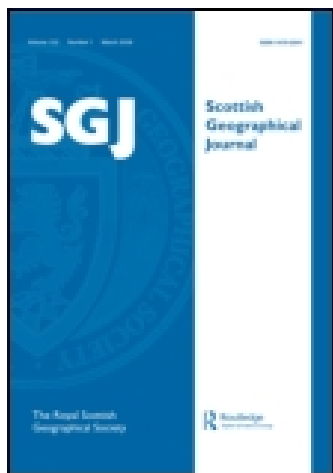


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### The economic expansion of the Congo Free State

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The following is a summary of our party's experiences: mountain sickness was felt more about 15,000 to 16,000 feet than 5000 feet higher, and it was felt very unequally by individuals; the majority of the party suffered from feelings of lassitude and fatigue after slight exertion, some were for a time entirely prostrated, and one coolie died; others on the contrary were throughout entirely exempt from any perceptible inconvenience. Amongst these were a Goorkha, who *ran* back over the 20,000 feet pass to bring on loiterers, and Mr. Dover, who suffered only from an increased appetite and gained several pounds in weight during the journey. It is possible that the intense glare and heat on the new-fallen snow had much to do with the sickness of some of the party on first reaching 15,000 feet.

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## THE ECONOMIC EXPANSION OF THE CONGO FREE STATE.

By CH. SAROLEA, D.Ph., D.Litt., F.R.S.E., of Edinburgh University,  
 Consul for the Congo Free State.

(*With Maps and Illustrations.*)

IN the month of February 1905 it was exactly twenty years since the Conference of Berlin put the coping-stone to the great work achieved by King Leopold in the heart of Africa; it was twenty years since the Powers of Europe placed under the guarantee of an international treaty and of solemn international obligations the independence of that young State which had been previously created by the bold initiative and enterprise of the Belgian ruler, and by the devotion and heroism of his subjects and collaborators.

When one thinks of all that has been attempted and accomplished during this comparatively short period of twenty years, and of the marvellous changes that have been brought about, one is inclined to view the history of the Congo as the romance of modern colonisation: for indeed many of the stirring incidents that have marked its annals have been as extraordinary as any chronicled in any masterpiece of fiction.

### I.

To realise vividly the advance that has been made, one has only to consider for one moment the series of maps which have been prepared for the present article by Mr. J. Bartholomew, and to compare these maps with those that appeared in the early eighties, maps where the vast area covered by the new State was only indicated by a blank—a terra incognita; and where it was left to the imagination of the reader to fill this blank with tales of terror about the deadly equatorial forest, about the barbarities of pigmy and cannibal populations, and the atrocities of the Arab slave-traders and slave-raiders.

We have just called the Congo the "romance" of colonisation. This is not the place, in a scientific journal, nor is it to our present purpose,

to examine whether, even as in the romance of fiction, the noble and daring deeds of heroes have not been marred by the deeds of wicked men. We cannot enter into the controversy which has recently brought the Congo Free State prominently and unpleasantly before the eye of the British public. We have only to deal here with the geographical conditions and economic possibilities of the Congo Free State. And, leaving aside the humanitarian aspect, there can be no doubt that, looking at the Congo State merely from the economic and political point of view, its history has been a wonderful tale of continuous expansion and progress.

In 1885 there practically existed no trade—at least no legitimate trade. The only trade that did exist was an illegitimate one: namely, a trade in arms and ammunition, in slaves and liquor. The bottle of gin had become the only currency on the Lower Congo, as it still is in some parts of the British West African Coast. Slaves were the chief means of transport. Indeed it seemed as if commerce, by means of the sale of poisonous spirits, only existed to degrade the natives, and by means of arms and ammunition only existed to supply the Arabs with the necessary instruments to terrorise them. In one word, private trade, instead of being the ally and auxiliary of civilisation and colonisation, had become its deadly enemy.

