

AFRICA

WHERE GEOGRAPHY CHANGES

HOWADAYS, war and conquest are not so prevalent as they were of yore. We have settled down, as it were, and if one monarch were suddenly to decide to take a slice of his neighbor's kingdom it would create world-wide consternation. This rule prevails, among presidents and kings, in Europe, Asia, America and Australia, but in Africa is found the exception. Geography, a more or less fixed affair in all the world beside, is being made just now in Africa.

The centres of interest on the map of the so-called "Dark Continent," are Morocco and the Congo State. In the former country, war has seldom been absent for many generations back, and so it can scarcely be called a novelty. The difference this time is, however, that the disputes of two rival Sultans in the Northern Africa state have been taken up by the world Powers, and might have resulted seriously had it not been for the well-oiled machinery of diplomacy. In the Congo State, which has been until now privately controlled by King Leopold of Belgium, and generally mismanaged, the recent developments have been brought about largely through the influence of public opinion in Great Britain and America. The Belgian government has taken over the state, and it will hereafter be ruled as any other European colony. The following is a brief summary of African states and of their government:

Belgium.—The Congo State is now to be definitely taken over by the government of Belgium. This means that the private control of the king of the Belgians will cease and that Belgium as a nation will be as much politically responsible for the good government of the Congo State as is any other European Power possessing colonies on the African continent. The Congo State, which consists of some 900,000 square miles with a population of 30,000,000 people, is now, therefore, on an equal footing with the other districts of Africa controlled by the European Powers. The map shows these various jurisdictions. France controls a huge amount of territory in the north stretching from Algeria and Tunis to the north to the French Guinea coast and the French Congo on the south, to Senegambia on the west, and the Anglo-French treaty boundary in the Libyan desert on the east. Germany.—The most northerly is Togoland, while a little further south is the German Kamerun district; then there is the more important colony of German East Africa, and on the west coast Damaraland and Great Namaqualand. Great Britain.—British territory extends from the Cape of Good Hope northward to the southern point of Lake Tanganyika; then come Uganda and British East Africa, while still further north the British flag flies in conjunction with the Egyptian. In West Central Africa is the British province of Ashanti, the Sierra Leone coast, and the Gambia. Portugal controls the large area immediately south of the Congo State, Gambia and Mozambique on the east opposite Madagascar, the Cape Verde Islands, and the small adjacent territory on the mainland. Spanish influence extends over the Canary Islands to the adjacent coastline south of the Moroccan coast. Italy is possessed of two small territories at the southern end of the Red Sea. The Native States include Morocco, Liberia and Abyssinia.

Affairs in Morocco have been suddenly complicated by the defeat of Abdul Aziz, Sultan de jure, at the hands of Muley Hafid, Sultan de facto, says the London Illustrated News. The first indication that the pretensions of Abdul Aziz were to be contested was given in August last, when Muley Hafid was recognized at the holy city of Marrakesh, the ancient capital, as the Sultan of southern Morocco. In January of this year, however, when Abdul Aziz had moved to Rabat and was listlessly watching for something to turn up, the principal notables suddenly took the matter into their own hands and proclaimed Muley Hafid Sultan of Morocco, at the same time observing all the formalities ordained by Mahomedan law in the election of a ruler. Thus, Muley Hafid is now Sultan of Morocco by virtue of might and popular recognition.

