

CONAN DOYLE TRACES CONGO GUILT UP TO KING LEOPOLD

Famous Writer, After an Investigation of Belgium's Acts in Africa, Declares that the Responsibility for the Nightmare of Devilish Barbaric Cruelty Rests on the Head of King Leopold—How the Natives' Land and Its Products Were Snatched From Them.

DOYLE'S TRUE BUT AWFUL STORY SECURED BY THE TIMES.

We have all heard more or less of the white man's misrule and barbarity in dealing with the natives in the Congo Free State. But to-day there was given to the world a volume that will make civilization shiver. It is by Sir A. Conan Doyle, the famous English author, creator of Sherlock Holmes, who having made an exhaustive investigation of the entire Congo situation, has embodied all the terrible, tragic story in "The Crime of the Congo." The book, which was placed before the public of England and America to-day, is published in this country by Doubleday, Page & Co., and special permission has been given the Times to print important extracts from it. The following article is from it. The work is the most thrilling and revolting story that has ever been written of the Congo horror, and Sir Conan Doyle's hope is that it may stir the nations to take action against the Belgian rule in Africa.—Editor.

IF WAR WITH BELGIUM THEN LET THERE BE WAR—DOYLE.



SIR CONAN DOYLE.

What shall be done? This is for the statesmen of Europe and America to determine. America hastened before all the rest of the world in 1884 to recognize this new state, and her recognition caused the rest of the world to follow suit. But since then she has done nothing to control what she created.

To bring the matter to a head, the British government should act without delay. The obvious course would appear to be that, having prepared the ground by sounding each of the great powers, they should then lay before each of them the white evidence and ask that a European congress should meet to discuss the situation. Such a congress would surely result in the partition of the Congo lands.

Let us suppose, however, that the powers refuse to act, and that we are deserted even by America. Then it is our duty, as it has often been in the world's history, to grapple single-handed with that which should be a common task. A warning and a must decide our course of action.

And what shall that action be? War with Belgium? On them must rest the responsibility for that. If Belgium take up the quarrel, then so be it.

The White Terror in Blood-stained Congo.

(By Sir A. Conan Doyle.)

It is upon the King—King Leopold—that the guilt must lie. Civilization knows no greater guilt, no greater crime—than this "Crime of the Congo." Let us take testimony. First there is a man named Glave, who travelled with Stanley and who later travelled alone in Africa.

"In stations in charge of white man," says Glave, "one sees strings of poor, emaciated old women, some of them mere skeletons, working from 6 in the morning until noon, and from 2.30 until 6, carrying clay water jars, tramping about in gangs, with a rope round the neck and connected by a rope, one and a half yards apart. They are prisoners of war. They are naked, except for a miserable patch of cloth of several parts held in place by a string around the waist. They form, indeed, a miserable spectacle."

"Mr. Harvey heard from Clark," writes Glave, "in 1895, that the state soldiers have been fighting and taking prisoners. He himself had seen several men with bunches of hands, signifying their individual skill. These, I presume, they must produce to show their success. Among the hands were those of men and women, and also of little children."

"In November, 1894," says Mr. Murphy, an American missionary, "there was heavy fighting on the Bosira because the people refused to give rubber. And I was told upon the authority of a state official that no less than 1,800 people were killed."

"A chief of a certain town was ordered to give up some fugitives. He replied the fugitives had not been in his town. But when he went to see the officer he was wounded, his wife was killed before his eyes, and her head was cut off that they might possess the brass bracelet that she wore."

"The rubber question is accountable for most of the horrors in the Congo. It is collected by force. The soldiers drive the people into the brush; if they

will not go, they are shot down, their left hands being cut off and taken to the commissary.

"These hands—the hands of men, women and children—are placed in rows before the commissary, who counts them to see that the soldiers have not wasted their cartridges. The commissary is paid a pension of about a penny a pound upon all the rubber he gets."

An old man was shot to death before the eyes of a missionary friend of Rev. Mr. Spjohm, while the missionary was preaching to the people. The soldier told a little boy, eight or nine years of age, to go and cut off the right hand of the man who had been shot. The man was not quite dead, and when he felt the knife he tried to drag his hand away. The boy, after some labor, cut the hand off and laid it by a fallen tree. A little later the hand was put on the fire to smoke before being sent to the prech.



"THE SIGN OF THE WHITE MAN"—PHOTOGRAPH BY MRS. HARRIS, A MISSIONARY, SHOWS CONGO WOMAN NAMED BRAJI, WHOSE RIGHT FOOT WAS STRUCK OFF BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T BRING IN ENOUGH RUBBER.

a sum which is considerably more than twice the capital. M. Mille tells of a Belgian agent who showed 25,000 cartridges and remarked, "I can turn those into 25,000 pounds of rubber."

