

# KING HAS CHAMPION IN EWING

### FORMER UNITED STATES MINISTER TO BELGIUM TELLS OF LEOPOLD'S LIFE.

James S. Ewing of Bloomington, Illinois, was United States ambassador to Belgium under the second administration of President Cleveland. For years he has been a student of the character of King Leopold and in view of his unusual opportunity for observation at close range, his opinion is of interest.

It is probably a fact that nine persons out of ten in the United States think of Leopold as a man of dissolute habits, a king who thinks nothing of the welfare of his subjects, and as remarkable his operations in the Congo Free State, a tyrant of the most absolute type. With this estimate Mr. Ewing takes most decided issue; in fact, he voices the conviction that the Belgian king is the ablest monarch upon any European throne.

#### His Personality.

While admitting that there has been much to criticize in the domestic affairs of the king, Mr. Ewing says that nine-tenths of what has been written is untrue and the remainder has been exaggerated. There is one instance in particular that the former minister can vouch for. At one time the newspapers of the world took up the cry that the king was swindling his sister, the Princess Charlotte, out of her property. The princess was subject to fits of insanity and when in that condition loudly berated the king. Leopold paid no attention to her tirades, however, built her an elegant chateau near Brussels, where she lived and was attended daily by some member of the court. In one of her fits of insanity she set fire to her palace and it was burned. Leopold immediately building another for her, at the same time conserving and protecting her property.

#### Home Life Unhappy.

Another fact that is scarcely considered by the average person when forming an estimate of Leopold is that his home life has always been an unhappy one. His only son, who was greatly cherished by the father, died at the age of 12 years, and the other children of the king have given him no end of trouble. That Leopold himself has been guilty of many indiscretions no one will deny, but the vast majority of the charges brought against him have been entirely without foundation.

#### Remarkable Attainments.

Mr. Ewing characterizes the king of the Belgians as kind-hearted, polite and affable in a high degree, democratic, a remarkable linguist, a lover of the arts and sciences and a statesman of the highest order. His knowledge and control of various languages is truly wonderful. On one occasion Mr. Ewing heard him address five representatives of different nations in as many different languages in the course of not to exceed three minutes. He is a master of the English language and speaks it without the usual foreign accent.

#### Popular in Belgium.

Leopold is popular with his subjects, the principal opposition to him in his own country coming from a faction of the liberal party composed of socialists, anarchists and other malcontents who are opposed to the monarchial form of government wherever found. The king has always been solicitous for the welfare of his subjects, has made Brussels next to Paris in beauty and has helped to make his little country a garden spot of the old world. Belgium is no more the half as large as Illinois and is densely populated, the average being 800 inhabitants to the square mile. The average size of a farm in Belgium is 2 1/2 acres, yet the people are known as the most industrious and thrifty in the world. There it is an unusual thing for a man to be out of work. The winter before Mr. Ewing returned to the United States the number of men out of work did not average 37, while on reaching Chicago he found literally hundreds of thousands of workmen out of employment. He was deeply impressed with the thrift and industry of the Belgian people and is of the opinion that this country can learn much in this respect from the little nation across the sea.

The king's regard for his people was undoubtedly the primary cause of his

embodying in the venture which brought about the existence of the Congo Free State. Belgium has long been largely overpopulated and the king thought he saw an outlet for emigration in central Africa. He exhausted every effort in trying to induce his government to take up the project as a colonizing plan but was unsuccessful, and finally took the whole burden upon himself, investing his own large fortune and borrowing millions more in developing his idea. He actually impoverished himself in his effort to do what he thought was best for his own people. He continually asked the Belgian government to take over the project years after it was begun, but he was still unsuccessful. Then the returns from the Congo began pouring in in golden streams and the Belgian government began to glow to the fact that it allowed a glorious opportunity to pass by. England, too, became jealous of the work that Leopold had accomplished and immediately began a systematic campaign of abuse. That Leopold has lived up to his agreement made with the powers there can be no doubt, and there has never been any real dispute on this point.

#### Methods of England.

Never until the venture began to bring in large returns did England worry herself with alleged atrocities in the Congo Free State. Then the world was flooded with reports of every kind of the most revolting character and Leopold was pictured as a heartless monster and a deep-dyed tyrant whose power should be broken at all hazards. So-called missionaries sent out from England sent back reports of countless atrocities committed by the Belgians, nine-tenths of which were absolutely false and the rest grossly exaggerated.

#### Illuminating Incident.

As an instance of the false reports that were sent out, Mr. Ewing, while acting as minister, frequently received large bundles of letters from the state department, which had been written by the missionaries to the secretaries of the various missionary societies in this country and by them forwarded to the state department for attention. These letters were filled with charges of cruelty by the Belgians and most of the letters bore evidence of untruth upon their face. One in particular, after a series of charges against Leopold, stated that the missionary party had gone up a certain river and had converted ten entire tribes in ten days. A few months later Mr. Ewing was shown a letter from the same writer to the secretary of the Congo Free State in Brussels in which he stated that he had nothing but the highest praise for the proceedings of the Belgians in the Congo, but that he could not say as much for some of the other nations. Mr. Ewing was mystified and asked the reason for the change of heart. It developed that the missionary had accepted a position at \$2 a day in the service of the Belgians. Copies of the two letters were forwarded to the state department in Washington and the American minister received no more missives containing charges against Leopold in the Congo district.