The latest Sultan of Morocco is a half-brother of the prince he has defeated, the two men being the sons of the late Sultan Muley Hassan. Muley Hafid is a few years older than Abdul Aziz and was born in 1873, the son of a woman of the Mzaniza tribe of the Shawia, but the mother of Abdul Aziz, a Circassian lady, was the favorite wife of Muley Hassan, and since there is no law of primogeniture in Morocco Abdul Aziz succeeded to

THE NEW MASTER of MOROCCO — THE SULTAN MULEY HAFID



the throne. At the same time Muley Hafid is not the eldest of the surviving sons of the late Sultan although he is certainly the most popular, and while his brother lost the support of his people by his predilection for Occidental ways he himself may be said to represent the cause of Morocco for the Moors and the interests of Islam for the true Mahomedan. Since the native population is entirely Moslem it is no way surprising that Muley Hafid's name when called in the mosques at Fez in January of this year, and at Marrakesh, Mequinez, and Mazagan exactly twelve months ago, evoked unbounded enthusiasm, for, posing as leader of the faithful and a patriot, he appealed directly to the religious prejudices of his people far more strongly than did his half brother, who had so identified himself with the interests of the infidel Powers that it was with his permission that the state was invaded.

Prior to his election as the Sultan of southern Morocco in the middle of last August, Muley Hafid had been for ten years viceroy of the south, during which period his system of government gave an impression of strength and great self-reliance, qualities which were emphasized by his cultivation of an air of habitual reserve. At the same time he showed a taste for the responsibilities of government and was usually just, if severe, in his judgments. In any case, he ruled without assistance from Fez and restrained the ambitious aspirations of the great territorial chiefs under him with complete success. His administration was in every way superior to that which prevailed in the areas governed by his half-brother, and while Abdul Aziz delighted to coquet with modern toys and western counsellors, Muley Hafid held himself aloof from similar excesses, although he is by no means imbued with an anti-European fanaticism. Preferring profitable study to abuse of opportunity and waste of powers he made himself an authority on the Mahomedan law, and he has become an arbiter on those vexed questions in which the Mahomedan religion abounds.

Muley Hafid is of medium height and has inherited the stately bearing of his father as well as his voice, manner, and resolute appearance. To a somewhat charming exterior he has added a cultivated mind and is something of a literary prodigy. As a poet his songs are popular and chanted through the streets of many African centres. He has also written a book on Cairo, and his contributions to Moorish laws are many and profound. Admittedly hostile to French interests he is quite willing to mix with Europeans, and has so little of the prejudice of the bigoted Mahomedan that he will eat from the same dish as his western visitor. In other respects, too, he is a little singular for a strict Mahomedan, for he is content with one wife. He is the proud possessor of three daughters and a son, who at this stage

of his career is merely a troublesome youngster.

