



HOW THE BELGIANS ARE CARRYING THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN IN AFRICA.

A Chat With the Secretary of the Congo State and a Visit to the Congo Museum-The Ivory and Rubber Trade-The New Rate Dads of Interior Africa-Across the Continent By Rail-The Shipping of the Congo-How Belaium Des the Business-Something About the People-Slavery and Cannibalism.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

secretary of the Independent Congo state, as we sat together and chatted of Africa

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in the big government building back of the king's palace in Brussels. In reply the secretary touched a button and sent a messenger

for about a bushel of documents, which he ordered to be carried to my hotel. He then pulled down a half dozen wall [maps and went over the ground with them, laying down the projected railroads, pointing out the sites of new factories and plantations, and giving statistics of the millions being spent in river and harbor improvements. He

seemed to know Africa as well as I know my own back yard, and he made my head buzz with the names of peoples, towns, rivers and geographical localities. He described the condition of the sixteen million natives who now form Belgium's share of the white man's burden, telling me what the government was doing to keep them from enslaving and eating one another, and in advancing them on the road of civilization. civilization.

civilization. In this connection he spoke of our missionaries, who have many stations along the Congo, and said they were doing great good in teaching the na-tives trades, as well as the scriptures.

tives trades, as well as the scriptures. The secretary spoke very kindly of the United States, saying that it was the first to recognize the Congo state and the first of the great nations to make treaties with it. As I started to leave he gave me a note of introduction to the curator of the great Congo mu-seum at Trevaren, near Brussels, and advised me to visit it for an object les-son of what the Congo is in this year of what the Congo is in this year

THE MUSEUM DE CONGO.

Since then I have spent a day in the Museum de Congo, talking with its curator and looking over the great collections which Belgian explorers from every part of the Congo basin hav here brought together. The museum basin have divided into three sections-artistic, scientific and economic. The artistic section has beautifully woven staffs and carvings made by the African tribes. It has many remarkable crea-tions in ivory, as well as paintings of the country and home life of Belgian artists. In the scientific department one sees

In the scientific department one sees Africa in miniature. The huts of the people and their villages are shown. The money of copper and iron is dis-played, and alk sorts of woven stuffs. dresses, tools and musical instruments are to be seen. In another section are the animals of the Congo, from the giraffe to the monkey, and in the indus-trial section are the various products, such as cotton, tamle and tobacco. The secretary tells me that cotton planta-tions are being set out, and that netions are being set out, and that ne-groes may be brought from our south-ern states to teach the people how to

HAT is Belgium doing on the Congo? I asked this question of the more increased of the independent countries.

IVORY AND RUBBER.

I was much interested in the exhibits of ivory and rubber. These form the two great exports of the Congo, bringing in millions of dollars to Belgium every year. At present about \$3,000,000 worth of rubber is exported, 33,000,000 worth of rubber is exported, and almost a million dollars' worth of ivory. The rubber comes from lianas, or climbing plants, and not from trees, as on the Amazon. The plants are now carefully cared for, and I am told that in the upper Congo there are so many of them that the rubber exports will steadily increase. In the lower part many plants have been destroy-ed by the ignorance of the natives in d by the ignorance of the natives in athering the product.

In this museum I saw ivory tusks at least 10 feet in height, some of which weighed almost 200 pounds. Think of weighed almost 200 pounds. Think of an animal which carries two tusks weighing twice as much as a good sized man, and you have an idea of the big elephants of the Congo. I stood beside one of the tusks and had the curator take my photograph. I could not reach to the top of the tusk. As I looked a the ivory the curator told me that the tusks range in size from a few pounds up to two hundred

from a few pounds up to two hundred pounds. In bringing the stuff from the interior much of it is carried on the shoulders of men. A tusk of 65 pounds is a load for a man, and a twohundred-pound tusk requires four men to tote it.

LIVE AND DEAD IVORY.

Much of the lvory is dead lvory; that is, it comes from elephants killed long ago. In some tribes the kings have been storing lvory from generation to generation, some burying it and others piling it up as treasure. Indeed, it is said there is enough lvory of this kind in the interior of Africa to surely the in the interior of Africa to supply the world for 50 years to come. In some parts of the backwoods chiefs have stockades of ivory around their iwellings.

dweilings. Live ivory is that from the freshly killed elephant. It is worth more than dead ivory and is more difficult to get. At present the Belgians are protecting the elephants. In some regions one must have a license in order to shoot them, and the probability is that in the near future there will be an ivory monopoly, just as there is a diamond

Much of the lyory now found is brought from the Upper Congo. It is carried by river to Stanley Pool and thence down around the cataracts to Matali by rail, where it is loaded upon the schue hound for Antwarp. the ships bound for Antwerp.

