

## BELEAGUERED BELGIAN CONGO RETAINS COLOSSAL AFRICAN COLONY IS ONE-FOURTH AS LARGE AS ALL EUROPE COMBINED. HAS AN ARMY OF 18,000 NATIVES

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10.—Describing the Belgian Congo, the National Geographic Society, in a statement issued today, says: "Although Belgium now controls less than 200 square miles of her territory at home, she is still possessed of a colony one-fourth as large as all Europe together. It is larger than the combined area of all the countries now at war, outside of Russia. That colony is the Belgian Congo, with nearly a million square miles of territory."

In the heart of Equatorial Africa. This empire is carved out of the heart of equatorial Africa, and includes within its confines one of the world's great rivers, the Congo, from which the Congo takes its name. The river has a course of about 2,800 miles, and with its tributaries offers a wonderful system of communication for opening up the rich hinterland. It is estimated that there are 60,000 miles of navigable waters in the colony, while the Congo river is navigable for ocean steamers for 100 miles upstream. Here follows a section of the river, the banks of which the river is navigable for 1,200 miles.

The work of exploiting the heart of Africa has just begun. There has been considerable difficulty in inducing European colonists to migrate to these regions and build new homes. First, the Congo has the evil reputation of being no fit country for the white man, and, secondly, a feeling has existed that a permanent home there meant permanent burial without the pale of civilization. Therefore, the promoters of the Congo have had to overcome a great unwillingness among their people to exchange the comforts and amenities of the motherland for the questionable advantages of pioneering in the wild. It has been necessary to successfully depict all progress for ten thousand years.

Some advance, however, has been made, and the future of the colony seems to be one of promise. Although the climate is extremely hot and moist, it is supportable by the white man. The climate of the coast lands is least endurable, a mere 400 miles inland, the climate is more temperate, normal temperatures range between 50 and 70 degrees. Rain is everywhere abundant, and the humidity of the day is generally relieved by sharp evening chills.

The white population of this land remains still negligible. At the present time, the white population is estimated at 15,000, of which are counted as Europeans. The native population, while overwhelmingly superior in numbers, is being won by the white man through the use of the telegraph, the automobile, and the airplane, and forms a deadly working body for the improvement of the land. More than 100,000 natives are employed in operation and in the construction of the Congo. Further, 114 miles of telegraph communication have been established, five wireless stations, and some 50 post-offices. Before the war, there was regular communication with Antwerp, a steamer from the port calling every fortnight.

Agricultural Possibilities Great. The agricultural possibilities of the Congo are great. If modern methods of sanitation finally open it up to the white man, the Congo will be a rich and varied land. Among the products now cultivated in its fields are coffee, cotton, yams, papaya, pineapple, banana, rice, peanuts, wheat, sorghum, tobacco, sorghum and kaffir corn. Its forests abound in rubber vines and the natives are employed for gathering the rubber, which forms the chief article of the colony's export. Rich cabinet woods are plentiful, and the import of gums and resins are collected.

All of the domestic animals thrive in this African paradise. The most valuable animals include the elephant, the hippopotamus, buffalo, antelope, chimpanzee, rhinoceros, and the lion. Slaughter of elephants for their ivory has been prohibited, though the ivory exports are still heavy, coming chiefly from native hunters. The Congo is rich in coal, and some rich deposits of copper and gold are found in the south.

Has Native Army of 18,000. For many years this territory, as the Congo Free State, first recognized and then annexed to Belgium in 1908, has been an annual revenue of about \$2,000,000, and a public debt of more than \$20,000,000. The colony is defended by about 10,000 native troops.

## "Fly Throat" Is New Disease of War Time, Attacks the Civilians

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—"Fly throat," a new and dangerous disease, temporarily incapacitating thousands of soldiers and civilians. The chief symptoms are an inflamed throat and total loss of voice.

"Most of the victims are persons who are run down in health," said a prominent physician. "This indicates that everyone ought to watch his health very carefully just now and lose no time in building it up, especially in cases of insufficient nourishment or where the system requires cleansing."

## Sell Paintings to Aid the Red Cross Famous Artists Gives Work to Cause

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—Christie's famous sales rooms, beginning Monday, will be the scene of a notable auction. The British Red Cross society and the St. John Ambulance association are spending over \$20,000 a week to succor the sick and wounded in France and Flanders, and to aid the funds, wealthy owners of works of art and curio have been asked to lend their possessions in order that the London social season—a very limited one—may be opened with a sale of valuable such as would not come into the market under any other circumstances. This clever idea is a really a really response from the "great families" and collectors who feel that they must help this cause. The list of donors includes King George, Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria and Princess

## ROOTS IN SPAIN CAUSED BY WORK OF SPECULATORS

Great Quantities of Food  
Exported; Famine Is  
Threatened.