Horror of History.

The array of evidence of cruelty against King Leopold of Belgium forms a gallery of horrors.

Added to the testimony already given is that of the Rev. Joseph Clark, an American missionary in the Congo Domain, which is King Leopold's own private preserve. In the town of Irebo, in this territory, where there were 2,000 persons in 1893, there were only 600 survivors in 1903.

"If you do not come soon and stop the present trouble," Clark wrote to the Commissioner Bievez in 1894, "the towns will be empty. It seems so hard to see the dead bodies in the creek and on the beach, and to know why they were killed."

"The soldiers are themselves savages, some even cannibals, trained to use rifles and in many cases they are sent away without supervision, and they do as they please. When they come to any town no man's property or wife is safe."

"Imagine them returning from fighting some rebels; see, on the bow of the canoe is a pole and a bundle of something on it. These are the hands of 10 warriors they have slain. 'Warriors,' Don't you see among them the hands of little children and girls (young boys or girls)? I have seen them, I have seen where the trophy has been cut off, even while the poor heart beats strongly enough to shoot the blood from the cut arteries to a distance of fully four feet."

Compare this with extracts from King Leopold's official bulletin, referring to this same tract of country:

"The exploitation of the rubber vines of this district was undertaken barely three years ago by M. Fievez. The results he obtained have been unequalled. The district produced in 1895 more than 650 tons of rubber bought for 240 and sold at Antwerp for 50 per kilo.

"With this development of general order is combined an inevitable amelioration in the native's condition of existence wherever he comes into contact with the European element. Such is, in fact, one of the ends of the general policy of the state to promote the regeneration of the race by instilling into him a higher idea of the necessity of labor."

Truly I know nothing in history to match such documents as these—pirates and bandits have never descended to that odious abyss of hypocrisy. It stands alone, colossal, too, in its effrontery.

To show the conditions in 1903 let me give the statement of the Rev. Scriverer, an English missionary, who made an investigation among the villages in the special district owned by King Leopold.

He saw the rubber brought in by the natives.

"As I saw it brought in each man had a little basket containing, say four or five pounds of rubber. This was emptied into a larger basket and weighed, and, being found sufficient, each man was given a cupful of coarse salt and to some of the head men a fathom of calico. The former white man would stand at the door of the store to receive the poor trembling wretches, who after, in some cases weeks of privation in the forest, had ventured to come in with what they had been able to collect. A man bringing rather under the proper amount, the white man flies into a rage, and, seizing a rifle from one of the guards, shoots him dead on the spot. Very rarely did rubber come in but one or more were shot in that way at the door of the store."

Consul General Roger Casement, who made an investigation in the Congo in 1904, said that men came to him whose hands had been cut off by soldiers.

"The agent on the Bussira, with 150 guns, got only 10 tons of rubber a month," said a witness who talked to Casement. "We, with 130 guns, got 13 tons a month."

"So, you count by guns?" I asked him.

"Surely," he said. "Each time the

corporal goes out to get rubber, cartridges are given him. He must bring back all not used. And for every one used he must bring back a hand." The witness told me that sometimes they shot a cartridge at an animal in hunt; they then cut off a hand from a living man. He told me that they had used 6,000 cartridges in six months, which means that 6,000 people were killed or mutilated."

Some of the Atrocities.

When a Belgian commission was appointed to investigate Congo matters after the publication of Mr. Casement's report of astounding atrocities, the soldiers kept many natives from appearing before the commission with their stories.

One aged chief was held back from the commission and was punished by witnessing the killing of his wife, for trying to testify.

He brought with him, in the hope that he might lay them before the judges, 182 long twigs and 76 small-arms to represent so many adults and children who had been killed by the A. B. I. R. company in the past few years.

"His account of the method by which these unfortunate people met their deaths will not bear printing. The wildest dreams of the imagination were outdone. Women had been killed by having stakes thrust into them. When a horrified missionary asked the chief if this was personally known to him, his answer was, "They killed my daughter. Sainga in this manner: I found the stake in her."

"Last year, or the year before," reported Mr. Harris, a missionary, "a young woman Imenega was tied to a forked tree and chopped in half with a hatchet, beginning at the left shoulder, chopping down through the chest and abdomen and out at the side."

In spite of the fact that such evidence as this did not reach the commission the result of its research was that one man was punished. And this was Mr. Stannard, one of the accusing witnesses, who was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and to pay \$200."