It was no wonder that no honest traders could be tempted to venture into the interior. Before reaching the Upper Congo they would have had to traverse one of the most desolate and deadly regions of Africa, the insuperable barrier of the Crystal Mountains, which nature seemed to have interposed to defend the approach of the mysterious continent. And when the traveller arrived at Stanley Pool, ill and exhausted, after a weary march



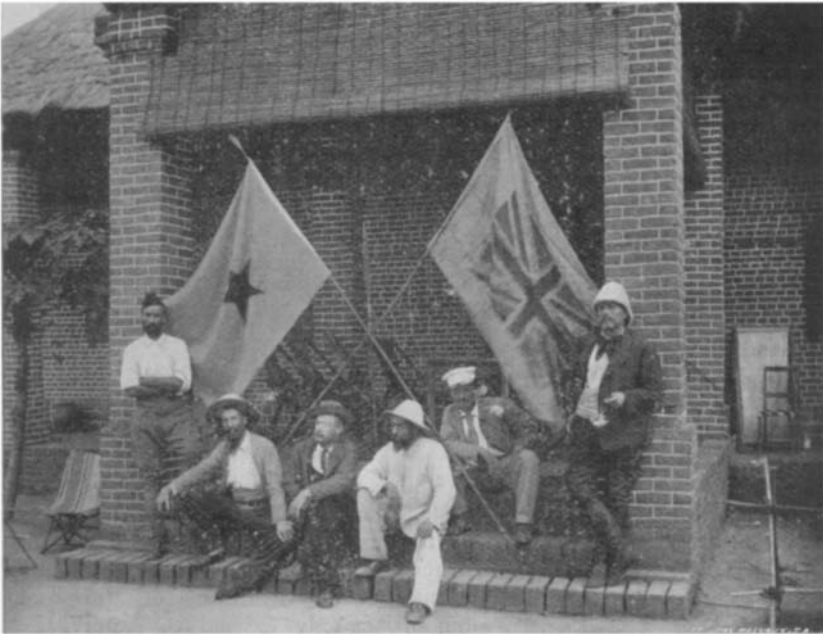
The Sirdar visiting Inspector Hanolet at Lado.



Governor-General Baron Wahis.

of thirty days under the tropical sun, along a path strewn with the corpses of hundreds of native porters, he would only be at the beginning of his difficulties. For if he would proceed further, he would have to clear his way with the axe through dense, impenetrable forest and fever-breeding swamps, or he would have to fight his way through savage and cannibal tribes, whom the Arabs had taught to look with hatred and terror upon any human being with a white skin.

Such was the Congo in 1885: truly the "darkest part of dark Africa," a blank on the map, a nightmare in the imagination of men, a zoological garden, a human shambles.

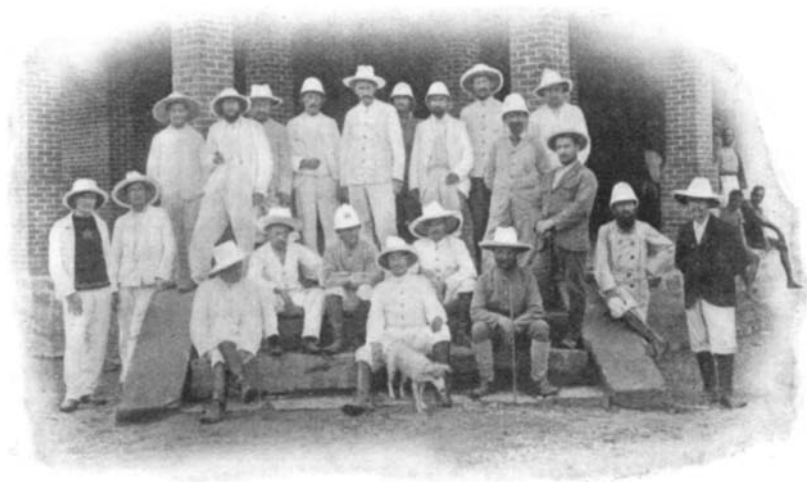


Major Gibbons and the Lemaire Expedition at Lukafu.

What is it now in 1905? In 1905 the weary march along the route of the cataracts, which extended over thirty deadly days, and which foreboded only too fittingly all the horrors of the Upper Congo, is replaced by a railway journey of twenty-four to thirty-six hours. And beyond Stanley Pool an ever-increasing fleet of steamers carries civilisation into the darkest corners of the Dark Continent. The accursed slave trade has gone, and gone for ever. The gin trade has been suppressed, as well as the trade in arms and ammunition. Hundreds of political and missionary stations, of churches, hospitals, schools, laboratories, have been established. Vast tracts in the impenetrable equatorial forest have been cleared, and luxuriant plantations and smiling gardens have taken their place. Such is the security and peace which is already enjoyed over 1,000,000 square

miles under the Congo flag, that independent and solitary travellers, including ladies, have been able to travel from one end of the Congo to another "with no protection but an umbrella." Such is the security enjoyed that we already see enterprising travelling agencies organising tourist expeditions in the cannibal and pigmy country of Cameron and Stanley.