WHAT THE BELGIANS OWN. These African territories are salled

"The Congo Independent State," but they may now be looked upon as a Belgian colony. King Leopold's claim to them came from his sending out but Stanley and other explorers and ex-ploiting the country. He spent some-thing like seven million dollars in his various enterprises, and when he said that he expected to build up an independent state in Africa which should



Photographed for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter. A SAMPLE OF KING LEOPOLD'S LIVE STOCK ON THE UPPER CONGO

be free to the trade of all nations, the other powers agreed and the United States recognized the new country. Leopold began his explorations about 20 years ago, and the Independent State was founded about 13 years ago. It was

years ago, and the Independent State was founded about 13 years ago. It was the idea that the Belgians were to sup-press the slave trade, to put down can-nibalism and to shoulder the sixteen millions of savages in the country well on the way to civilization. They were to take all the rest of the world was to have a share of the profits. Since that time, however, Belgium has been spending money on the Congo right along. It has put out bonds to the amount of more than thirty million dollars, and the money has gone into building public works, making piers and improving the rivers. The bonds have been so issued, however, that they give Belgium the right to annex the Congo if she does not demand the money for them. The result of this is that Belgium practically owns the Con-go today, and it is a Belgian colony. I am told that the Belgians will never give ii up, and it is a much Belgian territory as the Philippines are United States territory.

States territory.

BELGIAN AFRICA.

people. I have seen it estimated all the way from fifteen millions to thirty mil-lions, and there are some who say it is double the latter figure. There are in the country 2,500 Europeans, of whom more than half are Belgians. There are 30 Americans, 98 English and a large number of Portuguese, Italians, Dutch, Germans and men from other countries of Europe

of Europe. The natives are negroes divided up into many tribes some large and some small. There are tribes which number a hundred thousand and some which can be counted by hundreds. Each tribe is known by its (attoo marks, but they are all negroes, and some are fine-lookare all negroes, and some are fine-look-ing. Others, such as the pygmies, are very small, the men averaging about four feet in height and the women much less. These pygmies are much like our negritoes. They are different from the rest of the people, in that they have no fixed villages, living in brush-wood huts, shifting their camps from place to place. place to place.

AMONG THE AFRICAN KINGS.

Every one of these African tribes as its kind or chief, who has power The Congo basin belonging to Bel-glum is one of the best slices of Ar-rica. It contains an enormous terri-tory, extending across the greater part of the African continent. It is sevenly times as large as Belgium itself and

houses. Many are built of grass fas There are no such things as chimneys or windows. A fire is kept burning in the center of the hut, and its smoke gets out as it can, covering everything with soot. Only the kings and queens have beds in their huts; the common people sleep on the floor.

Each village has its garden and paim grove. The chief food products are peanuts and mandioca, the roots of the latter forming the native bread, which is made with fermented palm

sap for yeast. Most of the work is done by the women. They cultivate the gardens, women. They cultivate the gardens make the bread and do the cooking make the bread and do the cooking. Some of the men are fishers and hunt-ers, and in some tribes they have trades, being blacksmiths, tailors and house builders. Everything, however, is of the rudest description, and most of the tribes are barbarous to an ex-

treme. SLAVERY AND CANNIBALISM. The Belgians claim that they are try-ing to put down slavery, but their ene-mies say they are forcing them to work their plantations. There is no doubt but slavery is still common in the greater part of the territory. It has been so for ages, and it will take a long time to break it up. In times past slaves have been raised not only for work, but for food. There are some tribes in which human flesh is sold, the slaves being fattened with

bananas, fish and oll, that they may bring better prices. The flesh of men is said to be worth more than that of women and to have a better flavor. Many of the slaves are taken in war, and a common taunt of a Congo can-nibal to his adversary is: "You shall rest in my stomach to-morrow"

morrow.

The most common of the slave trad-The most common of the slave trad-ers have been the Arabs, who have gradually moved down from northern Africa. They are shrewder and bravey than the Congo negroes, and in the past they have made a business of dealing in ivory and slaves. Bands of them will collect a lot of ivory, forcing the villagers to aid them in doing so. They then kill off the useless members of the village and force the others to

of the village and force the others to carry the lyory to the sea coast, where they sell both ivory and hearers, the latter going as slaves. In the interior slaves have been very cheap. A bottle of gin was a fair price for one, and a few beads, buttons or bright colored cloths was enough to buy a whole family. Both the missionaries and the gov-

ernment are to a certain extent doing away with these practices, but it will be long before they have abolished them.