He was convicted of criminal libel for saying that certain evidence from Lontulu, a chief, had been presented to the commission. Stannard could prove neither by the chief, who had been tortured and his whiskers pulled out, nor by the commission that the commission had received the evidence.

As a matter of fact, Chief Lontulu gave just the evidence Mr. Stannard says he did, and here are some of the questions and answers:

President Janssens: To Lontulu: Were the people of Monji given the corpses to eat?

Lontulu: Yes. They cut them up and ate them.

Baron Nisco: Did they flog you?

Lontulu: Repeatedly.

President Janssens: Did you see sentries kill your people? Did they kill many?

Lontulu: Yes. All my family is finished.

President Janssens: Are you sure that each of your twigs (110) represents one person killed?

Lontulu: Yes.

President: Were the sentries and those who helped given the dead bodies to eat?

Lontulu: Yes, they ate them. Those who took part in the fight cut them up and ate them.

Lontulu, after torture, and while Stannard was being prosecuted for criminal libel for repeating Lontulu's testimony, was forced to deny all that he had previously testified to.

Such was the manner in which the Belgian commission was able to blazon to the world a triumphant vindication of King Leopold and his Congo administration!

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MILITARY MATTERS

BRIGHT, BRIEF, BREEZY GOSSIP OF INTEREST TO THE SOLDIERS

Now that the active military season is drawing to a close, the men will be naturally making arrangements for the winter sports. There is already some talk of forming a soft ball league, and as the season advances in all probability a hockey team will also be formed. Last year the soft ball leagues were very popular, and the teams this year promise to put up as good an argument as those of last year. As before, there will be two series, A and B.

The prizes for the shooting matches have not yet been presented, but the presentations will likely take place in the near future. During the year there has been keen rivalry at all the matches, and as a result the shooting was of a very high order.

The inspections of the two local regiments during the week proved their ability and proficiency in drill, for the officers in charge were pleased with the showing made. During the drill season the men worked hard, and their good showing was the result.

Lieut.-Col. Logie assisted at the inspections of the 19th Regiment, at St. Catharines, and at the inspection of the 38th Regiment at Brantford.

The bowling alleys at the Armories have been closed for the past few days, so that repairs could be made, but as everything possible has been done to put them in shape, they will be opened again on Monday. A large number of the men have availed themselves of the alleys, and it is likely they will receive as large an attendance from now on.

As Col. Moore's tenure of office has expired he retires from the command of the 13th Regiment. For the past five years he has been at the head of this crack regiment. Major Mewburn is now in charge. Captain Lawson has resigned from the command of the Army Service Corps and Lieut. McEllan succeeds him. Captain Carscallen will succeed to the command of the Fourth Field Battery as Major Tidwell succeeds to the command of the brigade.

It looks as though the London Public Schools will soon have a battalion of cadets as a movement is now on foot with that object in view. A couple of companies have already been formed and are at present awaiting the services of an instructor. If a battalion was formed the London authorities think they could muster at least 500, which would make a large battalion.

A Japanese surgeon inspector of the navy, Bunzo Tomatari, has expressed his opinion that the naval vessels should be designed in such a manner as to be able to take care of the wounded as well as protect the fighters.

In the "Earl of Meath" Imperial trophy competition, the Canadian teams did not make a very good showing, all the teams being well towards the end of the list. The results of the competition were made known just recently and were as follows: England, Natal, Victoria (Australia), New Zealand (North Island), Tasmania, Jamaica, Western Australia, New Zealand (South Bend), British Columbia, Bermuda, Queensland, New South Wales, Quebec, Manitoba and Yukon Territory. "Furthest North Team."

When the Twenty-First Regiment, captured him.

Victor J. Roy Makes a Good Amateur Detective.

Sudbury, Oct. 20.—At noon to-day Victor J. Roy, a young man, of Mark-stay, surprised the Crown officials of Sudbury by delivering to them George Jeunette, safely manacled. Jeunette, who had been in the jail at Bryson, Que., in August, where he had been committed to serve a six-months' term for safe-cracking in the store owned by Roy's father at Otter Lake, Que. After serving two weeks Jeunette escaped and has

since been at large, and the country has been scourred for him ever since.

Getting a clue, young Roy had himself sworn in as a constable on Monday and he left for the lumber camps at Chapleau. From there he came back to Onaping Siding, and in a lumber camp found his man. Both men were known to each other, and Jeunette took to the bush. A shot from Roy's revolver, however, halted him, and he was safely handcuffed forthwith. When caught Jeunette was armed with a 32-calibre revolver, besides his woodsman's axe. Jeunette is 20 years of age, and six feet two inches tall. His home is in Quebec City.

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