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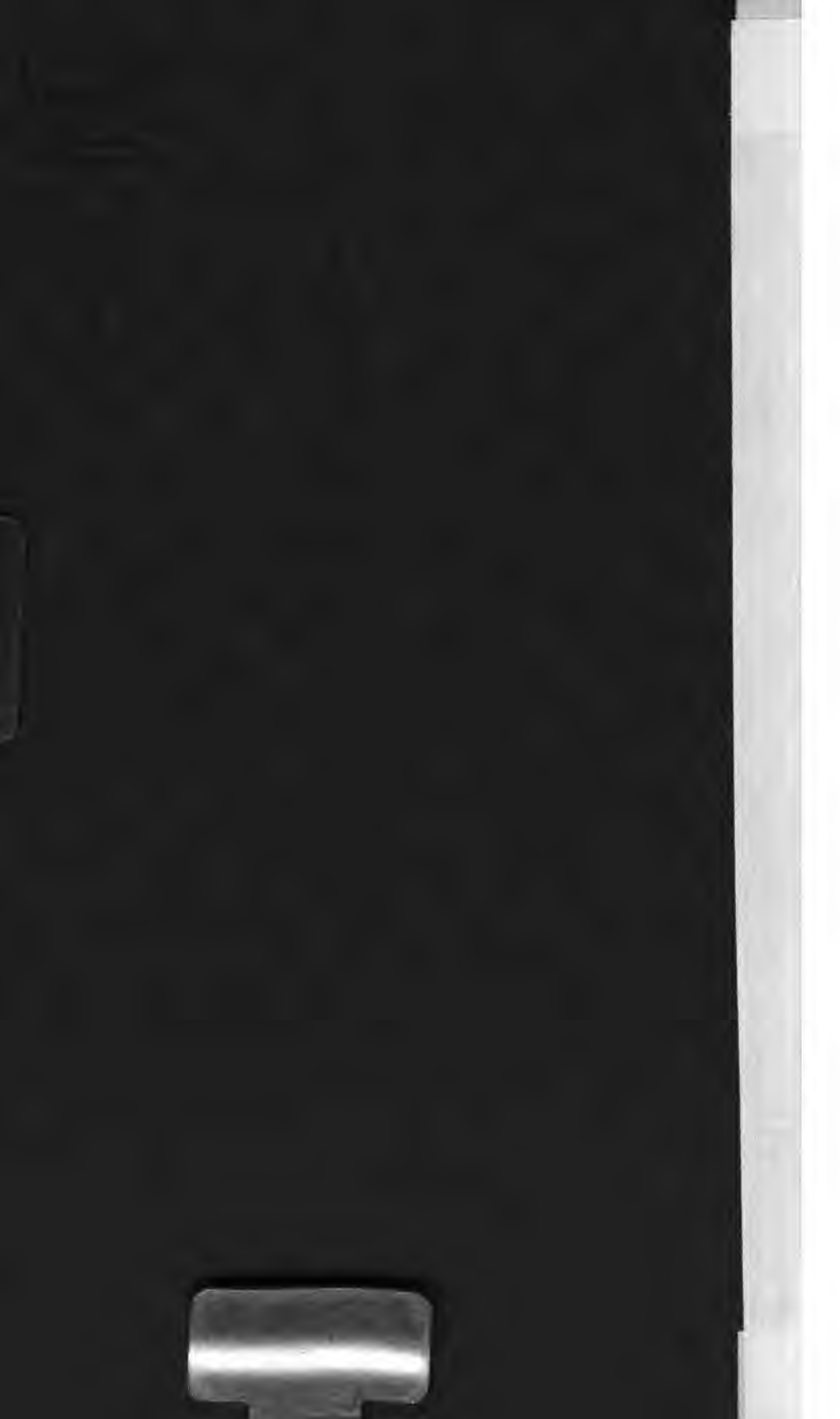
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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PRESIDENTS OFFICE

EVIDENCE

L A I D B E F O R E T H E

CONGO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

A T

BWEMBU, BOLOBO, LULANGA,
BARINGA, BONGANDANGA, IKAU,
BONGINDA, AND MONSEMBE.



Together with a SUMMARY OF EVENTS (and Documents connected therewith) on the A.B.I.R. Concession since the Commission visited that territory.



Issued by the Congo Reform Association.

LIVERPOOL :

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1905.

The Congo Reform Association.

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TO THE
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PREFACE.

THE Commission of Inquiry appointed last year by the Sovereign of the Congo State to investigate specific charges of atrocities and gross abuses, alleged to be prevailing in certain districts of the Congo State, returned to Belgium early in March last.

Its Report has not been published.

A statement appeared recently in the Press that the Commission would hand its Report to the Sovereign of the Congo State towards the end of August.

Assuming the statement to be accurate, there is still nothing to show when that Report will be published, or in what form it will be presented ultimately to the world.

The Congo Reform Association considers it necessary, therefore, in the public interest, to issue in concise and readable form the evidence laid before the Commission at various places whence the Association published information in 1903 and 1904.

Together with this evidence, there will be found in the present publication, a summary of the events—with documents relating thereto—which have taken place in the *A.B.I.R.* Concession since the Commission returned.

A map of the Congo State is attached, on which the route followed by the Commission is traced.

The Congo Reform Association has stated publicly the grounds upon which is based its view that both in composition, in the area of investigation, in the time employed, and in the very nature of the case necessitating enquiry; the Commission has been wholly inadequate to meet public requirements. To that view the Association adheres absolutely, and finds an additional justification for it in the events now taking place in the Lopori-Maringa region, proving, as they do, how powerless has been the influence of the Commission to alter a state of affairs, connived at, and in some cases—as is shown by official documents—openly inspired by the Executive.

The indictment brought by the Association is directed against an entire system of administration, "if, indeed, administration it can be called."* It is not primarily directed against abuses committed by individuals, which, in its view, are the direct, necessary and inevitable results of the system it condemns and calls upon Civilisation to take effective measures to suppress; a system reposing upon personal claims, and upon the exercise of personal claims, which this Association declares to be opposed to humanity, and to International pledges.

The Association desires to place on record its belief that the Commission heard the evidence placed before it with fairness and impartiality.

E. D. MOREL,
Hon. Secretary.

Hawarden, July 10th, 1905.

* Lord Cromer, *vide* Africa No. 1, 1904.

SECTION I.

THE EVIDENCE.

MESSRS. BILLINGTON, of the American Baptist Missionary Union at Bwembu; MESSRS. CLARK, GRENFELL and SCRIVENER at Bolobo.

Area affected:—*Domaine Privé* and *Domaine de la Couronne*.

The Commission of Inquiry called at Bwembu on its way up the Congo River. Bwembu is a station of the American Baptist Missionary Union on the Tchumbiri River. The Commission only stopped for one hour at Bwembu. Mr. Billington was asked to make a statement and sign it, which he did, afterwards sending to the President another letter dealing with certain matters which, in the hurry attendant upon the arrival of the Commission, he had overlooked. Mr. Billington dealt chiefly with the forced labour, the tying up of men and women, etc.; confirming in a general way the reports already sent by him to the headquarters of his Mission in the United States, which were printed at length and embodied in the Memorial presented to the Congress of the United States of America in 1904.

The Commission arrived at Bolobo on November 5th, 1904, and left on its way up river on November 12th. It held six morning and one afternoon sittings. Messrs. Scrivener,* Grenfell, and Clark, of the British Baptist Missionary Society, were called, and gave evidence.

Mr. CLARK's testimony had no particular importance.

Mr. GRENFELL, who has been frequently cited as an upholder of the present régime, a contention based, apparently, upon statements made by him some years ago, before he became personally acquainted with the present state of affairs on the upper river, expressed to the Commissioners his disappointment at the failure of the Congo Government to realise the promises with which it inaugurated its career. He declared he could no longer wear the decorations which he had received from the Sovereign of the Congo

* For 23 years on the Congo.

State. He gave it as his opinion that the ills the country was suffering from were due to the haste of a few men to get rich, and to the absence of anything like a serious attempt to properly police the country in the interests of the people. He instanced the few judicial officers, and the virtual impossibility of a native obtaining justice, owing to witnesses being compelled to travel long distances either to Leopoldville or Boma.* Mr. Grenfell spoke out emphatically against the administrative régime on the Upper River, so far as it had been brought under his notice.

Mr. SCRIVENER dealt at considerable length with the appalling condition of affairs he discovered in King Leopold's special preserve, the *Domaine de la Couronne*, during his 150-mile tramp through one corner of that district in the autumn of 1903. This report was fully published in the *West African Mail* last year, formed the subject of questions in the House of Commons, and will be found at length in "King Leopold's Rule in Africa,"† a copy of which volume was taken out by the Commission. Mr. Scrivener brought forward a number of native witnesses in proof of his statements. Some of these witnesses had already appeared before a judicial officer sent to Bolobo subsequent to the publication of the account in the *West African Mail*. [This officer took down Mr. Scrivener's depositions, as will appear from the *Procès Verbal*, printed further on.] Others appeared for the first time. Lieutenant Massard, one of the *Domaine de la Couronne* officials implicated, from whom the Congolese Press published last year a letter, attacking Mr. Scrivener and the *West African Mail*, was subsequently arrested, and is now understood to be in Boma on trial.

It may be remarked that no public accounts are issued, even in estimate form, of the value of the rubber and ivory obtained from the *Domaine de la Couronne*, and that the sums thus acquired are not paid into the Budget of the Congo State.‡

* On this point Mr. Harris, at Baringa (*A.B.I.R.* Concession), and Mr. Scrivener have given much corroborative evidence, which has been published. A number of witnesses produced by Mr. Scrivener in connection with the trial of Lieutenant Massard were sent to Boma in December, 1904. On May 10th, 1905, they had not yet returned to their homes and families. Witnesses sent to Boma from Baringa—1,000 miles away—in August, 1904, only returned in April, 1905, several of the party having died in the interval. An administration of justice based upon these lines appears better calculated to defeat than to promote the ends of justice.

† By E. D. Morel. Wm. Heinemann, Publisher, 20, Bedford Street, London, W.C.

‡ *Vide* Debates in Belgian House of Representatives last year—*Annales Parlementaires*.

One of the saddest incidents in the course of the examination of the witnesses occurred when the Commissioners asked a rather youthful witness: "How is it you know the names of the men who were murdered?" "One of them was my own father," was the unexpected reply. "Men of stone," wrote Mr. Scrivener to Mr. Morel at the time, "would be moved by the stories that are being unfolded as the Commission probes into this awful history of rubber collection."

**EXTRACT FROM EXAMINATION OF MR. SCRIVENER
BEFORE THE COMMISSION (*Procès Verbal*, 7th Nov., 1904).**

"We read to the witness the declarations he made before the assistant to the Public Prosecutor Caggiulo, on 14th April, 1904. The witness declares, 'I confirm that testimony, which is the expression of the truth. I note, however, a slight error in detail. It would appear from the text that it was through a Bangala interpreter that I spoke with Mr. Dooks.† That, however, is not the case. We conversed first of all through the intermediary of a native of the Lower Congo; we observed that he was really speaking the Bangala tongue; we then spoke together in this dialect, which we both understood, and we dispensed with an interpreter.'

"We read to witness the letter which he wrote on May 27th, 1904, to Mr. Morel, and which is published in the special issue of the *West African Mail* for July, 1904. The witness declares: 'This letter is the expression of the truth. The witnesses that you are about to hear will confirm the facts I have narrated. I will hand you a copy of this letter in which the names will be substituted for the blank spaces in the text of the *West African Mail*. In the first letter published in the *West African Mail* of 8th January, the statements, which are founded solely upon the declarations made to me by M. Dooks, are included in the passage beginning by the words, "I hear from the white man" and ending by "but there were too many witnesses." I accompanied Mr. Casement* during part of his voyage. I had left Bolobo and had arrived on July 20th, 1903, at Bodzondongo (Mitandunga), not far from the river bank, and ten or twelve miles from Bolobo. Mr. Casement arrived on his

† M. le Commandant Dooks was the successor of Massard, and told Mr. Scrivener he would denounce Massard's cruelties when he got home. It was announced recently that he had been killed by a hippopotamus.