THE NEW RAILROADS. The secretary of the Congo state tells me that the railways which have been built there are prospering, especially the one about the cataracts. This rail-way is 250 miles long. It runs about 20 miles south of the river connecting Matadi with Stanley Pool and is now open for traffic throughout its length open for traffic throughout its length Matadi is the farthest inland that the ocean steamers can come. It is a thriving port right at the foot of the cataracts. The Belgians have built cataracis. The Beigians have built piers and docks there. They have es-tablished warehouses and factories and have made it one of the centers of have made it one of the centers of African trade. The railroad begins at Matadi and climbs the mountains reaching a height of something 1 e 1,500 feet above the sea. It goes through a most picturesque region and finally ends at Ndola a little east of Leopoldville and under the shadow of Mount Leopold. The road was begun in 1887 and two years later the Bel-gian government subscribed for two-fifths of its capital stock, which alto-gether amounts to \$5,000.000. It took mine years to construct it and the cost was about \$50,000 a mile. was about \$50,000 a mile.

THE SHIPPING OF THE CONGO.

The terminus of this railroad might be called the Chicago of the Congo. The river is navigable for steamers as large as those on the Mississippi for a thousand miles further up and it has branch-es which communicate with almost the whole Congo basin. Railroads are its own factories

thirty steamers on the Upper Congo, a thirty steamers on the Upper Congo, a large number of them belonging to the government, and there are several ocean lines which sail regularly from Liverpool, Hamburg. Rotterdam and Lisbon to Boma and Matadi. There are ships every three weeks for Antwerp, so that in all 230 steamships visit Boma every year. There are seven govern, ment steamers which ply between Boma and Matadi, making the trip up stream in about six or seven hours and down in about half that time. WHO DO THE BUSINESS

WHO DO THE BUSINESS.

The United States ought to have more trade on the Congo, but it will not get it until it sends its own steamers from New York to Africa. At present all the Eustness is done by European com-panies. The Belgian Commercial com-pany deals largely in the Upper Congo. It has stations at Matadl and all along the river

the river. There are also large Dutch firms. At the time that Belgium took possession of the country there was a Rotterdam company with a capital of three-quar. ters of a million dollars, which had eighty different stores on this great river. It had five steamers and 150 while agents.

cichty different stores on this great river. It had five steamérs and 159 white agents. Another big firm was Daumas, Be-raud & Company, founded forty-eight years ago. It had tweive trading sta-tions, with Bendquarters at Bona. In addition was Hofton and Coolson of Liverpool and the Central Africa Trad-ing company, which was altorwards rearganized as the British Congo com-pany, which is a Manchester. pany, with its offices at Manchester

BELGIUM HAS THE TRADE.

At present the Belgians are crowding the British and Dutch out of business. the British and Dutch out of business. They are increasing their trade right along and are rapidly developing an African market for their factories. They had practically no trade when the king took possession, but now the im-ports amount to about 50,000,000 frances

Ring took possession, but now the imports amount to about 50,000,000 frances, of which Belgium gets about all the exports to more than 100,000,000 frances, of which Belgium gets about all the light of the products of the congo shipped abread, and its tarist arrangements are such that it promises to do better in the future. It has now export duties on ivory and rubber and there are import duties as well. It is reling factory rights and other rights along the Congo, and estates in the interior. At present lands are selling for less than \$1 an area and factory sites for \$100 and upwards an acre, with a minimum price of \$1000 is charged to all who ensage in the rubber business, and there are other taxes as well. The government is now establishing plantations of the selling for less the selling is not be an ere with a minimum price of \$1000 is charged to all who ensage in the rubber business, and there are other taxes as well. The government is now establishing plantations of the selling for less and there business, and there are other taxes as well.

there are other taxes he well, the gov-ernment is now establishing plantations of Havana and Sumatra tobacco, it is setting out coffee plantations and eccoa orchards, and in the it hopes to be able to raise enough cotion to supply

FRANK G. CARPENTÈR.

Quick Arrest.

J. A. Gulledge of Verbena, Ata., was twice in the hospital from a severe cats of piles causing 24 tumors. After doctors and all remedies failed. Euclien's Arnica Salve quickly arrested further inflammation and cured him. It conand Upper Congo quers aches and kills pain. 35c at Z. mers. There are C. M. L. Drug Store.



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