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CESSION OF CONGO BASIN TO U.S.
IN LIEU OF WAR DEBTS PROPOSED

Canadian Press Despatch

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.- The rich Congo basin, lying in the heart of equatorial Africa, is proposed as payment by debtor countries, in the stead of cash reparations to the United States, by Stephen Leacock, head of the department of political economy at McGill University, Montreal, in an article appearing in the New York Herald-Tribune Sunday magazine section.

Describing this area of 1,500,000 square miles, now owned in its three divisions by Belgium, France and Great Britain, as "exuberantly fertile", Professor Leacock points to the great possibilities of development. He sees the great Congo River as the "real gateway for African trade", and says a real seaport at the mouth of the Congo would "become one of the great harbors of the world's shipping".

He says the United States, with its money, machinery and brains, is the one country to undertake the great development. Thus, would be set in motion, he believes, "a new world movement of prosperity".

Negroes of the United States, descendants of the Congo natives, "would come back, millions of workers", says Professor Leacock, "equipped with the white man's knowledge, ingrained with the white man's purpose," after six generations of work.

"All that is needed," he writes, "is a new congress on adjustment of debts and reparations on a basis of territorial sovereignty. The Belgians could be squared by letting them off their debts to England and the United States; even their own debt of \$1,000,000,000 might be thrown in. If the sanctity of their home territory was such that it set the world to war, the lack of sanctity of their colonial territory is such that it may be used to set the world at peace. France could move out of the French Congo without knowing it, and very few British people are aware that they own any of the Congo basin. Perhaps, even, an odd corner of the map could be found for Mussolini, and an island — there are said to be 4,000 islands in the Congo — for the Germans."