* Mr. Roger Casement, C.M.G., late H.B.M. Consul in the Congo.

steamer; I went on board, and together we proceeded to another village named Bongende, five or six miles distant from the former place. Next morning we left, and visited a village named Mpoko, in the interior, four hours' march from the bank. We reached there about midday, and all the afternoon was employed by Mr. Casement in visiting groups of Basengele and Batito natives there established.* I was present at these conversations. I took no notes, but when I read the report of Mr. Casement, I felt that he had narrated in an accurate and faithful manner that which had been declared to us by the natives. Next morning we returned to Bongende, passing through Basengele and Batito villages, where many refugees were living, whom we heard. Mr. Casement and I then separated. The latter went to Bolobo, and I continued my voyage into the interior. The two letters reproduced in Annex I. of Mr. Casement's report, and which figure on pages 63 and 64 of the English text which you place before me, are extracts from letters I wrote to Mr. Casement. The facts given in those letters I was informed of by M. Dooms, and we have witnesses here who will testify to them.

'After the last journey I made into the region of Lake Leopold II., I may say that the position has improved, but I cannot state that it is altogether satisfactory. One did not hear of further acts of cruelty or violence; but, although the rubber impositions had been decreased, they were still complained of in a general way. In my opinion these complaints are founded. The quantity of rubber claimed as a tax is not now exaggerated, but the manner in which this impost is levied is altogether oppressive (*vexatoire*). Not only are the natives often obliged to go several **days'** march into the forests to collect the rubber, but they are also compelled to all go to the Government station, which is sometimes a great distance away, to each carry strips of rubber five or six feet long, and which, all told, sometimes weigh actually less than the sticks on which they are tied for carriage. It would be desirable that the natives who collect rubber impositions should only

* It should be explained—in order to make the facts quite clear to the mind of the reader—that these natives interrogated by H.B.M. Consul were refugees, people who had fled from their homes in the *Domaine de la Couronne* to escape persecution. The terrible accounts given by these refugees to the British Consul are published in the *White Book, Africa, No. 1, 1904*. It was only some time after accompanying Mr. Casement to the district where these refugees had settled, that Mr. Scrivener undertook, personally, a long over-land journey into the part of the *Domaine de la Couronne* whence the refugees originally came, accompanied by several of them as guides. It was the diary of what he saw and heard there, kept from day to day, that he sent to Mr. Morel, and which was published by the latter in the *West African Mail*.

be required to furnish them quarterly, and that the transport should be limited to the number of men necessary to effect it, instead of compelling all the men to undertake long and useless journeys, which drags them away from their domestic affairs.

'The part of the district of Lake Leopold II. which I visited is still suffering from the events which took place formerly; the inhabitants are anxious, and I think I may affirm that the same is the case in other parts of the district which I did not visit. I think that the only way of improving the position, and so make calmness and peace reign, is to suppress temporarily the rubber imposition.

'It would be desirable that the political divisions of the Stanley Pool and Lake Leopold II. districts should be in harmony with the ethnographical divisions of the various tribes. Certain incidents which appear anomalous would thus be avoided.

'For instance, some of the Mpama villages are compelled to take rubber to Mbongo, whilst other villages of the same tribe must carry foodstuff to Lukolela; a few (those in the neighbourhood of Mbondo and Bonginda) are obliged to furnish foodstuffs to Lukolela and rubber to Mbongo.'

"You mentioned that five natives were placed in single file and killed with a single shot by Malu-Malu* (Massard), or by his orders. Among the witnesses you are able to produce, are there any who can testify to this incident?"

'No, I do not know of any. I confined myself, moreover, to asking the witnesses if they were acquainted with any facts which could interest the judicial authorities. The fact itself I held from M. Dooms, and I cannot tell you whether you can find any witnesses to testify to the same. I arrived at Bongo one day about 1 p.m. M. Dooms received me very hospitably, and, without my putting a single question to him, he gave me a mass of information on the condition of the region under his predecessor. He seemed very upset and troubled over the accounts given to him by the soldiers, and he told me that one day, upon entering the prison-house, he almost fainted at the sight which met his eyes, and at the filth of the place. During the whole of the meal we partook of together, he spoke of nothing but the horrors he had heard of, and hardly questioned me about the incidents of my own journey. Upon my return from the Lake, I saw M. Dooms again, and he gave me the

* Bad, Bad, native so briquet.

account of the murders committed by Massard or by his orders: shooting the natives as they brought in the rubber, or placing them one behind the other and driving one bullet through the lot. Dooms was liked, and, coming after Massard, he was considered as very good. He was, however, extremely strict; he was very orderly and punctilious, and he exacted as much rubber as the others. Thanks to his methods, however, he had succeeded in obtaining more rubber than Massard, and of better quality. He knew how to encourage the natives by giving them prizes . . . Although he was very exacting, and desired to make the natives work as much as possible, his conduct led to no complaints. I, however, heard the natives complain that the labour imposed upon them was excessive, and the remuneration insufficient. It is not my affair to say whether these complaints were founded, but I note that to-day the labour imposed is less and the remuneration greater.*

After reading over his depositions, the witness adds:

'I expressed my surprise to Mr. Dooms that he should not have brought to the knowledge of the judicial authorities the facts with which he acquainted me. He replied that it was useless to do so now, and that he would expose them when he got back to Belgium. He also intimated to me his desire to leave the State service, to enter the service of the Kasai Company, because he did not like having to compel the natives to work beyond their strength. I had been waiting for the revelations of M. Dooms, and when I saw that their appearance was being delayed, I gave publicity to the facts which had been revealed to me.'

WITNESSES EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AT BOLOBO.

The following witnesses were examined by the Commission at Bolobo. It should be noted that many of the places named below are far distant from one another:—

Mpetempoko, to seeing Malumalu (Massard) shoot a man at Bongo.

Ilangaekunda, to seeing Malumalu (Massard) shoot three men on three different occasions.

* That is to say, since the revelations of Mr. Scrivener, and their publication in the *West African Mail*.

Iya, sub-chief of the district of Ngongo, to seeing sentries kill people at Ngongo.

Bilentwale, son of above, corroborated father's statement.

Nkwabale, to war being waged on account of rubber, relatives and friends killed, and the sexual organs of men being exposed on a string.

Witaka, various massacres, etc., at Ngongo.

Wenge, do. do.

Eyangi, do. do.

Boyo, do. do.

Nkoi, do. do.

Bokelombe, do. do.

Nzou, to raiding of village of Pili, and murder and imprisonment of relatives and friends for shortage in supplies of bush deer, etc., for the State station of Ibale, on the shore of Lake Mantumba.

Ntoloeni, do., do., and also spoke to seeing body of his own father amongst the slain.

Mpotobowoto, to slaughter by sentries at Gomoelenge.

Bokuba, to massacre at Mia, by sentries.

Leke, to murder at Bokolo, on two occasions, by sentries.

Bontoma, of murder by a sentry at Penge.

II.

EVIDENCE OF MR. GILCHRIST AT LULANGA.

Area affected:—*Domaine Privé* and *Concessionnaire* Areas on the Lulanga and Ikelemba Rivers.

Mr. Gilchrist, a representative of the Congo Bolobo Mission at Lulanga, was the next to testify before the Commission. The people of the Lulanga neighbourhood are partly "taxed" by the Government, partly by the Lulanga Company, the director in Africa of which was requested, since Mr. Gilchrist's evidence was given, to hold himself at the disposal of the Judicial Authorities at Boma.* The Ikelemba river seems, in its various parts, to have been the happy hunting ground of various *concessionnaires*. The state of affairs in the area allotted to the La Lulanga Company was exhaustively dealt with in Mr. Casement's report.

* And has since been released.

The following is a portion of the evidence laid before the Commission by Mr. Gilchrist:—

MR. GILCHRIST'S TESTIMONY.

“They asked me to tell them all I knew about the *La Lulanga*. They prefaced my remarks by saying, ‘of course you know that this company is in the free trade territory of the State.’ They smiled when they said this—and so did I. I gave them instances that shewed how free (!) it was. Just a few days before I had met a number of men belonging to the village of Bokotola, who, with their neighbours of that village, were living in the forest, with all its discomforts and exposure in a wet season like the present, rather than stay in their own village and be harassed and abused by this company’s agents. I informed them also of the sentry *régime*, with all its cruel accompaniments, and of what Mr. Bond and I had seen on our way from the Ikelemba, of their slave-driving in those towns contiguous to their headquarters at Mompoko. They asked if I knew whether they had the consent or help of the State in these practices. I said I could not say, as I had no means of knowing. I referred them to our brethren at Bonginda for fuller information, as they were in the centre of the company’s sphere of operations.

“I also told them what we had seen on the Ikelemba, of the signs of desolation in all the districts, of the heartrending stories the people told us, of the butcheries wrought by the various White men of the State and companies who had, from time to time, been stationed there, among whom a few names were notorious—such as Escjerike, Bosongo of the S.A.B., and Poloso of the State.* I pointed out to them the fact that the basin of the Ikelemba was supposed to be free trade territory also, but that everywhere the people of the various districts were compelled to serve the companies of these respective districts, in rubber, gum copal, or food. At one out-of-the-way place where we were on the south bank, two men arrived just as we were leaving, with their bodies covered with marks of the chicotte, which they had just received from the trader of Bosci because their quantity had been short. I said to the *Commissaire*, given favourable conditions, particularly freedom, there would soon be a large population in these interior towns, the Ngombe and Mongo.”

* Native names of white men.

CAUSES OF DEPOPULATION.

MR. GILCHRIST QUESTIONED BY THE COMMISSION.

Q. *What do you regard as causes of depopulation?*

A. (1) *Sleeping Sickness*. This has never appeared in epidemic form in our district, only in isolated cases.

(2) *Smallpox*. Very few have died of this sickness.

(3) *Unsettled condition of the people*. The older people never seem to have confidence to build their houses substantially. If they have any suspicion of the approach of a canoe or steamer with soldiers they flee.

(4) *Chest diseases, pneumonia, etc.* These carry off very many. The people flee to the islands, live in the open air, expose themselves to all kinds of weather, contract chills, which are followed by serious lung troubles, and die. For years we never saw a new house because of the drifting population. They have a great fear of soldiers. In the case of many the absence from the villages is temporary; in the case of a few they permanently settle on the north bank of the river.

(5) *Want of proper nourishment*. I have witnessed the collecting of the State imposition, and after this was set aside the natives had nothing but leaves to eat.

Q. *Is not manioc sufficient to nourish the natives?*

A. No, it is of itself insufficient.

(6) *Excessive taxes*.

(Here the President referred to Mr. Gilchrist's letter to an official at Boma, and asked if the representations made in the same referred to certain exceptional cases or the whole district.)

A. To the whole district.

Q. *Are the taxes excessive?*

A. Yes, *e.g.*, the 40 hours' work supposed to be given to the State is entirely a misrepresentation of the facts of the case. The collecting of firewood alone occupies more than that time. That is sufficient without any other imposition. Canoes are very scarce.

Q. *M. Malfeyt states that it is wrong to require imposition of ducks, fowls, etc. Does the State still levy the tax?*

A. Yes.

Q. *Are you sure?*

A. Yes, e.g., Captain Rimini came a little time since and required the same. A monthly tax is made. Wala's tax is eighteen per month.

Q. *Do you wish to add anything?*

A. Polygamy is favoured by the system, consequently slavery. Everybody in the town is bound to supply the State.

Q. *Is that the reason why the value of women, free and enslaved, has risen above the value of men?*

A. The reason is that the woman is useful from the native point of view. But a woman has always been useful, but now more useful as a working quantity. The chief wants more women to supply the tax.

Q. *The village is not taxed, but the chief.*

A. It may be so in theory, but not in fact. The more wives the less work for each. The chief distributes the work among his people. Hence if he has five wives each has less to do.

Q. *Is the non-buying of slaves not a source of decrease of population? Did not more people come from the other side bought as slaves, and by that means increase the population?*

A. You must remember that if they bought slaves they also sold the same. Thus a balance was struck. I do not consider the increase is affected by this. Referring to Wala, the people were once hunters, but now the State taxes have to be attended. At that time they had elephant meat both to eat and also to sell.

(7) Another thing that may cause or account for the decreasing population is the constancy of the taxation. This sours the people. They feel they have no interests of their own.