## IDLE FACTORIES ADD TO DISTRESS

MADRID, Spain, April 10.—The increasing cost of food supplies in Spain, which has resulted in a number of food riots as reported by cable, is charged solely to speculation. In 1914 the crops were better than in previous years, with an excess of 100,000 tons of wheat over the crop of 1913, but notwithstanding this the government has been forced to take measures to avoid monopolies, and has limited its intention of fixing the maximum price.

Heavy Exports Made. Wheat, cereals in general, potatoes, beans and other products have been exported in great quantities to France and England. Numerous French agents have bought beef and vegetables at prices above normal and Switzerland alone last month bought for its army 1,000,000 worth of food products in Spain. All this has caused a natural crisis which has been felt severely in the provinces.

## German Prisoners Wed British Girls While the Armed Guards Look On

Southend, Eng., April 10.—That all is not hatred between the English and the Germans married four English girls at one time. The Germans, who were prisoners, were held in a hotel in Southend. The girls, who were British, were also held in the same hotel. The marriage took place in the presence of the British guards. The girls were all of legal age and the marriages were all legal.

## Liquor Banned in Dance Halls; London Decrees Ban on Dancing Orgies

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—Liquor licenses are now being refused to dance halls by the magistrates in charge of this branch of excise. Formerly they were generally awarded without much question, even to halls in which dancing was held occasionally.

## "Would Not Keep Out the Salvation Army," Is Comment Of Kitchener

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—A story is told today about what Lord Kitchener said to the Duke of Devonshire, who had inquired some defence works on the East coast. The war minister motored from point to point, walked over the ground, but did not comment all afternoon until the moment he was leaving for London. Then he opened his grim mouth.

## British Fleet Commander Puts On Scarf and Sends Appreciative Letter.

## MAKES THE LITTLE WORKER HAPPY

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—Sir John Jellicoe, the British fleet commander, has sent a letter to Kathleen Torr, a little blind girl of York, who knitted for him a scarf, saying in her letter in Braille sent with it that she would be the happiest little girl in England if he would accept the gift adding "all the other blind girls thank you and all the brave sailors and soldiers for defending us."

## King of Belgium Learns Democracy As Reporter In the United States

These three photographs show some of the changes which the war has brought to King Albert and queen Elizabeth of Belgium.

Below to the right they are seen walking near the line of battle. The king is in simple uniform and the queen in even more simple cloak and hat. The sadness of the conflict seems imprinted on their faces.

## Few French Wage Earners Idle Because of War, Says Jouhaux, Socialist Leader

Paris, France, April 10.—The war has put very few wage earners out of employment in France, says a socialist leader. He said that the government had been successful in keeping the factories running, and that the workers were doing their best to support the war effort.

## DELINQUENT LOS ANGELES GIRL WAS TO COME HERE

Los Angeles, Calif., April 10.—A girl who was reported to be a delinquent in Los Angeles, California, was to come to this city. The girl was said to be a member of a gang and was reported to have been involved in several crimes.

## Has Aged Greatly Under the Worry and Strain of the Great Conflict.

## GERMAN COURT CEASES TO EXIST

Berlin, Germany, April 10.—In all Germany there is no more a court of law, nor a court of justice. The German court has ceased to exist. The court was said to have been unable to function due to the war and the strain it placed on the German government.

## WEEK'S BUSINESS REPORTS SHOW STEADY IMPROVEMENT

New York, April 10.—Bradstreet's weekly reports, trade and industrial, are the best noted for some time, being in some respects the most favorable received since the spring of 1914. Sentiment is bolstered by the smart uplift in stock market prices; operations are generally improving; idle workmen are less numerous; money is easy; weekly bank clearings are more encouraging; collections are a shade better in some centers and winter wheat crop conditions are good—as good, all things considered, as a year ago at this date.

## King Albert, When Crown Prince, Worked on Amer- ican Newspapers.

These three photographs show some of the changes which the war has brought to King Albert and queen Elizabeth of Belgium. Above the king and queen are seen in their carriage replying to the plaudits of their people before the war broke out.

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## CHILDREN SAVE 28 FARM HOUSES

Pretend They Do Not Under-  
stand When Germans De-  
mand Information.

## ARE THREATENED, BUT DO NOT TELL

PARIS, France, April 10.—Maurice Barres publishes a letter written by a woman of Paris now at the front, to her little children at home. It tells a story of youthful heroism.

## CHILDREN ARE THREATENED

"Suddenly the mother rises and runs to the door. She sees no one there. She says, 'I fear that the Prussians are coming. They will see that we have lodged and that the soldiers are here. If you ask us where they are, if they find them they will shoot them.'"

## Mental Faculties of War Victims Restored By the Use of Music

LONDON, Eng., April 10.—Music as an aid in the recovery of mental faculties lost as the result of the harrowing experiences of war is being used with success at the hospital for paralytics at Maida Vale, London.

## Germans Give Prisoners Tasty Food

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Get Same Bread Rations As Germans

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HAMBURG, Germany, April 10.—Some idea of how prisoners of war are cared for in the concentration camps of Germany can be gained from a report just made public by a visitor to Parchim, where many hundreds of men are confined.

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