That trade follows the flag is one of the most doubtful and most controverted commonplaces and aphorisms in colonial economics. But there is one sense in which the aphorism is an undoubted truth. Trade—we mean legitimate trade—can only follow, it never precedes, the flag of a civilised government. Until that flag is established and respected, as long as government has not guaranteed order and peace, trade on any



White Staff at Stanleyville.

large scale is impossible. And therefore it is strictly true that in a tropical colony economic development is subordinate to political development. And of no colony has that been more especially true than of the Congo. When we consider the frightful obstacles in the way of Congo colonisation—a deadly climate, a huge continent in a permanent state of warfare, the most degraded native cannibal races, slaughtering and mutilating and eating each other, the impenetrable tropical forest, the vast distances, the absence of ways of communication, the scarcity of the white population, the reluctance of capitalists to invest their money in such a speculative enterprise—when we consider all these accumulated obstacles, it is quite obvious that no private efforts or resources could ever have developed the heart of the Dark Continent. It required the strong hand and the iron will of a great ruler, it required a systematic policy, to establish a settled order of things in the Congo regions, and

to develop their wealth. This exactly was the self-appointed task of King Leopold and of the self-made and self-supporting Free State. And until that task was accomplished there was not, there could be no protection for missionary enterprise, there could be no prospect for any expansion of trade.

But whilst it is strictly true that in the Congo trade could only follow the flag of a settled and strong government and could not precede it, it is no less true that trade could only follow along the lines of communication, and that no real trade could be done until such lines of communication were established. The Congo River with its tributaries is one of the noblest highways of commerce in the world, providing from ten to fifteen thousand miles of continuous navigation, and the heart of the



Commissaire Royal Malfeyt and his Officers.

Dark Continent is almost as much the creation of this river as Egypt is the creation of the Nile; unfortunately, its lower course for a distance of 200 miles is impeded by an impassable barrier of rocks and cataracts. Until this obstacle could be turned, until a railway could be built connecting the Lower with the Upper Congo, the interior would be inaccessible to European enterprise. Every writer has repeated the famous words of Stanley that without such a railway the Congo Free State was not worth a two-shilling piece, but that with such a railway there would be opened to commerce one of the richest regions on this planet.

The prophecy of Stanley has been amply verified. Not only has the building of the railway and the launching of a fleet of steamers, together with the establishment of a strong government, opened to trade every part of the Congo Free State, but it has even partly diverted the trade of the whole of Central Africa. Until 1895 the historical trade route of

Central Africa was from Lake Tanganyika to Zanzibar, and it was probably the economic importance of this trade route which decided Germany to take for her share in the partition of Africa the East African territories. Unfortunately for Germany, the development of the Congo Free State has considerably, if not entirely, reduced the commercial value of her African Empire, and the State has diverted her trade as well as the trade of the Sudan and of Northern Rhodesia. This will be more and more the case as the Congo Free State carries out its far-reaching railway schemes. The project of a Central Trans-African railway is being rapidly matured, and has been practically decided, and will directly connect the rich mineral regions of Katanga with the Lower Congo. And the time is not far distant when on the banks of Tanganyika there will arise a great tropical city, the successor of the Nyangwe and Kasongo of the Arab slave-traders, which will be to the Lake district of Central Africa what Chicago has become to the Lake district of the United States, namely, the predestined emporium of commerce, the converging point of all lines of communication.



A View on the Railway.

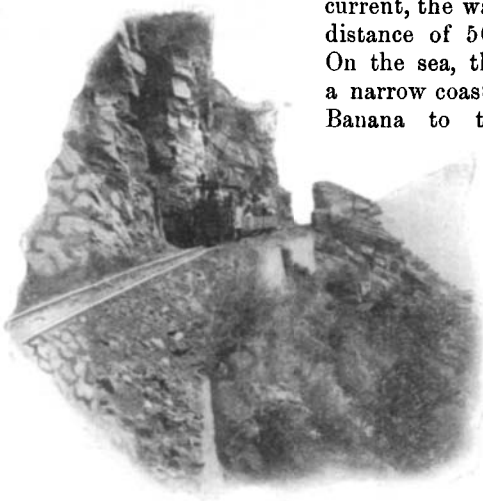
## II.