Q. *Are there some villages and towns free from taxation?*

A. Not that I know of. I know of none.

Q. *Have you any further remark against the present system?*

A. I have only to remind the gentlemen of excessive fines to which I referred before.

Q. *You speak of the fines as a consequence of the system. The law does not permit such.*

A. How are we and the people to know that? The people do not know it. The rods* are not returned.

Q. *If these facts were known the courts would prosecute.*

A. Fines have been imposed since I reported to the Governor-General.†

Q. *It is absolutely illegal.‡*

A. I can recollect impositions of 200,000 rods. It has made the people poorer.

Q. *During the last month?*

A. No, I think M. de Bauw was officer at the time. That is one of the things that take away the confidence of the people in the State.

Q. *Since the town of Wala was fined can you quote other instances?*

A. Yes. Captain Hagstrom levied a fine of 45,000 rods at the instigation of M. de Bauw on Lulanga. If you refer to Wala only (1) 5,000, (2) 15,000 before this. One fine since of 5,000.

Q. *Do you know of any instance of villages fined after you wrote your letter?*

A. 40,000 rods was a fine of which Wala's share was 5,000.

Q. *Have you read Casement's report?*

A. Yes.

Q. *You confirm his report as to Wala and district?*

A. Yes.

Q. *Have you anything to suggest?*

A. In reference to the coffee plantations the system is still in force. The coffee is allowed to drop to the ground, therefore it is useless labour on the part of the natives.

Q. *Do you know the reason for the coffee not being used?*

A. No.

* Native currency.

† July, 1903. This letter of Mr. Gilchrist's to the Governor-General is published in full in "King Leopold's Rule in Africa," op. cit.

‡ Consequently Messrs. de Bauw, Captain Hagstrom, and Captain Rimini, all high officials, have been acting in an "absolutely illegal" manner. But what has been done to these officials? M. de Bauw is, or was, the Supreme Executive Official in the District.

Q. *Do you know instances of ill-treatment other than those mentioned by Casement?*

A. I do not know whether I recall all the instances of Mr. Casement's report.

Q. *Your letter refers to twenty men, but yesterday at Wala we heard them say twenty-five?*

A. I gave the number I knew at the time. The people in this town are prepared to give evidence as to ill-treatment if you require them.

Q. *How many witnesses different from those we heard yesterday?*

A. I can call those at Lulanga. Yesterday we heard those of Wala only. I have always insisted on the natives reporting their own cases of ill-treatment. The one complaint I have to make is that the Authorities invariably believe the sentries before the people. There was then no court.

Q. *You do not speak of the judge?*

A. No. I speak of the military authorities. The case is probably not taken to the civil officer of the State.

In addition to the foregoing, Mr. Gilchrist, on being asked by the judges respecting the same:

(a) Confirmed Mr. Weeks' report as to atrocities in the Bangala district, having himself visited the scene of the atrocities.

(b) Confessed inability to confirm the letters of Mr. Bond which appeared in the *West African Mail*, relative to atrocities up river, not having himself been with Mr. Bond at the time. He reported having heard the natives frequently make mention of the matter, and gave the names of the villages, and offered to send natives to give evidence.

III.

EVIDENCE OF MESSRS. HARRIS AND STANNARD AT
BARINGA.

Area affected:—Territories controlled by the *A.B.I.R.* Society.*

As a preface to the evidence of Messrs. Harris and Stannard, the reader should bear the following facts in mind, together with the circumstance that revelations of atrocities against this Society first began in 1901, and have continued at intervals ever since.

The Congo Government has all these years exercised jurisdiction over the *A.B.I.R.* Society.

The Congo Government has all these years held one-half the shares of the *A.B.I.R.* Society.

The Congo Government has, whenever required, placed its military forces at Bassankusu at the disposal of the *A.B.I.R.* Society.

The Congo Government has all these years been aware that the *A.B.I.R.* Society has dealt in slave labour, or, otherwise stated, has compelled by force—the *A.B.I.R.* Society being nominally a “trading company”—the natives to bring in stated quantities of india-rubber, and has imprisoned them if they failed to do so.

The Governor-General in Africa has authorised the “taking of hostages” by the *A.B.I.R.* Society in order to increase the rubber output, which practice has been regularly followed.†

The Congo Government has all these years possessed full information as to the vast quantities of cartridges and ammunition imported by the Society, which have been conveyed to the Society in the Government steamers.

The Congo Government has all these years possessed full knowledge of the number of cap-guns and rifles in the Society’s possession, for which the Congo Government exacts a license.

The Congo Government granted the Society its concession, and has allowed it to exploit areas in the *Domaine Privé*, lying outside of it.

* The rule of the *A.B.I.R.* Society has been fully exposed in a pamphlet entitled “Red Rubber,” by E. D. Morel. Price 1s.; obtainable from Messrs. W. H. Smith, London.

† *Vide* revelations at the trial of M. Van Caelcken, in December, 1904.

The Board of Administration of the *A.B.I.R.* Society includes the following:

President: A. Van den Nest, Senator.

Council: Count John d'Oultremont, Grand Marshal of the Belgian Court; Baron Dhanis, ex-Governor-General of the Congo State; M. Edmond Van Eetevelde, Congo State Secretary of State.

MR. HARRIS' TESTIMONY.

"First, the specific atrocities during 1904 were dealt with, including men, women, and children; then murders and outrages, including cannibalism. From this I passed on to the imprisonment of men, women and children. Following this I called attention to the destruction of the Baringa towns and the partial famine among the people in consequence. Also the large gangs of prisoners—men, women and children—imprisoned to carry out this work; the murder of two men whilst it was being done. Next followed the irregularities during 1903. The expedition conducted by an *A.B.I.R.* agent against Samb'ekota, and the arming continually of *A.B.I.R.* sentries with Albini rifles. Following this I drew attention to the administration of Mons. Forcie, whose régime was a terrible one, including the murder of Isekifasu, the principal Chief of Bolima; the killing, cutting up and eating of his wives, son and children; the decorating of the chief houses with the intestines, liver and heart of some of the killed, as stated by 'Veritas' in the *West African Mail*.

"I confirmed in general the letter published in the *West African Mail* by 'Veritas.'

"Following this I came to Mons. Tagner's time, and stated that no village in the district had escaped murders under this man's régime.

"Next we dealt with irregularities common to all agents, calling attention to and proving by specific instances the public floggings of practically any and everyone; quoting, for instance, seeing with my own eyes six Ngombe men receive one hundred strokes, each delivered simultaneously by two sentries.

"Next, the normal condition has always been the imprisoning of men, women and children, all herded together in one shed, with no arrangement for the demands of nature. Further, that very

many, including even Chiefs, had died either in prison or immediately on their release.

"I next called attention to the indiscriminate fines levied on the people by the *A.B.I.R.* agents. Also the irregular taxes imposed only according to the requirements of the agents; these taxes often being levied on the food of the people. Following on this was the normal condition of the people under the sentries' *régime*, shewing how the whole of the villages were absolutely under their despotic control, and that not only had the sentries to be kept in state, but also their large retinue of boys and often stolen women.

"The normal conditions also include the levying of blackmail and taxes. We also pointed out that the murders and cannibalism of the sentries were after all only an exaggeration of their general conduct.

"The next question dealt with was the transporting, as prisoners, from one region of the *A.B.I.R.* concession to another, of those who could not or would not work rubber.

"Next, the mutilation of the woman Boaji, because she wished to remain faithful to her husband, and refused to subject herself to the passions of the sentries. The woman's footless leg and hernia testify to the truth of her statement. She appeared before the Commission and doctor.

"Next, the fact that natives are imprisoned for visiting friends and relatives in other villages, and the refusal to allow native canoes to pass up and down river without carrying a permit signed by the rubber agent; pointing out that even missionaries are subject to these restrictions, and publicly insulted, in an unprintable manner, when they do so.

"Next point dealt with was responsibility—maintaining that responsibility lay not so much in the individual as in the system. The sentry blames the agent, he in turn the director, and so on.

"I next called attention to the difficulties to be faced by natives in reporting irregularities. The number of civil officials is too small; the practical impossibility of reaching those that do exist—the native having first to ask permission of the rubber agent. Here I quoted the sickening outrage on the Lomako, to which I have already called your attention.*

* This outrage, of which full details have been received, is unprintable.

"The relations that are at present necessary between the *A.B.I.R.* and the State render it highly improbable that the natives will ever report irregularities. I then pointed out that we firmly believe that but for us these irregularities would never have come to light.

"Following on this the difficulties to be faced by missionaries were dealt with, pointing out that the *A.B.I.R.* can and do impose on us all sorts of restrictions if we dare to speak a word about their irregularities. I then quoted a few of the many instances which found their climax in Mrs. Harris and I almost losing our lives for daring to oppose the massacres by Van Caelcken. It was also stated that we could not disconnect the attitude of the State in refusing us fresh sites with our action in condemning the administration. I then mentioned that the forests are exhausted of rubber, pointing out that during a five days' tour through the forests I did not see a single vine of any size. This is solely because the vines have been worked in such a manner that all the rubber roots need many years' rest, whereas the natives now are actually reduced to digging up those roots in order to get rubber.

"The next subject dealt with was the clear violation both of the spirit and letter of the Berlin Act. In the first place we are not allowed to extend the Mission, and, further, we are forbidden to trade even for food.

"Next the statement was made that, so far as we are aware, no single sentry had ever been punished by the State till 1904 for the many murders committed in this district.

"I next pointed out that one reason why the natives object to paddle for the *A.B.I.R.* is because of the sentries who travel in the *A.B.I.R.* canoes, and whose only business is to flog the paddlers in order to keep them going.

"After Mr. Stannard had been heard, sixteen Esanga witnesses were questioned one by one. They gave clearly the details of how father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter were killed in cold blood for rubber. These sixteen represented over twenty murders in Esanga alone. Then followed the big chief of all Bolima, who succeeded Isekifasu (murdered by the *A.B.I.R.*). What a sight for those who prate about lying missionaries! He stood boldly before all, pointed to his twenty witnesses, placed on the table his one hundred and ten twigs, each twig representing a life for

rubber. 'These are chiefs' twigs, these are men's, these shorter are women's, these smaller still are children's.' He gives the names of scores, but begs for permission to call his son as a reminder. The Commission, though, is satisfied with him, that he is telling the truth, and therefore say that it is unnecessary. He tells how his beard of many years' growth, and which nearly reached his feet, was cut off by a rubber agent, merely because he visited a friend in another town. Asked if he had not killed *A.B.I.R.* sentries, he denied it, but owned to his people spearing three of the sentry's boys. He tells how the White man fought him, and when the fight was over handed him his corpses, and said: 'Now you will bring rubber, won't you?' To which he replied 'Yes.' The corpses were cut up and eaten by Mons. Forcie's fighters. He also told how he had been chicotted and imprisoned by the *A.B.I.R.* agent, and further put to the most menial labour by the agent. He also tells of numbers of stolen and ravished wives, of the many anklets, spears, shields, etc., that he has been forced to give the sentries.

"Here Bonkoko came forward and told how he accompanied the *A.B.I.R.* sentries when they went to murder Isekifasu and his wives and little ones; of finding them peacefully sitting at their evening meal; of the killing as many as they could, also the cutting up and eating of the bodies of Isekifasu's son and his father's wives; of how they dashed the baby's brains out, cut the body in half, and impaled the halves.

"Again, he tells how, on their return, Mons. Forcie had the sentries chicotted because they had not killed enough of the Bolima people.

"Next came Bongwalanga, and confirmed Bonkoko's story: this youth went to 'look on.' After this the mutilated wife of Lomboto of Ekerongo was carried by a chief, who showed her footless leg and hernia. This was the price she had to pay for remaining faithful to her husband. The husband told how he was chicotted because he was angry about his wife's mutilation.

"Then Longoi, of Lotoko, placed eighteen twigs on the table, representing eighteen men, women and children murdered for rubber. Next, Inunga laid thirty-four twigs on the table and told how thirty-four of his men, women and children had been murdered at Ekerongo. He admits that they had speared one sentry, Iloko, but that, as in every other such instance, was because Iloko had first killed their people. Lomboto shews his mutilated wrist and useless

hand, done by the sentry. Isekansu shews his stump of a forearm, telling the same pitiful story. Every witness tells of floggings, rape, mutilations, murders, and of imprisonments of men, women and children, and of illegal fines and irregular taxes, etc., etc. The Commission endeavours to get through this slough of iniquity and river of blood, but finding it hopeless, asks how much longer I can go on. I tell them I can go on until they are satisfied that hundreds of murders have been committed by the *A.B.I.R.* in this district alone; murders of Chiefs, men, women and little children, and that multitudes of witnesses only await my signal to appear by the thousand.