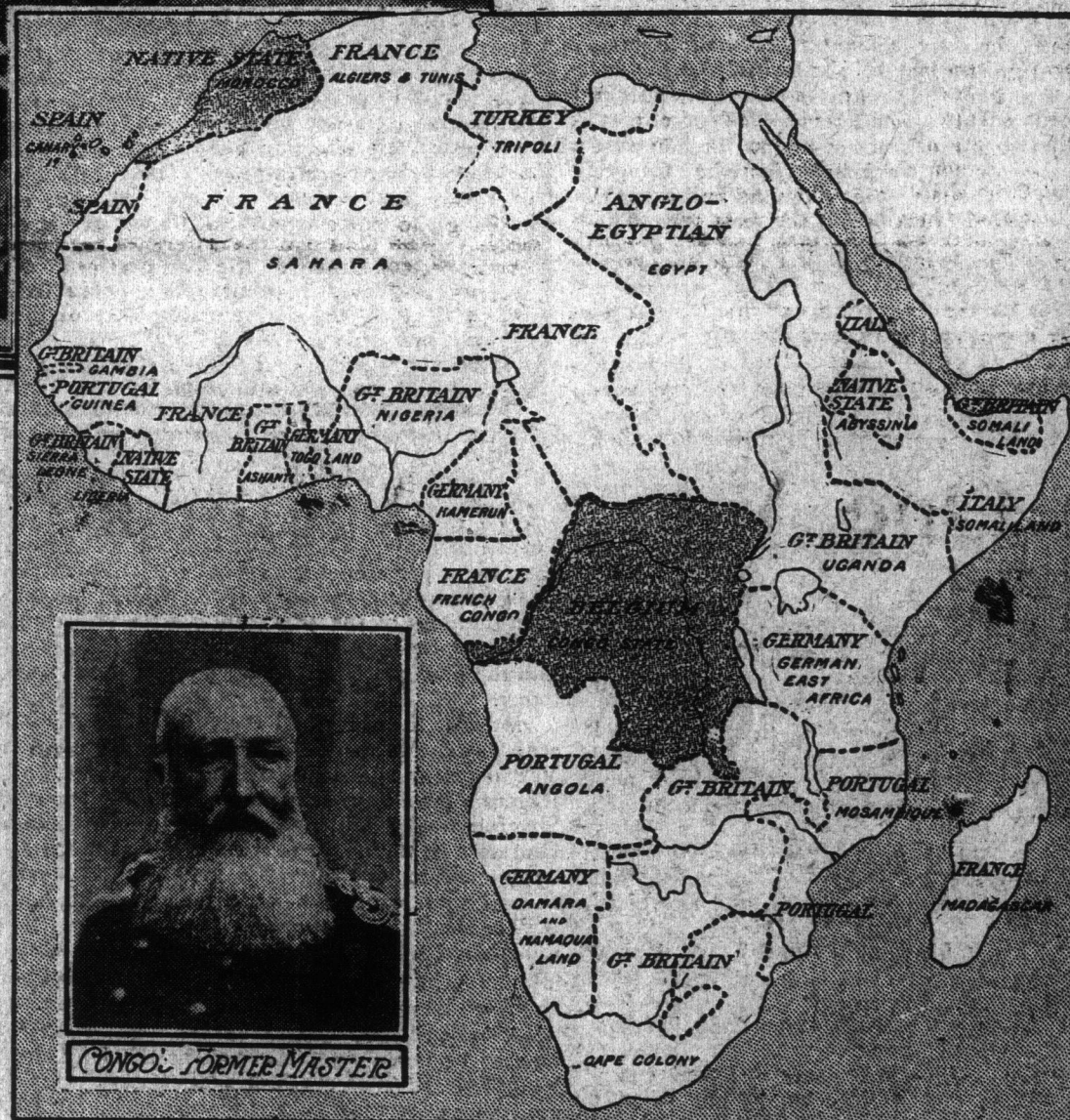
"By the complete defeat of the forces led by Abdul Aziz on their southward march against Marakesh, the Pretender to the Shereefian throne has vindicated his claims by the most cogent of Oriental arguments," says the Times. "The rout of Abdul Aziz's army was marked by the panic and the treachery which are common features of Eastern conflicts; and the Sultan, whose advance upon his rival's original base of operations has been described as a triumphal progress, is a refugee in the territory under French occupation."

The proclamation of Muley Hafid as Sultan in Tangier was acclaimed by the population with an enthusiasm even greater than that which is wont to be accorded to a prospering cause. The other coast towns which have not already declared for Muley Hafid are not now likely to delay this prudent step. If Abdul Aziz had succeeded in seizing Marakesh, he might successfully have counterbalanced, in the eyes of his fickle subjects, Muley Hafid's occupation of Fez. He has not only failed to achieve this counterstroke, but has failed with utter completeness, and has experienced by far his most crushing personal reverse since his brother first took up arms against him. Yet it would be premature to assume immediately that Muley Hafid's triumph is final.

"Though the fact that Abdul Aziz has fled for refuge to the soil in foreign occupation must put him at an enormous disadvantage in any further appeal for the support of the tribesmen in the field, it is by no means impossible that he may again collect a following sufficient to take the field again. His only prospect of prolonging his resistance appears to be to put himself again at the head of an armed force outside the protected area. If circumstances so favor him as to make this possible, the end of the struggle of the two Sultans in Morocco may not yet be in sight."