For indeed the economic possibilities of the Congo are enormous, and an extraordinary variety of soil and climate and geographical conditions makes it produce every variety of natural wealth.

Geographically the Congo Empire, which extends from 12° longitude E. to 31° and from 5° latitude N. to 13° latitude S., may be divided into five parts.

1. The Estuary and Lower Congo. Emerging from the Crystal Mountains, where a long succession of thirty-two rapids, called the Livingstone Falls, has made its course unnavigable, the Lower Congo

below Matadi has a width of about 1000 metres, which extends to 13,000 when the majestic river reaches the sea at Boma in a formidable current, the waters of which are seen at a distance of 50 kilometres into the ocean. On the sea, the Free Congo State has only a narrow coast-line of 35 kilometres, from Banana to the Portuguese frontier of Kabinda.



View of Railway.

2. The belt of mountains which encircle the whole of Central Africa like a colossal girdle. It is this barrier which the Congo River has to breakthrough, forming in the Crystal Mountains (700 - 800 metres) some of the grandest cataracts and some of the finest scenery in the world. And it is this obstacle which the Congo railway has had to turn, along one of the most

deadly and most desolate regions of Africa.

3. The valley of the Congo River and its mighty tributaries, the Ubangi-Uelle, the Kassai, the Lomami, the Aruwimi, each of which forms a river system by itself, constituting a network of tens of thousands of miles in length, and forming the vast Congo swamps and dense tropical forests, with their rubber vines and vegetablewealth.

4. A high plateau land, rising gradually above the river system, and constituting, in the Kassai and Katanga and many other districts, fertile and healthy territories adapted for European colonisation.



A Bridge on the Old Caravan Route.

5. The mountainous Alpine range of the Katanga in the south, which divides the hydrography of the Congo from the basin of the Zambesi, and which, with its copper and gold mines, constitutes one of the richest mineral repositories of the planet; the chain of the Mitumba



mountains in the east, along the gréat Central African rift formed by the succession of lakes from the Lake Moero to the Upper Nile; the massif of the Ruwenzori, which reaches an altitude of from 3500 to 5500 metres; the plateau of the Niam-Niam in the north-east (average altitude 700-800 metres).

Such being the natural divisions of the Equatorial Congo Empire, it would be more easy to say what those vast regions do *not* produce, than to enumerate what they do produce. It is true that hitherto only two commodities have formed the staple exports of the State, namely, ivory and rubber; but the wealth of rubber which, under careful and provident State supervision, is seemingly inexhaustible, is a very fair indication of the vegetable wealth of the equatorial forest, and the very fact that the two staple articles alone have been sufficient to provide an annual export of over two millions sterling, enables us to realise the future and probable expansion of trade when all the other resources have been exploited, when the cotton plantations, which have been established after successful experiments, will have yielded their crops, when the plantations of coffee, cocoa, tobacco—together with palm oil, gum copal, and rare timber, of which there is an enormous supply—swell the export figures of the State. And it is impossible to forecast the future of the mineral exploitation in the south and south-east, when the gold and copper mines have verified the promises of the prospectors, and yielded part of their treasures.

### III.

But the economic expansion of the Congo is conditional not only on the development of the means of communication, as well as on the development of the political and administrative machinery—which shall ensure even more fully the security of person and property—it is still more dependent on an adequate and continuous supply of native labour. And this supply itself is conditional on the raising of the material and moral wellbeing of the native population. And this raising of the native population is all the more indispensable and urgent, as a large proportion of its twenty millions belong to the most degraded tribes of a degraded race. It would be dangerous to generalise and to apply a sweeping statement to populations which are broken up into thousands of independent communities, and which have little in common, not even the colour of the skin. There are enormous differences, for instance, between the Nigritians and hybrid tribes of the Nile region and the Negrillos or Pygmies, between the Fulah-Azande of the Niam-Niam district and the Bantu races, which form the bulk of the population. And even with regard to the Bantus, there is little in common between the Bacongos of the Lower Congo, influenced by Portuguese and European traders, and the Manzemas of the east, influenced by the Arabs. Some tribes are cruel and warlike, like the Bangalas and Batetelas, others are peaceful and timid and industrious, like the gifted Bakubas of the Kassai district. But speaking generally of the tribes of the richest regions of the equatorial forest with which the Europeans are likely in the future to have

the closest intercourse, there can be no doubt that, with their sensual and



Hatende, Chief of Jafunga Village.

