

part in which we find colonial expansion and where the various commercial interests of Europe clash. In 1870, European possession of Africa was confined to seaport towns and adjacent territory, which were used as ports of call and trading centres. The European interest in the Dark Continent as a field of commercial and industrial activity was aroused as never before. The number of explorers of the time had outlined at least the location of the great lakes and waterways, and the possibilities of the various sections as sources of wealth and trade for Europeans were ascertained with a fair degree of accuracy.

The founding of the Belgian Congo by King Leopold II., of Belgium forming the "International Exploration and Civilization of Central Africa," was a start. It was soon noted that this region was rich in ivory and rubber, and various sections were parcelled out to trading companies. France became ambitious over this territory, but Belgium received the support of the other European powers to own it. We all know about the atrocities in this part of Africa, and it is time well spent to read E. D. Morel's two books: "King Leopold II. and the Congo," and "Britain in Congo."

The reason we saw so little fighting over the dividing up of Africa was because the powers partitioned it off from time to time with their coalitions, one time Germany and Britain opposing France,