"I further point out that we have only considered about two hundred murders from the villages of Bolima, Esanga, Ekerongo, Lotoko; that by far the greater majority still remain. The following districts are as yet untouched: Bokri, Nson-go, Boru-ga, Ekala, Baringa, Linza, Lifindu, Nsongo-Mhoyo, Livoku, Boendo, the Lomako river, the Ngombe country, and many others, all of whom have the same tale to tell. Everyone saw the hopelessness of trying to investigate things fully. To do so, the Commission would have to stay here for months.

"The Commission therefore agreed to accept the following as a true general statement: 'That hundreds of people have been killed in this district alone for rubber, and that I could prove it by multitudes of witnesses.' And what a sight for Mrs. French-Sheldon, Sir Alfred Jones, Lord Mountmorres, Mr. Head, and their hosts, who have called us 'liars,' with every adjective they could find. What a sight for them. The *A.B.I.R.* Director also accepts this statement as true.

"Where now is the 'morbid imagination of excitable missionaries'?"

MR. STANNARD'S TESTIMONY.

"The sittings of the Commission were quite public, and were held on board one of their steamers. All the missionaries of Baringa attended every sitting. We had every opportunity for giving evidence, asking questions, and bringing forward witnesses. It is true that not more than a tithe of the witnesses we were able to produce were examined, but that was because the Commissioners considered the charges against the *A.B.I.R.* fully proved. The Director of the *A.B.I.R.* had every opportunity of disproving the evidence, but the utmost he could do was to attempt to explain away things and plead ignorance, but he did not succeed very well,

"After Mr. Harris had addressed the Commissioners at great length during the first three sittings, Mrs. Harris confirmed her husband's evidence, and stated a few facts in connection with the Nsongo outrages.

"When called upon to give evidence, I said I wished to confirm all Mr. Harris' evidence, except the things that he had actually seen and I had not. I pointed out that we had together drawn up the evidence to be laid before the Commission, so as to avoid repetition. There were, however, several points that I wished to bring forward.

"I knew for certain that Albinis* were used in the Nsongo outrages, because I saw the evidence with my own eyes. I instanced the case of Isekolumbo, who died the day that I reached Wala. He had been shot with an Albin rifle, the wound of which I saw. The bullet had passed through the right arm, fracturing it, and then, entering the side, had passed through the chest and out at the back and near the shoulder. Also the case of Elisi, who was shot through the thigh, but fortunately without fracturing the bone, and is still alive. The flesh wound was unmistakable; the bullet having entered at one side and out at the other. With reference to the whole Nsongo palaver, I confirmed everything that I had written in the letter which was published in the Congo Supplement of the *West African Mail* of August, 1904, of which the Commissioners had a copy.

"I next confirmed Consul Casement's statement that whilst he was at Bongandanga† fifteen women were brought in as prisoners, as I had seen them myself.

"I stated that whilst I was stationed at Bongandanga they always had women prisoners, which was part of the ordinary routine of the *A.B.I.R.* These women prisoners worked under the supervision of sentries.

"Women were imprisoned because the men were short in their supplies. If a certain village or villages were short, a number of the women from those places would be seized and put into prison until the men made up their deficiencies. This was the recognized method of the *A.B.I.R.* agent, who often told me that this was the best way to get the 'taxes' brought in.

* It is contrary to law for the sentries to be armed with the Albin,

† Another station of the *A.B.I.R.*

"Albini rifles were always used whilst I was at Bongandanga, but not exclusively.

"I spoke of the method of bringing in rubber workers by sentries, particularly in connection with the Nsungamboiya people, but what I said about them referred also to people from other districts. Every fortnight these people were brought in from their villages, distant about thirty to forty miles from the *A.B.I.R.* Station at Bongandanga. Before reaching the *A.B.I.R.* they had to pass through the Mission Station. In the front came a line of five or six sentries abreast, marching military fashion, with rifles or guns sloped across their shoulders. Following these came a number of prisoners tied neck by neck. After these came the men and boys, carrying their rubber, with sentries amongst them at different intervals, and then a number of sentries at the rear hurrying up the stragglers. The average number of rubber workers from these villages was about two hundred and fifty, and they looked more like a gang of prisoners than anything else. Between the Mission and the *A.B.I.R.* is a wide path, and here the men halted, and under the supervision of the sentries divided up their rubber before taking it to the Agent.

"I have seen rubber workers being carried away by their friends from the *A.B.I.R.* Station after having been severely chicotted. Two particular occasions I called to mind, and both occurred near about March, 1903. Once I was standing with Bongole, our native evangelist, outside his house, just after one of the so-called markets, when a man was carried past, having been severely flogged; and the other time I was standing near my own house. Each time I spoke to the people and asked the reason, and they said it was because of the rubber.

"The State has given the *A.B.I.R.* the power by which these things are possible.

"I pointed out the few visits of a judicial officer to the *A.B.I.R.* territory. The only visits of judges to the *A.B.I.R.* Concession that I can remember were those of Judge Rossi about the early part of 1902, and the recent visits of Judge Bosco.*

"When the police officer comes into the Concession, it is usually at the request of the *A.B.I.R.* to settle some palaver of

* There have been no others since the formation of the *A.B.I.R.* Society under Congolese law in 1898; and neither of those judges visited the interior of the Concession. Both were guests of the *A.B.I.R.* Agents during the whole time of their stay.

theirs, and of course he is only told their side of the affair. As a rule, it is because the people are not bringing in enough rubber, or a sentry may have been killed. He is not told anything about the difficulty the people may have in getting rubber, and the terrible treatment they have received, and that the sentry in question has probably killed a number of people first. There is nobody to speak for *them*. When the police officer comes with his soldiers the people think he has come to fight them, and they either assume a hostile attitude or run away.

“The general attitude of the *Commissaire*, the representative of the Congo Government in the territory, seemed to indicate that he was in sympathy with the methods adopted by the *A.B.I.R.*, and distinctly resented our actions in reporting outrages, etc., connected with the procuring of rubber.

“The restrictions imposed upon us by the *A.B.I.R.* in the matter of food-stuffs, etc., are the direct result of our doing what we have felt to be our duty in reporting their atrocities.

“With reference to taxation, I submitted:—

“(1) That it is not right to force natives to pay taxes in an article they do not possess, especially in the quantities that are demanded from them.

“(2) It is absolutely wrong in principle that all the taxes of a large territory should go into the pockets of the shareholders of a commercial company.

“(3) Whilst it is right that the natives should work, it should be shown them that there is some benefit from working.

“(4) The natives should work principally for their own good, whilst at the same time paying their taxes.

“With regard to the native evidence, it is impossible to give more than a few examples of such which was placed before the Commission; but, so far as proving the charges made against the State, it was simply overwhelming, both in regard to the number of witnesses and the atrocities to which they bore testimony. The witnesses, who came from all directions, were so numerous that the Commissioners felt it would be a tremendous task to hear them all, and, moreover, they did not think it necessary, as they considered the charges we had made more than proved. Mons. Longtain, the Director of the *A.B.I.R.*, who was present, was asked what

he had to say to these things, and he had to confess that he could not dispute the evidence.

"The witnesses from Esanga told how on one occasion, because forty-nine instead of fifty baskets of rubber were brought in, some of their people were imprisoned, and sentries were sent to punish the people; that one poor woman was trying to catch fish in a small stream near by her village, when she was surprised and shot by rubber sentries.

"Another witness told how he found the corpses of his mother, uncle and sister, killed by the sentries. All had harrowing stories to tell of the brutal murder of near relatives. Some they had seen shot before their eyes; in other cases they had fled to the bush to save themselves, and when they returned had found the dead bodies of their relatives lying about.

"Defenceless women and children were shot down indiscriminately, the witnesses indicating the size of the children by their height from the ground. All this was apparently done in order to strike terror and fear into the hearts of these unhappy people, so as to force them to bring rubber. And all this has been the normal condition of these people's lives for years.* The witnesses reported how they were constantly flogged with the chicotte, how they, with their women and children, were constantly imprisoned, and that many of their people either died in prison or just after coming out. Whilst the men were in the forest trying to get rubber their wives were outraged, ill-treated, and stolen from them by the sentries. Usually the sentries would attack a village either at night or very early in the morning, and in cold blood shoot down defenceless people who offered no resistance. The terrors and sufferings of these people could scarcely have been surpassed by the horrors of the Arab slave raids. The history of the *A.B.I.R.* in these parts is one of oppression, blood and iniquity. It will take a great deal to atone for all the wrong that has been done to these people.

"Lontulu, the senior Chief of Bolima, came with twenty witnesses, which was all the canoe would hold. He brought with him one hundred and ten twigs, each of which represented a life sacrificed for rubber. The twigs were of different lengths, and represented chiefs, men, women and children, according to their

* During which the shareholders of the Society have been making enormous profits.

length. It was a horrible story of massacre, mutilation, cannibalism, that he had to tell, and it was perfectly clear that he was telling the truth. He was further supported by other eye-witnesses. These crimes were committed by those who were acting under the instructions and with the knowledge of white men. On one occasion the sentries were flogged because they had not killed enough people. At one time, after they had killed a number of people, including Isekifasu, the principal chief, his wives and children, the bodies, except that of Isekifasu, were cut up, and the cannibalistic fighters attached to the *A.B.I.B.* force were rationed on the meat thus supplied. The intestines, etc., were hung up in and about the house, and a little child who had been cut in halves was impaled. After one attack, Lontulu, the chief, was shown the dead bodies of his people, and asked by the rubber agent if he would bring in rubber now. He replied that he would. Although a chief of considerable standing, he has been flogged, imprisoned, tied by the neck with men who were regarded as slaves, made to do the most menial work, and his beard, which was of many years' growth, and reached almost to the ground, was cut off by a rubber agent because he visited another town.

"Inunga of Ekorongo came with his bundle of twigs representing thirty-three people killed by sentries, and when asked why they had been killed replied, 'because of rubber.' He mentioned four white men who had sent their sentries to do this dreadful work. He admitted that his people killed Eloko, a sentry, but only because he had first killed one of their people named Botsikere.

"Then Boali, a woman of Ekorongo, appeared before the Commissioners, and her maimed body itself was a protest against this iniquitous rubber system. Because she wanted to remain faithful to her husband, who was away collecting rubber, and would not submit to be outraged by a brute of a sentry called Ekolonda, she was shot in the abdomen, which made an awful wound; the intestines partly protruded, and it seems a miracle that she survived. The scars are plainly visible, and the site of the old wound has the appearance of an enormous tumour. She fell down insensible, and the wretches were not yet satisfied, for they then hacked off her foot to get the anklet she was wearing. And yet she has survived it all, and to-day comes to bear her testimony. It is a pity that woman's mutilated body cannot be seen at home as we have seen it, and her pitiful story reach the ears of all those

who feel for their fellow-beings. She was the only woman who appeared before the Commissioners, and I believe everybody was visibly impressed by her appearance and the story she told.

"Lonboto, her husband, came next and corroborated his wife's statement. He told how they flogged him because he was angry on seeing his wife's mutilated body. He also testified that the rubber workers were chicotted, and their wives imprisoned.

"The following are some of the things told by Bomolo, Chief of Bolumboloko.* 'There is no rubber in the forest. They search for it, but it is now finished. When they brought what rubber they could get to the station, some were put in prison, women as well as men. They were flogged with chicotte, being laid on the ground. He himself had been chicotted.'

"I could add much more, but I think the cases I have referred to will suffice to show the nature of the native evidence, and of the unspeakable sufferings the natives have endured since the *A.B.I.R.* came into existence."

IV.

EVIDENCE OF MESSRS. RUSKIN AND GAMMAN† AT BONGANDANGA.

Area affected:—Territories controlled by *A.B.I.R.* Society.

The Commission of Enquiry arrived at Bongandanga on 17th December, 1904.

MR. RUSKIN'S TESTIMONY.

"I have been ten years upon this station, and during this time I have seen the following things: 1895-1901 and early part of 1902.—Especially March, 1899, I have seen men passing through the station with blood running from their buttocks after having received the chicotte because of their rubber being short.