#### A Trial.

The plan pursued by those in the employ of Leopold to subjugate the interior of Africa has been to push gradually toward the interior while keeping a base of supplies at points passed over in the onward march. A handful of Belgians are thus surrounded at all times by countless savages, many of them cannibals. One of the Belgians, a young man of excellent attainments whom Mr. Ewing came afterward to know well, came upon a missionary about 200 miles from the coast selling firearms and ammunition to the natives, which, of course, would be used against the Belgians. The missionary was hanged to the nearest tree and England immediately began to cry loudly for reparation. The accused was tried by a board at the coast town and was acquitted, whereupon England insisted that the man should be tried at Brussels by an international board consisting of representatives of the powers. Mr. Ewing attended this high trial from beginning to end, and when the evidence was in, even the commissioner from England was forced to admit that the man should go free. He was given his liberty and was married on the same day.

#### Rule Has Been Firm.

That the rule in the Congo Free State has been firm there can be no doubt, but there can be no little question that, considering the character of the natives, measures have been as lenient as is consistent with good discipline. Unquestionably there have been instances where mercy might well have been granted, but on the

# AN UNIQUE ADDRESS MADE BY TAFT

### PEOPLE WHO SHOULD INVEST IN WIRELESS FAIL TO DO SO

### Average Person Not Willing to Grasp Opportunity of Lifetime.

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Taft made an unique address to the census supervisors from the eastern states in conference here. He said:

"I am very glad to see you. You number about a third of the force upon which we have to rely to make the census. I expressed my opinion about the character of your duties when I wrote a letter to Mr. Durand. I did not write that letter just for the fun of having it published. I wrote it to be a genuine instruction to you, and I hope you will all observe it. I know if you pursue it it will be an easy matter for you. If you don't observe it, then I will observe it. I know, of course, there will be pressure.

"Many of you—most of you—have been recommended by congressmen, and it may be that some of those congressmen will come to you and expect, because they did not know you, that you owe them something in the way of selecting the men as enumerators who will help them in their congressional election. You have got to use sense and discretion. You have got to select the men that you think will do the work, and if you catch them doing political work I will remove you from them. I will remove you if I catch you doing political work. It is business.

"I am not quarreling with the congressmen. Each man is looking for all the aid he can get to get back into his place, and I am not objecting to the efforts in that direction. But you are the gentlemen that I want to make responsible, through Mr. Durand, for taking this census, and you are the gentlemen I rely upon, and if I can't rely upon you then I am going to direct Mr. Durand to let me know about it and I will see if I cannot help him out with somebody else.

"I take great pride in this census. I believe we can make it the best census that has been taken if we take it as a census, and do not use it and regard it as incidental to something else.

"Now, you are not well paid. This is not a business that is going to enrich any one of you, but it is a business that is worth doing well, and I hope it will turn out so that when the census is taken you will all have pride in the fact that we were a part in taking it, however humble.

"I am glad to meet you, gentlemen. I would be glad to say this same thing to your fellows, but having this opportunity of delivering a little lecture I can't not restrain myself from doing so. I mean every word I have said."

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"The amount is determined as usual by the annual earnings. The sum distributed for 1909 amounts to a little over \$2,000,000. This will be paid 60 per cent in cash and 40 per cent in preferred stock at 124 or common stock at 90, in accordance with the wishes of the recipients, so far as practicable and convenient. Also the usual opportunity will be given to subscribe for 25,000 shares of the preferred stock of the corporation at 124 under the usual conditions."

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# Buy Furs for Christmas Gifts

## Where You Can Be Absolutely Sure of Quality---at Missoula Mercantile Co.'s

Very few shoppers can trust their own judgment in regard to the quality of furs. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, to be able to trust the merchant---and not only his dependability but his experience. A house like this, that has a long record of perfectly satisfactory dealing with critical, particular people, is surely the place to buy furs.

**Absolute assurance of fur quality at M. M. Co.'s is combined with prices as low as you can obtain anywhere.**



**Pretty littleoney fur Scarfs, at from \$2.50 to \$12.50; with Muffs to match, at from \$1.75 to \$6.50**

**Fur Sets in Isabella and Sable fox, with neck-scarfs in stole and shawl effects and muffs in rug or Empire shapes; these sets are very attractive with their trimmings of beads and tails. Prices from \$25.00 to \$100.**

**Fur Sets in black lynx, second only to mink in favor; our black lynx furs are notable for their long, silky fur and the large size of the collars and muffs. Prices, \$60 to \$100**

**Fur Sets, in mink, in various styles; some with the wide collar projecting well over the shoulders, others with the small, close-fitting neck pieces; the muffs are either pillow style with head trimmings or made in the rug style of seven separate skins. Prices, \$87.50 to \$160**