brutal instincts, with their gross fetishism, with their monstrous tattooing practices, with their total inability to form abstract ideas, they

belong to the lowest scale of humanity. Indeed if it were not for two important redeeming features, a wonderful commercial instinct and an extraordinary capacity for imitation and assimilation, one might well ask oneself whether these populations will ever provide the raw material for civilisation. At any rate, to raise these tribes from their present condition will tax the utmost political capacity of the Belgian colonisers; it will require a rare combination of firmness and humanity, of patience and energy, of sympathy and tact. Nor is it necessary to approach the problem from the ideal point of view of the philanthropist: the simplest consideration of the conditions of economic and political success ought to suffice to indicate the right method of treating the natives.

A humane and humanitarian policy seems to us to be inseparably bound up with the commercial expansion of the Congo State. All the legislative measures and enactments seem to indicate that the administration is pursuing a sound economic policy, and has in view the future quite as much as the present. It has replanted at great expense millions of rubber vines which will only yield a return in the next generation. The State has resisted the temptation to raise an enormous revenue from the liquor excise duty on the sale of alcoholic liquor, and it has prohibited the trade in the whole of the Upper Congo. The State has done everything in its power to encourage missionary enterprise. It is



A Baluba Chief.



Congo Natives.

a remarkable fact that of all tropical countries the Congo is the one where missionary work has expanded most rapidly. After less than twenty years, the Catholic and Protestant missions have now more than 600 missionaries of both sexes, devoting themselves to the work of evangelisation. Which is the tropical African colony

that can show 600 clergymen and priests and sisters of mercy?

The State realises that the missionary who raises the material and moral standard of life of the natives is the surest ally and fellow-

worker of the trader and the administrator. For, indeed, so long as the native remains the untutored child of nature, inaccessible to the in-



Group of Hollos.

fluences of Christianity, he will continue to live in his wretched huts, he will be a nomad in the forest, he will be content with satisfying the simplest animal wants, and for the satisfaction of these wants he will make his women work. And having no material wants nor moral needs, he will lack the first stimulus, and fail to acquire the habit of work. And the State will fail to receive the supply of native labour which alone will make it

possible to develop the resources of the country.

The two problems which, therefore, missionaries and rulers have to face and to solve are:

1. To create the habit of work and to preach the dignity of labour. To attain that desirable consummation, the present system of enforcing a labour tax instead of a tax in kind has been adopted.

2. To raise the standard of living in order to create new wants and desires.

Here again the Government, by building model stations for its officers, model villages for its soldiers, model schools and churches for the missionaries, and by laying out beautiful plantations and gardens—is moving in the right direction. When the natives have constantly before



At Upoto.

them these concrete examples of a higher civilisation with its infinite complexity, new desires will arise in them for the satisfaction of which they will be compelled to give their labour, which in turn will be applied to the development and expansion of their vast country.

## IV.

We have so far indicated the economic conditions of Belgian Africa, and the economic principles which guide the Congo administration, and which explain its economic expansion. We shall now briefly sum up the political statistics of the young colony—as the political development is so intimately bound up with the economic progress. Most of our facts are taken from the last report of the Vice-Governor General to the Secretary of State (1904).

There are at the present time 233 posts and stations, all of them under the command of white men scattered over the fourteen territorial and administrative districts.

The European staff attached to the services of the districts mentioned is distributed as follows:—

Organic Staff, . . . . .	294
Service of Justice, . . . . .	57
Administrative Service, . . . . .	115
Medical Service, . . . . .	27
Service of Public Works, . . . . .	92
Service of Agriculture, . . . . .	89
Service of Finance, . . . . .	74
The Public Force, . . . . .	490
Service of the Marine, . . . . .	166
Various, . . . . .	20
Total, . . . . .	1424

The number of blacks allocated to the different civil and military services is about 20,000 men.

If we classify the 1424 white officials of the State, we notice that the Free Congo State has largely retained the international character which it had from its foundation, and that almost every civilised nation is represented on the staff of the administration.