"1895-1901.—Expeditions of sentries armed with Albinis rifles, followed by town people with spears and shields, they in turn followed by women with baskets for loot, etc. Especially M. Peterson (native name Elonga) led such expeditions, generally on Sundays.

* Bolumboloko was again raided by *A.B.I.R.* soldiers in April, 1905.—*Vide* Mr. Harris' letter, Section II.

† Congo Balolo Mission.

"Large numbers of women in prison, compelled to work in the sun, some with children at the breast. One woman in June, 1899, only three days after confinement, was washing in the sun, with her baby tied to her back.

"18th June, 1899.—Four men released from prison, natives of Nsungamboya. One very old man came on to the Mission station. We gave him food and water, which he drank and ate ravenously, but was too far gone to recover. He died, and was buried by our own people. Another died at Boyela; the remaining two were never again heard of—probably died in the bush on their way home.

"18th July, 1899.—Many prisoners released upon the visit of Judge Rossi. We counted 106 who passed our way. Among them were old grey-headed men and women, women with children who were born in prison. Some were living skeletons and had to be carried. Some died *en route* for home.

"Prisoners released at sound of steam whistle,* 5th May, 1904, 29th October, 1904, and many other dates.

"26th September, 1904.—I saw nine women detained in Bavaka for rubber. They were released as soon as the agent was informed. I do not think the agent had ordered these women to be detained.

"1895.—I visited the River Bolombo before the *A.B.I.R.* commenced operations, and found large flourishing towns, people happy, and plenty of food, fowls, goats, etc. Have been since the *A.B.I.R.*'s establishment four times.

"1901.—On the last occasion—October, 1901—the change was most noticeable. The natives were terrorised by sentries, and being in perpetual dread had to live in the forest. In Bosinga and Eala, which were flourishing towns, I could not see a hut; the people were all in the forest.

"1899.—I saw poles at the *A.B.I.R.* factory to which four men had been tied, stripped, with heads shaven, for a day and night without water or food. In the morning their eyes were protruding, their features all swollen, and they cried for someone to bring a gun and shoot them out of their misery. They were *A.B.I.R.* native employés, and were supposed to have stolen rubber, but the evidence was not clear against them. One of our lady missionaries saw the men and told me of it."

* Announcing various private "investigators" coming up the river.

Mr. Ruskin then narrated evidence he had laid before Judge Rossi in 1901.

The Commissioners handed to Mr. Ruskin Mr. E. D. Morel's book: "King Leopold's Rule in Africa," and asked him if the things reported there were those he was about to report. If so, it would save fatigue and time if he would confirm them wholesale. Mr. Ruskin then read them through, and, with the exception of one or two typographical errors, confirmed the whole.

Mr. Ruskin also referred to an expedition made by M. Schott, Government official, and fifty of the Government troops (*Force Publique*), accompanied part of the way by M. Lejeune (*A.B.I.R.* agent), and five sentries armed with Albinis rifles. This was in February and March, 1904. Reports had come in of seven people being killed in Bosinga and eight in Eala.

Owing to the fact that he was suffering from fever, Mr. Ruskin had to forbear telling of numerous other matters which he had intended. He therefore finished with the following statement:

"With regard to the system, I have no hesitation in saying that it is iniquitous in the extreme, and if the present system is continued it will end in the total depopulation of the country. The administration of the system varies with the agent, whether he is a good or bad man, *but the system itself remains the same.* Judging from personal observation, I would say, as regards the sentry, he may be a man mentally deficient and morally corrupt; but if he is physically strong, and noted for the power to bully and drive people, he is the one likely to be chosen for the work of coercing these miserable natives to bring the rubber."

MR. GAMMAN'S TESTIMONY.

"After taking the oath I said I was very sorry the Commission had not arrived a few hours earlier, as the rubber 'market' had been held on the day of their arrival, and there would not be another one for ten days. Secondly, that the people from the most distant towns had been in that day, and although it was usual for some of them to stay the night in a village close here, and proceed on their journey next day, as soon as the approach of the Commission was known, the sentries ran into the village and compelled the men to return at once to their own towns. The result was that, as soon as I knew that the Commission had arrived, I sent to the town to procure witnesses, but they had all gone.

Thirdly, on the arrival of the Commission the sentries went to the towns of Bavaka and Boyela, and compelled the rubber men to go to the bush at once, although it was not usual for them to leave their towns to collect their rubber for at least two or three days. (These towns are within four or five miles.)

“The Commission then asked me if I could account for these things. I replied that it seemed to me that some persons were very anxious to get rid of all who could give evidence, and that any who remained near the place should be frightened from doing so. I also explained that some of our chief witnesses had been sent hither and thither, so that they were not now present; one having been called to Coquilhatville about a palaver which was reported six months ago—a palaver which belonged to another town, and with which he had nothing to do whatever. These, I said, are ‘significant facts.’ All these statements were taken down.

“I was then asked if there had been any serious trouble within the last six weeks or so, and if we had anything against the present agent, M. Devlin. I was glad to be able to say that we thought M. Delvin had, *as far as the system would allow*, sought to be fair in all his dealings with the natives. There were still grave abuses by the sentries, especially in those towns far from the factory. I had been unable to procure witnesses from the distant towns owing to the circumstances stated above, and it would take four days to get them in. Women were still tied up by the sentries, and kept in prison until some exorbitant demand had been met. Mr. Ruskin would tell them of several women thus tied up at Bavaka, and on my arrival at Nsungambaya six weeks ago (a town nearly fifty miles away), there were four women tied up for the same purpose. On my approach they were released, but I saw the place where, and the rope with which they were tied up. The sentry's name was Mbongedza.

“I was then asked if I had read Consul Casement's report, and what I thought of it. I explained that I was at home on furlough during the visit of Mr. Casement, but I described the deplorable state of affairs we found on our return out here in November, 1903. I explained why we could no longer receive food supplies through the agent of the *A.B.I.R.*, and that we took this

stand a week after our arrival, that is, about 20th November, 1903.* I gave as an example of the state of all the towns, the town of Dilange: the tax, which it was impossible for them to meet; how their women were tied up, their goats and fowls confiscated, the people in a state of terror; and all this being done by an agent of the *A.B.I.R.*, M. Lejeune. I called as witnesses for this Ikamba, the chief of Basekoiya; Iyoke, the chief of Bosilela; Iseilole, the chief of Bavaka. I was prepared with several other witnesses, but the Commission decided that they had had enough. These witnesses spoke out well; they were very honourably treated, and the Commission assured us that if any persecution followed because of their witness, the offenders would be most severely dealt with.

"This evidence took from 8 a.m. until 12-30 p.m. The Court then adjourned, and resumed at 3-30 p.m.

"I then brought before their notice that Albini rifles were given to the sentries without a White man accompanying those taking them. I instanced the case of M. Baelde's sending eight rifles to the Ngombe, of which you have already received a report.

"I then shewed that the *A.B.I.R.* system did not recognise the native chiefs. In fact a large number had been killed, either by the sentries, or through imprisonment, and in every case the chief is belittled in the eyes of his people. I said, 'the power is all taken from the chiefs, and vested in the sentries armed with guns, and yet the chief is responsible, and he is the first one pounced upon if there is any shortage of the rubber, or if the quality is inferior.' I gave details of the deaths of three chiefs.

"A boy named Mbeka was seized by M. Lejeune, against the lad's wish, to work on the *A.B.I.R.* station. He was flogged repeatedly, and ran away. He was caught, tied up to a post, with his hands stretched above his head, for a whole day in the sun. After a time he again fled, and this time hid himself that no one could find him. Sentries were sent to the village, and they seized three women relatives of the lad, named Boyunga, Bokokwa and Botenju. They also seized the lad's uncle, named Ingolu. These were taken to the factory, and there put in prison.

* Previously the missionaries had received their foodstuffs through the *A.B.I.R.*, not being allowed to purchase from the natives. When they fully realised what oppression was exercised upon the natives in the matter of foodstuffs generally, they declined to be parties—although innocent ones—any longer of the practice. Their difficult position formed the subject of a written protest from Consul Casement to the Governor-General. The Consul's letter is published in "King Leopold's Rule in Africa," *op. cit.*

"A few days after this, the village was behind in its food supply—this village had to produce both rubber and food—and Nkoimpeci, the chief, was seized and put in prison. He became very ill, but M. Lejeune would not let him out. At last the lad was found, and Nkoimpeci was released with the women, but Nkoimpeci died the same day. Two other chiefs, named Iseoleki and Iseotomba, of Boseki, were released at the same time. Iseoleki died the same day and Iseotomba the next morning. The last two were in prison because rubber was not sufficient. M. Lejeune then informed Iyalika, the father of the boy, that he was responsible for the death of Nkoimpeci, and must pay Nkoimpeci's family 10,000 rods—an enormous sum for this district. In the meantime the women were again seized and thrown into prison. 6,800 rods were paid, besides dogs, spears, etc.

"The President then asked me what I thought was the reason of the deaths of these chiefs. I replied, lengthened and repeated confinement in prison, hard work there meted out to them, improper food whilst there, and not least, broken heart.

"Iyalika (the boy's father) himself was my witness for this, and, although others were there ready to give evidence, the Commission decided that no other witness was necessary.

"The next case I cited was the murder by sentries in the time of the agent M. Baelde. In Boseki, two sentries named Bolungia and Iseowangala had tied up a man named Iseokoko to a tree and demanded from him one thousand rods. He was only able to supply three hundred, and one or two dogs. This they said was not sufficient, and because the rest was not forthcoming, Bolungia shot Iseokoko dead. This was merely, as far as we could see, a case of extortion. I gave the names of witnesses for this, but they were not called. I also informed the Commission that Bolungia (one of the murderers) is at the present moment a sentry in the employ of the *A.B.I.R.* here.

"The President then asked me if I had any general statement to make. I then said that I thought the rubber tax was exorbitant. The rubber in the immediate districts was finished; nearly all the villagers had to go two days in the forest for their rubber, work five days there, and then return and bring to the factory. It was especially hard for those villages far from the factory. We understood that the tax was to be forty hours' work a month, but the rubber tax for Nsungamboya was thirteen days in every

fifteen days. Thus the people only had four days a month at home. *I knew of no village where it took them less than ten days out of the fifteen to satisfy the demands of the A.B.I.R.*

“Secondly, the greatest iniquity was the power put into the hands of untrained, armed sentries, who so frequently and atrociously abused their position, and were never punished for even the most brutal crimes. As far as I know, not one sentry has ever been severely punished for any of their vile practices, their abuses of power, their seizing of wives and property, or even murder; cases which have been proved without any shade of doubt. In reply to a question by the President, I said I did not think it was possible to get in the same amount of rubber without the sentries, because it was excessive, and all power had been taken out of the hands of the chiefs.

“This ended the first day’s proceedings.

“Continuing my evidence next day, I said that I thought I could prove that gross abuses of their position were still perpetrated by the sentries, and also that the sentries were not properly superintended by the *A.B.I.R.* agents. The women to whom I had referred the day before were tied up by Mbongedza purely for purposes of extortion—it could not have been for rubber, as the husbands were at the time carrying their rubber to Bongandanga. The names of the women were Nsala, Bokali, Ekokula, Botono. This was not even denied by the sentry, and although M. Delvin promised to revoke him, he was only detained one night, and he is at the present moment a sentry at Nsungamboyo.

“Nsungamboyo had long been looked upon by the sentries as their hunting ground. The number of women seized by the sentries from Nsungamboyo was almost innumerable, and they are at the present time in the villages around here. A young man gets the gun, is sentry at Nsungamboyo, and in a few months has quite a number of wives. My witness would explain how they got them. He will also tell of murders, and all sorts of atrocities.

“Lokungu, my witness, was then called. He had a piece of string with 42 knots, each knot indicating a person killed at Nsungamboyo. He also had a packet of fifty leaves, each leaf representing women whom he knew had been seized by the sentries; he could give the names of all, and there were many more whose names he could not remember.

"He had seen that day, in walking from our station to the steamer, four of these women in the house of a sentry; one was his own daughter. The names of these four women were Iyovu, Benteke, Bofola, and Boyuka. .If a man is sick and cannot possibly go for his rubber, his friends must give a substantial present to the sentry. If a male native down on the list as a rubber collector dies, his friends must do something handsome to get the name taken off the books. Two other chiefs also gave evidence from other back towns—Isealelo, from Ngandu; Lokwa, from Baolongo.