"The victory under the shadow of the Atlas has the inevitable effect of calling the attention of Europe more imperatively to the attitude to be adopted towards Muley Hafid and his claims. It cannot be said, however, that any new or disturbing element is now introduced into the situation. Neither Sultan is in any way to be regarded as the nominee of any one Power, nor does the defeat of Abdul Aziz involve any modification of the external situation. It is, doubtless, to be regretted that questions of succession to the Shereefian Throne have to be settled in this painfully barbarous and protracted manner; but the concern of the Powers is to allow the disputants to settle the question by their own accepted methods, in a strictly neutral environment."

"The suggestion that the defeat of Abdul Aziz involves in some way a rebuff to French policy in Morocco is based, as our Tangier



THE TWO CENTRES OF INTEREST IN AFRICA

correspondent indicates, on a false conception of what that policy has been. The French have maintained an attitude of exemplary neutrality in the exceedingly difficult circumstances of the whole of the Moroccan struggle. France will continue, now as heretofore, to devote herself to the tactful and patient fulfilment of the duty of introducing peace and order into the troubled Shereefian empire, in accordance with the mandate of Europe."

The Congo State is to be added to Belgium—that is the upshot of the Bill in the Chamber in Brussels on August 20. The Treaty of Annexation and the Colonial Law were voted by majorities of 29 and 42. For four months these have been debated.

"It is true the final scene of King Leopold's sinister administration has not yet been rung off; for," says the Times, "the Senate has yet to pass its verdict on the measures just voted by the Chamber; and, by the thirty-fourth article of the Berlin Act of 1885, the Powers signatory to that international charter have to be notified of Belgium's assumption of sovereignty, in case they may have any objection to raise. The first of these steps, the consent of the Senate, seems to be regarded as a matter of course, and it is expected that by Sept. 10 Belgium will, as far as lies within her own power, have irrevocably assumed the government of this territory, larger in extent

than the whole of Europe. Since, as a result of the European outcry against the iniquities of the present administration, amply confirmed in 1906 by a Belgian commission of inquiry, Belgium began seriously to contemplate taking over the colony, the conditions under which it was offered to her have been sensibly modified in her favor."

"The terms at first suggested by the sovereign, besides being peculiarly onerous, left her so little real control over the administration that the intention was obviously to induce her to cover the acts of others with her own fair fame. The sovereign was then compelled to lower his terms, and though his solatium is still substantial, the main point of constitutional control by Parliament over the budget and administrative acts of the Colonial government is amply guaranteed by the law as it has passed the Chamber. This alone is the best safeguard against a continuation of the evils which have been so frequently and thoroughly exposed during the last ten years; for no government subject to the power of inquiry and the judgment of a civilized people would dare to maintain them."

Mr. E. D. Morel, who has had so much to do with this victory, says in the Chronicle:

"A piratical enterprise calling itself a State, which has polluted the earth with its abominations, has been destroyed. Its disappearance, which was imperative for Africa and the world, has been brought about by the combined forces of British and American public opinion. It is the triumph of an aroused public conscience

over a brutal despotism backed by great vested interests, and the world is the richer for that triumph."

"It remains for British and American opinion to insist that this change shall mean, if British and American recognition of the transfer is to be granted, a fundamental alteration in the whole conception under which the Congo has been governed since 1892. In this respect no guarantees whatsoever have been given, and the last public act of the Belgian government in relation to this country has been that of attempting to dispute the obligation which lies upon Belgium under Article 34 of the Berlin Act to obtain the recognition of the Powers to her acquisition of the Congo territory. This proceeding, together with the action of the Chamber in repudiating liability on the part of Belgium for the payment of interest on Congo loans, does not in itself inspire confidence, but the crux of the situation is, of course, the treatment of the native population."

"Here not only have we no guarantees, but we have the most categorical assertions, both verbal and documentary, that the governing party in Belgium intends so long as it holds the reins of power to perpetuate the present system in its essentials. Belgium has been made to annex the Congo, binding herself to maintain the Congo State's agreements with the concessionaires. Her governing statesmen have accentuated over and again the principle

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