Belgians, . . . . .	898	Brought forward, . . . . .	1394
Italians, . . . . .	197	Austrians, . . . . .	3
Swiss, . . . . .	89	English, . . . . .	16
Swedes, . . . . .	86	Americans, . . . . .	2
Danes, . . . . .	34	Turks, . . . . .	2
Germans, . . . . .	31	Luxemburgers, . . . . .	2
French, . . . . .	4	Portuguese, . . . . .	2
Norwegians, . . . . .	22	Greeks, . . . . .	1
Finns, . . . . .	19	Spaniards, . . . . .	1
Dutch, . . . . .	9	Cubans, . . . . .	1
Russians, . . . . .	5	Total, . . . . .	1424
Carry forward, . . . . .	1394		

In order that the staff may become more experienced, by acquiring progressively a knowledge of the country, its resources and its inhabitants, it has been particularly recommended to the agents composing it

that they should learn the native dialects. Knowledge of the local idioms is, indeed, indispensable for the European to enter into direct relations with the blacks. Unfortunately the Congo official, owing to the deadly nature of the climate, is often compelled to leave the service at the very moment when he has become most useful, and when he has succeeded in assimilating the language and manners of the native population. It is only possible in the healthier parts of the Congo to secure that perfect experience which a long sojourn is alone able to give to a European official.

The professional judges number at the present time thirty-two. They are assisted by twenty-five judicial agents.

The judicial services of Boma, to which are allocated seven professional judges and a dozen judicial agents, are organised into—

1. An Appeal Court, composed of a president and two judges, of the State prosecutor, and of a registrar.

2. A Council of War of Appeal, the presidency of which devolves on the president of the Appeal Court, of two judges, officers of the Public Force, of the State prosecutor, and of a registrar.

3. A Court of First Instance, composed of a professional judge, of a deputy, a doctor of laws, and of a registrar.

4. A Council of War of First Instance, composed of a judge, an officer of the Public Force, of the representative of the Court of First Instance, and of a registrar.

The above professional judges are distributed between the territorial courts which exist at Matadi, Leopoldville, Popokabaka, Coquilhatville, New Antwerp, Basoko, Harleyville, Albertville, Lukafu, Kabinda (Katanga), Lusambo, and at Uvira, in the Kivu Zone.

Among the officials of judicial rank are Belgians, Italians, Danes, Swiss, Norwegians, etc.

A large number of stations devote themselves to the breeding of cattle. There are now seventy breeding establishments distributed throughout the State. There were, in 1904, 4283 cattle.

The following table shows the increase of the coffee and cocoa plantations between 1894 and 1902:—

Year.	Coffee plants.	Cocoa plants.
1894	61,517	13,867
1895	241,446	36,675
1896	494,069	87,896
1897	1,167,259	104,813
1898	2,021,178	190,160
1899	2,364,634	386,269
1900	2,631,183	490,695
1901	2,533,559	308,451
1902	1,996,200	298,003

With regard to plantations of rubber vines the decree of 5th January 1899 provided that in all forests of the Sudan there shall be planted every year a number of caoutchouc trees or leaves which shall not be

less than 150 feet per ton of caoutchouc collected therein during the same period.

The total number of plants put into the ground by companies and by the State may be valued respectively at about 1,500,000 and at more than 3,000,000 fr.

Experiments on the cultivation of cotton are now extensively being made on the Lower Congo.

The statistics of the lines of communication indicate an equally remarkable advance. The State flotilla of steamers on the Upper River and its affluents numbers thirty. That of companies and private traders numbers forty. With regard to railroads and routes, a new route for a railroad from Stanleyville to the Great Lakes has been surveyed. This survey comprehends a principal track from Stanleyville-Bafwaboli Mawambi-Irumu, 762 kilometres in length. Near Irumu the track branches off in two directions, one Irumu-Mahagi of 358 kilometres, the other Irumu-Beni of 135 kilometres. At present the surveys are being made for a track from Beni to Lake Tanganyika.

In addition the track has been completely surveyed for a railway from Dufile to Redjaff following the left bank of the Nile, which would be 157 kilometres in length. This railway would turn the innavigable part of the river. At this moment a line is being constructed between Stanleyville (left bank) and Ponthierville. This line will be 140 kilometres in length. The rails have been placed over 10 kilometres, and the embankment over 50 kilometres. This line will permit of transports being made on the river above Ponthierville. As soon as this first line is finished, others will be constructed along the innavigable parts of the river. Surveys are also being made for a railway connecting a part on the southern frontier of the Congo Free State (Katanga) with a point situated on the Lualaba south of the junction of that river with the Lufira. The approximate length of this line, the survey of which commenced on the spot as far back as 25th April 1903, will be about 500 kilometres.



