefly near the tops of the hills in small, irregular bodies without definite walls. It is very hard and must be broken loose from the country rock with sledges and explosives. It is of other metals, and is of great value in mak- to Santiago bay. This was owned by a The road goes in and out along the Cobre such a nature that steam shovels are ing steel. The best of the manganese mines Spanish corporation, and it charged such river, winding its way through a deep largely used to tear away the earth and uncover the ore. There are hundreds of such shovels now working at Daiquiri, and the Lola mine there is being gouged out ore occurs in pockets, the bulk of it being buildings were destroyed, the railroad was gua mines, and have large interests in the much as we are excavating the Culebra pass at Panama.

The most of the Cuban miners are immiwork well with the machete, but they seem lost in the presence of picks and shovels. Labor is comparatively cheap, the ordinary wage being a dollar for a day of ten hours. The companies feed the miners if the men desire it, but in this case they are charged 25 cents a day for their food, making their pay 75 cents a day and food. The miners live in villages built for their use in the immediate vicinity of the mines. Barfacks are provided for the bachelors and huts for those who have families. Nearly every mining property has its store, where meals,

provisions and clothing can be purchased. Cuba a Land of Minerals.

These mines give some idea of the rich in 1880 and Mr. Ely founded the Spanish- wishes to take out such a right he has pany. El Cobre was opened up about 1530 smelter is just across the hay from Sanonly to conform to certain legal technicali- as a crown possesion of Spain. It was tiago. We rode over in a steam launch be-Lake Superior iron region, and when he ment tax per year. The government grants years and then abandoned. A hundred the wharves, walked by great piles of coke opened the Dalquiri mines he introduced concessions for an unlimited number of years later an English company with a and limestone to the works. the best of modern machinery. The mines years, and the owner many work his mine capital of \$240,000 reopened the mines, em- imported, from the United States and the began to produce in 1895, and at the end or not, as he pleases. His tax for all ploying about 2,000 men in their develop- limestone from interior Cuba. The smelting of 1860 their output was equal to more than metals, except iron, is at the rate of 25 per ment. Shortly afterward another company works cover several acres, rising almost 2,560,000 tops of ore, worth in the states in hectare, or two and one-half acres per an- was formed to take possession, and the straight up from the water. They are of

These items will give an idea of the min-The Cuban Steel Ore company has iron erals which exist in the Island. Minerals Lake Superior were discovered.

from Santiago.

are now in the hands of Pennnsylvania 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 of El Cristo and the ore is brought into company had to shut down. Then revolu-Santiago by railroad for shipment. The tions broke out, and the machinery and in washed dirt, although by picking some wrecked and the mines became so flooded good manganese is obtained which does that it was not possible to inspect them. not require washing. The richest mines This was their condition at the close of our grants from northern Spain. The natives are owned by the Ponupo Mining com- war with Spain. At that time American pany of Santiago, and others, known as captitalists bought out the titles of the old ard Manganese company of New York of the water from the mines and are grad-Corliss engine, large pumps and other pow- workings. erful machinery. The manganese usually lies in limestone and sandstone associated and their lowest tunnels are 800 feet below with jaspar. The deposits vary in size the level of the sea. So far only 600 feet from a pebble to masses that weigh several has been pumped out, the pumps being hundred tons.

Millions in Cuban Copper. The copper mines of Cuba have produced that they will yield millions in the future. Copper is found in nearly every province, iron deposits of Cuba. The island has but the real copper province is Santiago, been carefully prospected, although which was long noted as having the richest hundreds of mining concessions have been copper mines in the world. These were the taken out and mining properties are owned famous El Cobre mines, which lie in the here and there all over the island. It is mountains about twelve miles west of Saneasy to get a mining concession and it tiago, and which are now again being Iron company, that I visited these mines costs only a bagatelle to hold it. If one worked by the Spanish-American Iron com- and the smelter connected with them. The ties, and thereafter pay a small govern- worked by the Spanish government for 200 longing to the company, and, landing at

nected with the sea by a railroad which is concessions granted in Santiago number 436, have been worked in Pinar del Rio, in Hav-

Bought by Americans.

the Boston mines, are owned by the Stand- company. They have since pumped much The latter company began shipping in 1962, ually taking out the ore. There are altoworks are well equipped, having a gether more that five miles of underground The El Cobre mines are 1,250 feet deep

kept going just enough to keep the water away from the miners. There are already several hundred thousand tons of ore in sight. The syndicate began work last fail millions in the past, and the prospect is and made its first shipment of ore last November. It has already taken out almost 100,000 tons, and the mines now have an output of about 10,000 tons a month.

Visit to El Cobre.

It was in company with Mr. Jennings S Cox, the manager of the Spanish-American

tween the years of 1830 and 1868 these mines processes needed for turning the different verted Christians.

moving tables each fifteen feet wide and success. while the dirt and gravel moves on. The oldest copper mines of the latter provinces island, Nova Scotia.

Up the Mountains by Automobile.

Leaving the smelter Mr. Cox and I rode to the mines on the automobile kept for When El Cobre was at its best a railroad the purpose. Our track was the railroad, the arts, but only in combination with was built to convey the ore from the mines the wheels of our machine fitting the rails, are situated about sixteen miles northeast exorbitant freight rates that the mining canyon, until it reaches an altitude of about 1,500 feet above the sea. The track was that of the old Spanish

rallway and some of the rails were fasttold me that it had cost the Spanish about \$600,000 to build the road, but that their werp. freight rates were so high that they were able to realize several million dollars in dividends before the mines shut down. The The American company uses steam, and it ical products, they have at the same time has so improved and extended the road worked wonders in the colonization and that the ore is now carried directly from the mines to the smelter.

Cuban Yellowstone Park.

I wish I could take you into the mount-

mines are. The rocks have as bright col-

ors as those of the Grand Canyon of the private fortune. Yellowstone, and a large part of the ore taken out is the color of paint. There are great masses of brown earth and rock. Red rock, green rock and rock of other and that they will continue to yield great be laughed at many years later. The quaint quantities of copper for a long time to concluding stanza is:

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



CUBAN COPPER MINERS.

(Copyright, 1906, by Frank G. Carpenter.) the neighborhood of \$10,000,000. These mines num. If it is an Iron concession he will working was continued up until 1868. Be- the most modern make, furnishing all the

United States.

While the people of Belgium have opened

CHURCH HOWEL

colors rise about on all sides, and in their A young woman once sat a boarding midst are the shaft houses of the copper house table beside a reserved and awkward mines, with the loads of ore coming out of country boy whom she delighted to tease, them to be dumped into the cars for the relates the Boston Transcript. When she smelter. Many miners are to be seen about left she asked him to write in her the works. Something like a thousand are autograph album. The poem which John now employed, and this number will prob- G. Whittier wrote there and which had just ably be increased as the development pro- been published stands as a warning to other There is no doubt but that the young ladies, that she who laughs at a Cobre mines are still a valuable property accomingly dumb countryman may herself

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