"This, I believe, is a full and correct report of the Enquiry here."

V.

MR. AND MRS. LOWER* AT IKAU.

Area affected:—Territories controlled by the *A.B.I.R.* Society.

The Commission began its work at Ikau on 22nd December, and concluded its sittings on the 29th.

MR. LOWER'S TESTIMONY.

The first cases dealt with were those of intimidation. It was proved that a number of natives anxious to give evidence had been threatened, cruelly treated, and in some cases prevented from going to Ikau by native sentries. Later in the enquiry it was also stated that bribes had been offered if only the people would keep silence concerning their wrongs.

Mr. Lower was the principal witness, and produced the following list of murders committed in the concession, bringing forward many native witnesses to prove the facts.

[SEE OVER.]

* Congo Balolo Mission.

REPORT OF MURDERS AND OUTRAGES COMMITTED BY SENTRIES WITHIN THE DISTRICTS OF
BASSANKUSU AND DILANGE, ITS OUTPOST.

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
October, 1903	Bofungi, District of Nsongo	Lifala	Ntandu	Iseambo (uncle) Lomboto Boseko Bangofa	Reported soon after to M. Bosco.* Beaten with gun in canoe; died same night from effects. Iseambo imprisoned, both at Dilange and Bassankusu, after reporting, and for reporting to the Judge.
Sept., 1903	Likutu	Boncucu	After three weeks in prison made to carry load to Dilange; beaten on the way by sentries	Mr. Lower (Ikau) Bosisa (father) Bômbi (sister) Bosio	Sent by agent "Botalatala" with load to Dilange. Fell on the way through exhaustion while return- ing; carried to his home by relatives; died a day or two later.
Same time	Jifau	Isentanga	Ditto	Liota (son) Bayolo	Sent also by above agent to carry load to Dilange; escaped to village, leaving load; died in four days.
A little later	Likoti	Bosuma	Not known	Emamela	Beaten by sentries during a two weeks' stay in prison; sent back to village, where he died two days later.

* Investigating magistrate, who visited the district before the Commission's arrival, and whose reports have been suppressed by the Congo Government.

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
Later than above	Bakungu	Lonkeke	Beaten by the sentry Bofaka, and others	Bomolo Lontungo (These were also imprisoned about the same time)	Imprisoned by agent "Njunju" Weakened through ill-treatment and lack of food; was liberated, but died in town three days later.
Just previous to M. Bosco's judicial visit at end of 1903	Bofungi, District of Nsongo	Mother of witness	Efufola	Lokoka	Went to report in particular the murder of his mother; in general, the oppressive treatment; returned with M. Bosco to Bassankusu; during visit of latter to Baringa was imprisoned at Dilange, cruelly treated by sentries, because he reported to M. Bosco.
Same time	Same	None killed, but wife of witness taken by the sentry Lokilo to agent "Nina" at Dilange, who cohabited with her for three or four months	Lokilo	Isamba	Went with above-named Lokoka to report the state of affairs to the judge, and suffered as before mentioned in consequence.
During 1902, previous to arrival of "Nina" at Dilange	Bofungi, District of Nsongo	Lofemo Bompolenge (his wife)	Lofemo Boembi Bofu	Lomboto (brother) Bolumbu (sister) Boluka (mother)	Natives brought rubber to Bassankusu, and returned to village, where, after two days, they were attacked by armed sentries before daybreak.

* Native name of European agent.

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
During stay of "Njunju" at Bassankusu	Same	Isokela Bataji (Both by one bullet)	Nkoi	Bosio (brother) Liekuma (brother) Ekombo	Natives of two Nsongo villages were fighting with sticks over local wife palaver. "Njunju" sent two armed sentries, one of whom fired, killing the two.
Before "Nina" went to Dilange	Nkoi, District of Nsongo	Bokamann	Unknown	Ieke (brother) Liongo	Rubber palaver; armed sentries sent by "Njunju."
About same time	Same	Esakelo	Iseowaka	Bokamann (brother) Ikotumba Ntandu	Shot in "bafofi" tree.
About same time	Same	Lomanga	Iseowaka	Elio (brother) Bokela Iseombeto	Shot.
Soon after "Nina's" arrival at Dilange	Bomati, District of Nsongo	Isosungola of Lifumba	Two sentries, names unknown	Liongo (the shot which killed Isosungola passed through this man's wrist)	Sentries sent from Dilange; people ran away, but witness and killed accidentally met sentries.
Later	Nsongo	Bonongo	Bôngwalanga, Nkongo	Elio (brother) Bokamana, Isia, Lomanga	Sentry demanded deceased's wife. He refused, was bound first and then tied to a post and shot. Corpse untied by Iseofoso, witness.
	Lifumba, District of Nsongo	Bonkeji	Joko	Lontomba (brother) Iseofoso	

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
Oct.-Nov., 1904	Same	Bolofu	Bomolo	Bonte (wife)	He was arrested and taken to "Nina" by sentry, and on the way thither beaten by gun; was sent to prison, where he died at night from injuries. Buried near prison.
During stay of "Nina" at Dilange	Same	Bolombo	Efufola	Impoko (father)	The shot, though meant for the father, killed the son.
Same time	Same	Mpukulu Bosenga	Joko and another	Elungi (brother) Lokosi	Sentries sent by "Nina."
Same time	Bomati	Bocindu	Not known	Esoko (nephew) Ekungola Ngua	"Nina," finding Bocindu in another village, charged him with running away, arrested and imprisoned him at Dilange. During two weeks' imprisonment was beaten by sentries with guns. Died two days after being set free.
Same time	Same	Mangu	Intamba	Esoko (brother) Njuku	Sent for about two weeks to secret prison. Beaten during that time by sentries. Set free. Died one day later. The sentry Iseowaka demanded 1,000 rods before permitting relatives to have the body.

* Native name of European agent.

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
Same time	Likila, District Ntumba	Isegunyako	Limbele, Bocki and two others	Nkoi	Rubber deficient. Imprisoned four days at Dilange. Sentries* dug a hole and laid him face downwards in it. They then jumped on him repeatedly, ramming him also with stock of gun until dead. They took him to "Nina," who, without examining him or enquiring cause of death, told them to take him away and bury him.
During stay of "Nina" at Dilange	Bosulu	Isompoma	Unknown	Nkoi	Imprisoned for a long time at Dilange, during which time he was beaten by sentries. Died from injuries and starvation, and was buried near prison.
Same time	Bokolo, District Ntumba	Inkoma	Bôngwalanga	Nkoi	Refused to give plantains to sentries when demanded, was threatened by Bôngwalanga, and shot soon after.
Probably about beginning of 1904	Ilinga, District of Nsongo	Mpota	Efulola and others	Bompengo Engunda Ilemba (wife)	Sentries sent by "Nina" to village, natives fled, left a lad, Mpota, who was sick in hut. Sentries finding him put him in the fire and left him to die.
During M. Bosco's visit to Baringa.	Same	Impongi	Bofala	Longoi	Rubber brought to Bassankusu; seven men imprisoned for about three weeks. Deceased was beaten by sentry, and when sent free, died the day he arrived at his village.

* It should be borne in mind that these soldiers or sentries are themselves flogged and degraded if the rubber is not forthcoming from the villages under their control. The whole system is described in detail in the pamphlet entitled "Red Rubber," *op. cit.*

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
1903-4	Nsongo	Bakungola	Likoka	Bolumbu (sister)	Two men imprisoned by "Nina"—deceased and a man named Lóla. The latter escaped, and the sentries shot former. The witness reported murder to M. Bosco, but before the matter was investigated she was given 2,000 rods by "Nina" to say nothing about the matter. Prevented from appearing to give evidence by Capita* Bompongo. Occurred in District of Dilange.
Nov.-Dec., 1904.	Nsongo	Bofijwa	Bompongi and Losumba (sent by order of Capita Bonkongya to kill Bofijwa)	Bomwankoi (daughter) Lokoka Iseambo	Bonkongya requested deceased to let him have his daughter, the witness. On account of refusal he sent the two sentries, who killed him by hanging. Bonkongya afterwards took widow of deceased.
Just before "Nina's" arrival at Dilange, Messrs. Demol and Longtain at Bassankusu	Bomati, District of Nsongo	Lolua Mpulu Bôgi	Lokilo Iseosekwa	Botoa (brother) Esoko Ikolo Lolua Limenga Boliko	Mboko, relative of Bôgi, prevented from coming to give evidence before Commission. Sentries sent by agent at Bassankusu.
1894-1895 (?)	Illinga, District of Nsongo	Woman & child. Also child Impongi maimed	Loposi (now living near Mpoma)	Bondoko (brother) Liongo (father) Bongolo (mother) (All relatives to Impongi)	A.B.I.E. agent "Lowoso"† sent the sentries. Child Impogni had right hand and left foot and part of fore-leg cut off for purpose of getting the ornaments which were on them.

* Headman of sentries.

† Native name of European agent.

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
Further parts of same palaver:					
		Ekila (woman)	Lofosi	Lianza (husband) (Lompinga)	Woman was shot while others were away.
		Bomindo (woman)	Londombo (now at Base- ankusu)	Mpeci (husband and father)	Woman was shot and children hacked with knife or knives.
		Bokeoo " "			
		Wute " "			
		Bofali (woman)	Not known	Empempi (son) Bosenga	Woman shot.
		Bolei (woman)	Not known	Bokotumba	Woman shot.
REPORT OF MISCELLANEOUS MURDERS PERPETRATED IN THE LA LULANGA DISTRICT, AND IN CONNECTION WITH GOVERNMENT EXPEDITIONS.					
March, 1904	Lifumba Bokokata	Isamboyo	Bosio (with Albini.)	Iseyengo Bonenge	Mr. Lower, Ikau, saw corpse twenty- four hours after death. Corpse carried to Agent "Ado,"* who sent the people away with it. Reported to M. Bosco soon after it happened.
			Bompotongo also fired, but did not suc- ceed in killing	Momunda	
			Bompotongo	Ekangala	
Same	Bomati	Monsau		Isoloko Eunga (brother) Lingolo (capite) Nunga (sentry)	Sentries were taken to Bomati by Agent Ado. Mr. Lower saw the man who was wounded in right forearm and right thigh, and who died a few days after he departed. Reported to M. Bosco.

* Native name of European agent

Approx. Date.	Village.	Killed.	Sentry.	Witnesses.	Remarks.
1902-3	Bosu'longi and Ntumba	Bokôla Isesotola Yekelunga (woman) and two children		Ekulunga	Soldiers taken to the districts by Mr. Hagstrom,* from Bassankusu. The three adults were shot, and the two children dashed to death.
1892-95	Lokombo, District of Bomati	Itoko Lomboto Isolembi Iseonyanga		Bomola of Lokomba	Agent at Bokokata took sentries to fight.
Soon after the above	Lokombo, District of Bomati	Boledza Bolefo Bolufa Ifukya Bomolo Mboyo Lokako Iloko Bonsan Bondombi (woman) Mboyo (child) Ekokola (child)		Bomolo Boyoko Bolinga	"Bongena" landed at Bokokata, and went inland with soldiers. All these deceased adults had their throats cut, being laid across the stem of a plantain tree. The two children were dashed to death.

* European agent

The evidence concerning these murders was carefully gone into by the Commission, and many hidden things, some of which had happened as far back as twelve years ago, were brought to light.

M. Longtain, who was present, advanced the usual defence on behalf of the *A.B.I.R.*, and endeavoured to bring various charges against the missionaries, but the attempt to controvert the overwhelming nature of the evidence on the other side proved as futile at Ikau as it had done at the other stations of the Congo Balolo Mission."

VI.

MR. CHARLES PADFIELD'S¶ EVIDENCE AT BONGINDA.

Area affected:—Under present control of La Lulonga Society.

The following is, substantially, the evidence laid before the Commission of Enquiry at Bonginda, in the La Lulonga Society's territory, by Mr. Charles Padfield, of the Congo Balolo Mission:—

MR. CHARLES PADFIELD'S TESTIMONY.