Tapping Rubber Vines in the Forest of Lusambo.

The Government has also given attention to the construction of routes for motor cars; two chief routes of this kind are being constructed, the first of which is on the Uelle between Redjaf and Ibembo. It will be about 1250 kilometres in length, of which, according to the latest information furnished, 400 kilometres are now open to use. Experiments are being made here by means of three steam wagons. The second starts from Tongololo, a station on the railway from Matadi to the Pool, and proceeds to Popokabaka on the river Kwango.

Roads destined for transport by wagon are besides in course of execution, and in some parts of the territory are sufficiently advanced to permit of transport by oxen, particularly on the Uelle, Katanga, and Manzema. The Matagi-Irumu route is working for a length of 165 kilometres; eleven large villages are now established along this route, at distances of from 13 to 16 kilometres from each other.

In addition to these lines of communication, the State has established thirteen telephonic and telegraphic stations. The principal centres are:—

Boma-Matadi	52 kilometres.
Matadi-Tumba	185 „
Tumba-Leopoldville	215 „
Leopoldville-Kwamouth	233 „
Kwamouth-Mopolenge-Yumbi	177 „
Yumbi-Lukolela	121 „
Lukolela-Irebu	102 „
Irebu-Coquilhatville	114 „
Total,	1199 kilometres.

But the most significant proof of the extraordinary recent development of the Congo Free State is probably the statistics of the religious missions.

In 1903, the Catholic missions indicate:—

59 permanent and 29 temporary posts.	75 primary schools.
384 missionaries and sisters.	440 elementary schools.
528 farm-chapels.	7 hospitals.
113 churches and chapels.	71 Christian villages.
523 oratories.	72,382 Christians and
3 schools of the second degree.	catechumens.

The Protestant missionary statistics indicate:—

221 missionaries.	10,162 children attending weekday schools.
40 stations.	5,641 „ „ Sunday schools.
6521 communicants.	

The facts and figures just given are an eloquent commentary and illustration of the principle expounded in the first part of the paper, and looking at the situation in the light of these figures, there seems to be little doubt that the Congo Free State will carry out more and more systematically the economic policy which they initiated twenty years ago.

Of course in colonisation, and especially in the colonisation of Africa, it is the unexpected that often happens. It may be well to remember that in Rhodesia in 1896, when everything pointed to a long spell of



prosperity, suddenly an outburst of every calamity : drought and failure of the crops, plague, famine and rebellion, brought the young colony to the verge of destruction. In the same way, at present in the Congo the sudden outburst of a deadly disease, the sleeping sickness, is threatening to decimate the native population. But if, as is likely, the young colony emerges triumphantly from the crisis as it has overcome more trying ordeals in the past, every sign points to the coming of a long era of prosperity and expansion, under the blue flag bespangled with the golden star, a fitting symbol of hope and redemption for what was once the darkest spot and the most disinherited race of this planet.

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### THE PROPOSED CHAIR OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

By General CHAPMAN, C.B.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the promotion of a Chair of Geography in the University of Edinburgh, and have issued an appeal for support, from which we quote the following paragraphs:—

“The claims of the science of Geography as a University subject have long been recognised by the leading German, French, and American Universities, and in recent years the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have established schools of Geography, but as yet there is no special teaching of Geography in any Scottish University. The efficient teaching of Geography in our schools and colleges is one of the most urgent needs of our time, affecting the political and commercial welfare of the Empire, and it is believed that the subject cannot be satisfactorily dealt with until our Universities take it up and provide, in the first place, adequate training for teachers.

“Towards this end an important step has been taken by the Senatus of the University of Edinburgh in approving of Geography as a subject qualifying for graduation in the Faculties of Science and Arts, and in response to various representations, the University authorities have given their approval to the proposal for the establishment of a Chair of Geography in the University of Edinburgh.

“The Councils of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Royal Society, and the Edinburgh Merchant Company, have also expressed themselves as favourable to the object in view, and a Committee representative of these and other bodies has been formed to raise the necessary funds for the endowment of the Chair.”

We have little doubt that our readers will be interested in the proposal to establish a Chair of Geography in the University of Edinburgh ; and that the action of the Senatus in recognising the claims of Geography to rank as a University subject will be welcomed, not only throughout Scotland, but wherever there are Scotsmen—administrators, soldiers, sailors, missionaries, merchants, or teachers, who in their work