**Children's Fur Sets, in all the latest shapes and made in the most desirable furs. Prices, \$2.50 to \$25.00.**

# MISSOULA MERCANTILE CO.

## THE GREAT CHRISTMAS STORE

# GREAT INTEREST IN CARTER STRIKE

### GENTLEMEN WHO MADE DISCOVERY HAVE LEASED PORTION OF PROPERTY.

Carter, Mont., Dec. 22.—(Special)—The new strike last week of a six-foot vein at the King and Queen mine by Messrs. Goldsmith and McKinnon has aroused considerable enthusiasm at last. People are coming forth readily with their savings and investing it freely in stock. The gentlemen who made the discovery have leased a portion of the property, viz., the upper tunnel, for a period of two years and are loading daily about 30 tons of ore at Ashcroft station, East Helena, Great Falls and the United States smelters at Salt Lake City are smelting the ore. Eleven expert miners carefully chosen from this intermountain country are at work there. It is said that they are among the best miners west of the Mississippi river. This week several of the owners came and examined the ore and the workings closely. They were quite elated over the recent discovery of the vein. The return from the assay show that in value it runs very high per ton. The gentlemen who personally visited the mine are: O. B. Weaver, representing the Lackey & Co. property of Williamsburg, Pa.; Dr. C. H. Henderson of Corry, Pa.; C. H. Hubbard, Corry, Pa.; G. W. Deberry, Lawson, Idaho; C. W. Gray of Mansfield, Pa.; and Mr. Heath of Mansfield, Pa.

W. J. Schneider of Missoula has the contract for hauling this ore to the station. He has eight teams on the road daily.

The new continental railroad just completed from St. Paul, Minn., to Seattle, Wash., has taken up the question of running a spur up the trail into the camp, which if carried out will give switching facilities at the mine.

A recent strike in the Iron Mask shows that it is increasing in richness as development work is being done on the lead. Mr. Hunter, the superintendent of the Iron Mask, was in Missoula on business two days this week. Unquestionably if the King and Queen mine is good they are all good, for they are all located in the great Cour d'Alene mineral belt.

# BURNED TO DEATH.

Delaware, Ohio, Dec. 22.—The three children of Jasper Williamson were burned to death in their room near here last evening. The parents were absent.

# AFTER THE SITANGA.

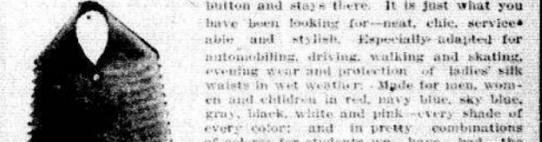
Kampala, Uganda, Dec. 22.—Colonel Roosevelt and Kermit were out early today hunting the sitanga, a rare species of the antelope.

# Good, Practical Xmas Suggestion

## Give a Phoenix Muffler

Everyone knows that the right sort of a muffler is as necessary to the neck and chest as rubbers to the feet. Here is a radically new departure from the old sweater-like bunglesome style. Built along practical lines, graceful, convenient, comfortable.

The Phoenix Muffler needs no scarf pin to hold it in place---won't slip down in front, exposing the throat---won't bunch up in the back and spoil the fit of the coat. Simply snaps into place by means of a specially prepared patent fastening button and stays there. It is just what you have been looking for---neat, chic, serviceable and stylish. Especially adapted for automobile driving, walking and skating, evening wear and protection of ladies' silk waists in wet weather. Made for men, women and children in red, navy blue, sky blue, gray, black, white and pink---every shade of every color; and in pretty combinations of colors; for students we have had the School Colors, purple and gold, and in University Colors, gold, silver and copper; best silk finished mercerized yarn. Put up in



**Price 50c**

PHOENIX MUFFLERS IN PURE WORSTED, 75c; IN PURE SILKS, \$1.00 AND \$1.50.

# Missoula Mercantile Co.

## "THE BEST CHRISTMAS STORE."

# If Your Baker Does Not Give You Honest Weight in Your Bread Try

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Which Will Stand the Test. Made by the

## GARDEN CITY BAKERY

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## BRING QUICK RESULTS

# Successful Poultrymen Use Model Incubators

In construction, insulation, heating device and heat regulation and in circulation the MODEL is a model of perfection. It has no equal in the market for Simplicity of Operation, Safety in Operation or Hatching Results, and every one bears this guarantee:

# WE GUARANTEE

"We guarantee the Model Incubator to be as represented in every particular.

"We guarantee that the Model Incubator will hold a more even temperature, with less attention, than any other make of incubator. We guarantee that the Model Incubator, when run in competition with another make, shall, in three or more hatches, bring out a larger percentage of the fertile eggs in strong, healthy chicks or ducklings than does its competitor.

- No. 0 incubator, capacity 80 hen eggs \$19.00
- No. 1 incubator, capacity 150 hen eggs \$23.50
- No. 2 incubator, capacity 250 hen eggs \$32.75
- Model Incubator, capacity 30 chicks \$12.50
- Model Incubator, double capacity 150 chicks \$18.00
- Model Colony Brooder, capacity 100 chicks \$18.00

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