

ing out of the blacks with a vengeance! For no land in these regions is actually occupied by the blacks, save their villages and the patches that surround them. Thus, "at a single stroke of a pen in Brussels everything was taken from them, not only the country, but the produce of the country."

Thus within two years of the establishment of the State by the Treaty of Berlin, it had with one hand seized the whole patrimony of those natives for whose "moral and material advantage" it had been so solicitous, and with the other hand it had torn up that clause in the treaty by which monopolies were forbidden, and equal trade rights guaranteed to all.

The land and its products having been seized, the next step was to obtain labour. Chiefs were bribed to procure slaves, who were entered in the state books as "libérés"; this was King Leopold's "special protection of the black." Next, the Belgian Parliament was persuaded to advance ten million francs for the use of the Congo "and thus a direct connection sprang up which has eventually led to annexation." Then the State worked by the King began to tighten its grip upon the land; and presently, in cynical disregard of the Treaty of Berlin, proclaimed itself sole trader. Natives were forbidden to gather the products of their own forests; independent traders—in this country in which there was to be no monopoly whatever—were informed that "they were liable to punishment if they bought anything from the natives." The Englishman Stokes, an independent trader working from a German base, was seized and hanged by the Belgian Captain Lothaire. A young Austrian trader, Rabinek, was mysteriously put out of the way.

The State now went on to compel the natives to gather the whole of the products which it had taken from them. White agents were scattered over the "Free" State whose business it was to superintend the collecting and bringing in of the rubber. Their wretched pay they were allowed to supplement by a bonus on the amount of rubber they sent in. Under these agents were savages armed with firearms, one or more of whom, called "Capitas," were allotted to each village, where they terrorized