"About June of 1904, the White agent (native name Ekotolong) in charge of the station at Boyeka ordered seven men from the village of Bokenyola to paddle his sentry* to fetch the rubber due from another village.† On their return they met the White man at Wambala, and he sent them to a third village‡ with two sentries.¶ When they reached the village the rubber was short, and two men were seized. One of the men caught possessed 200 rods (native currency), and these the sentries took, but one of the native paddlers§ tried to return the rods to the man to whom they belonged. The sentries ordered him to desist, and thrashed him severely with the chicotte, also striking him in the back and chest with the butt of a gun. When they returned to Boyeka the paddlers reported the outrage to the agent, who replied that they were telling lies.

¶ Congo Balolo Mission.

* Bolinda.

† Efomi.

‡ Bosanfusu.

§ Yambolenga.

¶ Bolinda and Loleki.

"Two days after the paddler who had been thus treated died from the effects. His relatives took the corpse to the agent, who dismissed the matter, asserting that the man had died from ordinary sickness.

"In the early months of 1904, possibly about March or April, another White agent of the Society at Boyeka (native name Lingonju) sent his sentry to tell all the people of the village of Bokenyola to fetch 'ekekele,' *i.e.*, native string used for house-building, etc. All the men in the village but three proceeded to carry out his instructions, two being old men and the other the recognised Chief of the town. Later in the day the sentry Ebolo came to the town, and seeing one of the old men,¶ asked him why he had not gone to fetch 'ekekele.' He then thrashed him with the chicotte, and took him before the White agent at Boyeka. The White agent ordered him to be imprisoned. At the end of the second day's imprisonment he died.

Mdwabenga, the Chief of the town, accompanied by the old man's son, Bofoke, went to the White agent and tried to have speech with him, but as he would not listen to them, Bofoke, who knew that the District Commissioner, M. de Bauw, was expected, said he would report the outrage to him. The White agent thereupon ordered the Chief to keep him (Bofoke) in the village, adding that if he was allowed to report to the District Commissioner, he (the White agent) would kill him (the Chief). The White agent also gave Bofoke 800 rods not to mention his father's murder.

"On Sunday, 4th December, 1904, when the Commission of Enquiry was expected, the White agents at Boyeka endeavoured to bribe the surrounding villages to silence in the matter of atrocities committed upon the people. They sent two sentries* to call natives† from the village of Ingando to come to the station to be dashed 100 blankets, but the villagers, knowing that the Commission of Enquiry was coming, refused to go or to receive the blankets.

"The same day the White agents sent sentries to the village of Nkoli, instructing the headmen‡ to come to the factory and be

¶ Mokuto. * Ndongola and Loyeka. † Botofe and Lofali.
‡ Bosolo and Mbolo.

dashed 100 blankets, but they also refused. Similar action was attempted with the native villages of Boyeka and Bokenyola, and finding the headmen of the towns unwilling to listen, the people themselves were invited to receive *largesse*, but they all refused. The *capitas*, or head sentries, were then given presents by the White agents.

[NOTE.—The reason the people gave to the Commission for refusing these various articles was that the White men did not pay them for their rubber or other work, but knowing the Commission was near the White men thus tried to buy the people's silence.

The White men's explanation of the above was that it was their custom to give dashes over and above the wages paid, and these goods thus offered were the yearly dashes!]

“About August or September of 1904, the White agents at Boyeka (native names Ekotolongo and Nkoi) sent a sentry to the village of Nkoli to get the rubber. Owing to some of the able-bodied men of the town having died, several villagers went to the White agent, begging that the number of baskets of rubber demanded should be reduced from forty to thirty. This the White agent refused, and sent the sentry Ekolelo to punish the people if the rubber was not complete. The people were unable to produce the full amount, and thereupon the sentry shot the Chief Bombambo, the charge entering the abdomen on the right side and passing out at the back.

“The son of the murdered Chief, accompanied by another man named Bosolo, took the corpse to the White agent “Ekotolongo,” and complained. But the White agent told them that the Chief had been shot because the rubber was not complete, and ordered them to take the corpse back to their town. Before they went he called his dog and set it on them, the dog biting the son on the leg as he carried the corpse of his father.

“About the beginning of 1904 the White man at Boyeka (native name Lokoka) sent the sentry Eyoka to the village of Nkoli to get the rubber due, viz.: thirty baskets. As, however, one man had run away from the village, only twenty-nine baskets were forthcoming. The sentry thereupon shot a villager called Lokambo. He did not die at once, and the men of the town carried him to the

White agent, who said that the sentry had acted rightly, and ordered the villagers to return whence they had come. The victim of this outrage died before the party reached their homes.

"On 4th December, 1904, five sentries* went to the village of Nkoli. They had no guns with them, as the White agent had called in the guns because the Commission was expected. These five sentries mulcted the people to the extent of 500 rods and a quantity of food-stuffs.

"This town had to supply forty baskets of rubber and one pig per fortnight.

"The people of the town of Inganda had to produce twenty baskets of rubber per fortnight. On one occasion, early in 1904, the people had only collected sixteen baskets. The sentry Maboke was sent for the rubber, and finding it short beat a villager† so severely with his gun that he died. Lofali and other men carried the corpse to the White man 'Ekotolongo,' who said that the man had been killed because the rubber was short.

"Some time later the people of this village were five baskets of rubber short, and the sentry Mambuso caught a villager‡ and took him to the White agent at Boyeka. The White agent thereupon ordered the villager to be chicotted in his presence. The victim of this brutality was then taken to Bassankusu (headquarters of the *A.B.I.R.* Society), where he was kept five days, after which he was brought back again to Boyeka, again chicotted by the White agent's orders, and sent back to his home. His body was so fearfully lacerated that he died two days later. The villagers, led by the headman, Lofali, took the corpse to the White agent, whose only comment was to tell a sentry§ to thrash Lofali with the chicotte, and to-day he bears the scars so received.

"In the month of November, 1904, a sentry¶ went to the village of Nganda to get the rubber, and appropriated 500 rods belonging to the villagers for himself. The people did not report this to the White agent, for they had reported similar acts, but the sentries were not punished.

"At the end of November another sentry|| went to the same village, and finding many of the people away, he demanded of

* Ntsombo, Loyeko, Etoko, Yamba and Mpokojimbo.
 † Isatolinga. ‡ Ewaki. § Yambi. || Mangula.

those that remained a payment of 500 rods, saying if they did not give the rods he would return to Boyeka and bring other sentries to come and fight them.

“About the same time another sentry¶ was sent to tell the people to bring the pig they had to supply the White man with as part of the ‘taxation,’ and which the villagers had, on this occasion, been unable to trap. Owing to their inability, the White agent mulcted the village in a fine of 4,000 rods. The next day the people trapped the pig, but they received no compensation.

“To shew the monstrous nature of the fine, it is sufficient to add the people of this town were counted in the autumn of 1904 by a State official as forty males and fifty females.

“The White man (native name Lokoka) ordered—date not given—the men of Bokenyola to gather gum copal, also to fetch trees and roofing material, and to supply labour for house building. For this work they got no pay. On one occasion he sent them out to cut timber, and because they did not return as quickly as he thought they ought to have done, he tied up all the men and women he found in the town, and kept them in that state until they were redeemed by the payment of 4,000 rods.

“The town of Bokenyola has to send ten women on Sunday and forty on other days to work at the factory. On one occasion, when the forty women had been working all day, the White agent Lokoka had the women in the evening all lined up, ordered them to strip themselves naked, and then*

“Early in the spring of 1904 the sentries of the La Lulanga Company were sent to Bolongo for the rubber ‘due’ by that village. The people had gone to the forest, but had not been able to procure the full quantity. As a punishment three villagers† were murdered by the sentries‡ and another wounded.§ The villagers brought the dead body of one of the murdered persons and also the wounded man to M. Spelier,|| the director of that Society. He accused them of lying, and told them to return to the town.

“The people of Bolongo were compelled to purchase the rubber from another tribe, the Ngombe, paying fifty rods a basket, and

¶ Imbembelea. * What follows is unprintable.—E. D. M.

† Moniongo, Ngombele and Eloko.

‡ Mbangu, Lola and Ngalla. § Mabongo.

|| Recently acquitted after judicial enquiry at Boma. Now in Belgium.
—E. D. M.

they had to take forty baskets to the factory, for which they received no pay.

"In September of 1904 the people of Bojinga went to 'Ekotolongo,' the White agent at Boyeka, to ask him why he did not pay them for the rubber? The White man's answer was to attack the town with his sentries, burning it, and looting all the property he could get hold of.

"About the middle of 1903 the people of the village of Bomengi had started to carry the rubber overland to the factory, when a sentry¶ arrived in a canoe. The people told him that the rubber was on its way, but he refused to believe it, and shot the Chief.** This was reported to the White agent 'Lokoka,' who declined to take any action.

"On another occasion the White agent 'Lokoka' sent messages to the village of Bosokoli to inform the people that they would henceforth have to supply double the amount of rubber, adding that if they did not he would punish them. The people did not, or could not, comply with the demand, and the White agent sent his sentries to the village. They killed two men. The Chief complained to the White agent, who said, 'No palaver,' and told the sentries to throw the body into the river.

"Some time afterwards the White agent, hearing that the Chief was angry, instructed him to bring the rubber in person. When the Chief came he was chicotted by order of the White agent, and imprisoned for about four months, during which time he was made to work every day and frequently thrashed.

"In the spring of 1903, when the sentry attached to the village of Lobola, on the Eloko river, had gone to the Society's factory with the rubber imposition, the village was looted by other sentries.* The people having remonstrated, the sentries shot four men,† including the village Chief; and pursuing a boy called Mbuke, overtook him, slashed him over the body and cut off his right hand. Two villagers‡ went to complain to the White agent 'Bomba' (native name) at Mampoko, taking with them the corpse of one of the murdered persons. The White agent told them to go away and put the body into the water.

¶ Engonda.

** Etenda.

* Bosokudemo, Ekua, Ecikala and Bomboju.

† Malongo (Chief), Mombo, Buke and Etambanjoko.

‡ Mambalanga and Efasu.

"About the same time the people of this village, when taking their rubber to the White agent Lokoka, were told by him to bring in addition ten fowls, sending a sentry§ with them to see the order carried out. The people objecting, the sentry shot a villager named Maloko. A relative|| took the corpse to the White agent, but he simply told him to go away.

"In the spring of 1903, while the sentry¶ attached to the village of Busanbongo had gone to Mampoko with the rubber imposition, two other sentries** came and looted the village of most of its possessions. Because the people objected, one sentry shot the man Mokeembe in the left knee, the charge passing farther down the leg, and subsequently clubbing him in the right knee (to-day the man is a cripple); while the other sentry shot the man Biacia in the right arm, which to-day he is unable to use.

"The women at Mampoko had to tread the clay used for brick-making, and on one occasion the sentries stripped the women, and in the presence of the White man in charge of the work . . . †† The women went to M. Spelier, the director, and he told them to go away.

"About October of 1904 the White agents at Boyeka sent for the Chief of that village, Jongi by name, and told him he must work rubber. He refused, because he was the Chief, and because his town already supplied fish, minsumbu, etc.

"He was thereupon seized by the White agents and furiously thrashed. When they had finished with him, as he did not rise, they kicked him, but found that he was dead. One White man was charged with holding the Chief, and the other with beating him.

[I may say that the Commission examined ten eye-witnesses of this.—*Note by MR. CHARLES PADFIELD.*]

"On an occasion in the autumn of 1904 the people of the village of Bokutolo, near Boyeka, received, as pay for their baskets of rubber, three flat beads. They asked for more pay, as they had not received anything for the last eight times they had brought rubber.* For answer, the White agent seized the man Mboyo, and one holding him, the other beat him until he died on the spot.

"On the third occasion of their bringing in the rubber after the above murder, the White agents gave the people a small

§ Nkileku.

|| Manuka.

¶ Ngombele.

** Efanabomba and Ecikale.

†† What follows is not printable.—E. D. M.

* Fortnightly imposition.—E. D. M.

mirror. The people asked for rods. As answer, the White agents seized the man Bokectu, and beat him so severely with the chicotte that he died."

[The eye-witnesses of these deaths, and also the widows of the men killed, were examined by the Commission of Enquiry.—*Note by MR. CHARLES PADFIELD.*]

VII.

THE EVIDENCE OF THE REV. J. H. WEEKS AT MONSEMBE.

Area affected:—*Domaine Privé.*

To appreciate the full gravity of Mr. Weeks' evidence, and the acceptance of that evidence by the Commission, a reproduction here of Mr. Weeks' letters to Mr. Morel, and to the Congo Authorities, in 1903 and 1904, and published in the *West African Mail*, would be desirable; but this would take up more space than can be spared. Suffice it to say that Mr. Weeks' long series of disclosures have had, amongst results, the effect of proving once again how hopeless it is to expect that, on the Congo, adequate punishment, or even punishment at all, will follow crime where White men are concerned, especially Government officials. In the matter of the murders committed upon the helpless villagers of the Bongondo towns by the force under Lieutenant Mazy, which is referred to in the evidence, that officer was allowed to return to Belgium after the charges made by Mr. Weeks were in the hands of the Authorities at Boma. The first inquiry, which followed the publication of Mr. Weeks' letter in the *West African Mail*, and was conducted by M. Grenade, Judicial Officer, proved the entire accuracy of Mr. Weeks' statements, the guilt of Lieutenant Mazy, and at least the grave moral responsibility of the *Commissaire* of the Bangala district. But nothing has been done to either of these officers; to the *Commissaire* of the Equateur district for the illegalities ordered and sanctioned by him, as revealed before the Commission of Inquiry; or to many others who might be named were it desired to concentrate censure upon individuals. For their transgressions the system which they serve is, however, responsible, and the real guilt lies upon more distinguished shoulders.

MR. WEEKS'* TESTIMONY.

"The Commission of Enquiry arrived here on the evening of 6th January, and at 8-30 a.m. the following day the Court assembled, and I was summoned to appear before it. The Court-house was the deck of a steamer—an ample space between two cabins. The President attended in a scarlet gown with lace bands, Baron Nisco in a black gown with white bands, and the Swiss member in a dress suit. Soldiers were on either side armed with guns, and with bayonets fixed. The Court was dignified and impressive.

"After taking the usual oath I was called upon to make my statement. I drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that my attitude towards the State was not the outcome of the present agitation in England, because I had written as far back as the 6th November, 1897,† a strong appeal to the *Commissaire* of the district of Bangala for a reduction of the taxes, as they were oppressive; the people were in a state of semi-starvation, and the population decreasing rapidly. That letter was read to the Commission, and at their request I gave them a copy. I told them that three officers of the State came and investigated my complaints, found my charges true, but nothing was done to relieve the natives.

"I then referred to my letter of 13th June, 1903, which I sent to the *Commissaire*, and receiving no answer, I then forwarded a copy to the Governor, and after waiting ample time for an answer, I then forwarded the letter to the public Press. The Commission said I was fully justified in so doing, and that I had acted rightly. I then pointed out the date of the publication of my letter relative to the excessive character of the taxes, the date of the arrival on the Congo of the published letter (11th December, 1903), and the date of the reduction of the taxes (January, 1904). I gave them a list of the old tax, as instanced in the case of sixty-seven men, women and children in the Creek towns, who paid 4,000 odd rods per fortnight formerly, now reduced to 200 odd rods for the same period. They thought that the result fully justified my action, and that if I had not published my letters there would have been no reduction. The President remarked that the Governor had said that the taxes were excessive. They accepted as proven my charges

* British Baptist Missionary Society. On the Congo for a quarter of a century.

† This letter, a copy of which I possess, and which appeared in the *West African Mail* of July 7th, 1905, shews that Mr. Weeks, eight years ago, was complaining bitterly to the authorities of the burdens laid upon the people.

re exorbitant taxation. I remarked that the State never took into consideration the physical conditions under which the people lived, and gave as examples:

“The people of Monsembe, during two successive floods which destroyed their farms, had still to supply the food taxes, and in order to do so had to travel to Lulanga, a distance of forty miles, to buy cassava at an exorbitant price, and then they had to take it another forty miles up to Nouvelle Anvers to deliver it. Also, that the Ndobo people, whose swampy country is unsuited to the cultivation of cassava, had nevertheless to buy from the riverain towns at a heavy price in order to meet the inexorable State demands. They can only grow plantain in that district. The President remarked that evidently the physical and geographical nature of the country were not considered when assessing the taxes.

“The next point considered was depopulation. I gave them my figures that in 1890 there were over 7,000 people within a certain area comprising the towns of Bongwele, Moluka, Mantele, Bonjoko, Mokobo, Nkunya I., Nkunya II., Bombala, Monsembe, the Creek towns, Upper and Lower Bombelinga; that the Creek, which had formerly 1,500 persons, had now only 67, and that out of the 7,000 people in the above towns we last counted 574, and that the State had just taken a census and found only 551, and that in the other parts of the district from Bokongo to Likunungu there is a like decrease. They accepted that as proven.

“I then referred to the killing of twenty-two men, women and children by M. Mazy (Mabata) in the Bokongo section. They said that M. le Juge Grenade had fully confirmed my accusation and had supplied more details than I had given. Charge proven.

“Then came the question of depopulation through sleep-sickness. I said that on my arrival at San Salvador in 1882 I found the people suffering from sleep-sickness, that the people were not taxed, that they lived under normal conditions, that the birth rate kept pace with the death rate, and that the town had since increased. I told them that the first case of sleep-sickness in this town was brought to our knowledge in 1892—two years after our settling in the district, and of the few cases to be found previous to the levying of the heavy taxes, since when the deaths have increased through semi-starvation and worry; how the eternal fortnightly tax was a constant nightmare which depressed the people and made them an easy prey to disease of all kinds.

"That there were previous epidemics of sleep-sickness, from which the people had recovered again and again, and as a proof I cited the two terms we got in 1892 for sleep-sickness (*luwa*, *makwata*), which would not have been known to the natives so generally if the 1892 case had been the first among them. I also spoke of the treatment for sleep-sickness by native doctors—a treatment also well known in 1892. The Commission was of the opinion that sleep-sickness did not wholly account for the alarming decrease in the population.

"We then arrived at the labour question. I pointed out that there were comparatively rich men here, who did not need to work any more than wealthy folk in Europe; that others went to work at fishing, canoe making, trapping, trading in oil, etc.; that they were away on the islands or away trading for a month or so at a stretch, and then came home and sat about for a time, and folk who did not know of their exertions for the last month, seeing them sitting about, would conclude that they were lazy. The President remarked that recently at a wooding post he saw the women carry wood down to the steamer while the men were sitting about. I replied that the women had no houses to keep clean, no clothes to make for their children or themselves, no meals to prepare in the ordinary way; that as women on a wood post their food was supplied from the surrounding towns, and therefore there was no necessity for them to cultivate farms; that I thought if they had enquired they would probably have found that it was a division of labour; the men cut and brought the wood from the forests and islands, and the women carried it from the stack to the boat.

"The Commission asked: 'Do the natives like work?'

"'Who does?' I asked.

"They asked if it were not necessary to force the natives to work?

"I said, 'No. Look at all the mission stations, steamers, etc.—all built and maintained without the use of forced labour.'

"They were much impressed with these answers. It had never occurred to them that all our work was done without the employment of forced labour. I called their attention to the industry of some young men within fifty yards of their steamers, who were making chairs and tables. That as they were under our protection, and knew they would enjoy the fruits of their labour, they worked

hard. Given a guarantee, I said, that the natives would reap the fruits of their toil, and not be cheated out of them, then they would work without force.

"The Commission remarked on the low birth-rate, and asked me if I could account for it. I referred again to the terrible and ever-present anxiety caused by the fortnightly tax; that women did not want children under such circumstances; that forced recruitment of soldiers and workmen had depleted the towns of the virile forces that maintain the population; that these recruitments were demanded at irregular periods, and had no regard to the population of a town. So many fezes at first were sent down with native soldiers or messengers, and heads had to be found to put into them. Often young women were recruited as well as young men. 'Enkoti' (hat) became synonymous to 'forced soldier or workman.' Native soldiers, etc., sent on these errands, blackmailed the people and received bribes to decrease their demands from the particular town which cared to pay them. In the middle of 1898, Commandant Sundt recruited 150 men and women from this district, and he told me that he had received orders from Boma to do so."

MR. WEEKS INVITED BY THE COMMISSION TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS
FOR REFORMS.

"STATE TRADING THE CURSE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE RUIN
OF THE PEOPLE."

"I then asked permission to make a few suggestions. This they readily granted; in fact asked me to do so.

"(1) That the number of civil magistrates should be increased, and that they only should be allowed to judge cases. That these judges should make periodic visits through the sections or districts put under their control. That military officers, *commissaires*, etc., should no longer be allowed to pass capricious sentences on the people. As an example of a capricious sentence, I cited the case of Nangumbe, as reported in the July Congo issue of the *West African Mail*. I was about to give more cases, but the President stopped me by saying that was a characteristic example.

"(2) That soldiers' wives, instead of lazing about the State stations, should be made to work plantations of cassava to support themselves, and so lessen the burdens of the people. That the

natives now labour to supply food to soldiers and their wives, only to be robbed, raided and ill-treated whenever the said soldiers had an opportunity for so doing. I spoke of the raiding and ill-treatment that had come under my own observation; that I appealed to the State and received no relief for the natives, so had taken cases into my own hands and made soldiers disgorge their ill-gotten gains. The Commission thought I was right in so doing.

"(3) That Medal-chiefs should be treated properly and the dignity of their office supported. The office is forced upon them; they receive no remuneration; that if the tax is short in any way they are put in chains and imprisoned for no fault of their own.

"(4) That the taxes should not be taken so frequently to Nouvelle Anvers, as at present it entails long canoe journeys, ranging from one or two miles to 160 miles for the up and down journey every fortnight. The small sum paid by the State is largely swallowed up by the paddlers to refund themselves, as they have to pay their share of the next fortnightly tax, although they may have been a week in carrying up the last tax. Once in two or three months would be often enough, and although they might find it difficult to take up all at once the four or six fortnightly taxes at the present rate, yet if soldiers' wives made plantations of food-stuffs there would not then be the necessity for the natives to take up so much, and their burden would be doubly lightened.

"But I think it would be better to levy a hut tax of say 100 rods per year (about 6s.) on all *occupied houses*. (San Salvador hut tax is 2s.) That the payee should receive a receipt for that year which should exempt him from all further taxation. The judges when on their official rounds could note the occupied houses. I remarked that the State could buy its native produce by giving a fair market price, dealing honestly with the natives and winning their confidence. Natives sometimes come fifty and sixty miles to sell us their fowls in exchange for such goods as enamel ware, etc.

"(5) That the tax should be assessed on individuals or houses and not collectively on towns. That in the case of a man dying or of a man going away to work on a State steamer or station, or being engaged by the Mission (we have to pay a tax on all workmen), their share of the tax should no longer be demanded from the town. I gave examples of how by deaths the taxes had increased, and how by others going to distant places to work, the burden left upon the remaining inhabitants had become unbearable,

"(6) That State trading was the cause of most of the abuses complained of, and that there would not be any reform—real reform—until the State gave up trading; *that the time and energy of the Commission would be wasted unless the State abandons trading. State trading was the curse of the country, and the ruin of the people.* That the promotion and perquisites of officials depended largely on the amount of rubber or other produce they collected from their districts, so how could they administer the country while taken up with trading? Without trading the number of soldiers and military officers could be reduced, and export and import duties assessed to meet expenses.

"(7) That Mission teachers should be recognised by the State, and should receive a certificate stating who and what they are, so that officials of the State would not interfere with them. For example: Moila, our teacher in Libinza.

"The Commission asked me if I thought the present tax excessive, and if there had been any raiding. Answer: Compared with the former taxes the present taxes are light, and so far as I know they are not oppressive, and that I had not heard of any recent raiding.

"I then gave the Commission a copy of a letter *re* the famous Epondo case, written on 3rd January, 1905, to Mr. Morel, in which I affirm my belief, after investigation on the spot where it happened, that the said Epondo had had his hand bitten off by a wounded wild boar, and that his account was the true one. On 30th October, 1903, Mr. Faris sent M. le Capitaine-Commandant Stevens a letter, stating that Epondo had told him that Ikabo, a lad of his village, and two lads of Ikakata, had had their hands cut off by State soldiers. I shewed the Commission a copy of the original letter, and on reading it they expressed their desire to have it, as a copy of this letter had not been handed to them by the State officials.

"A rough outline of the above account of my examination before the Commission was drawn up within 30 hours of the sitting. While I do not pretend that the paragraphs are in proper sequence, yet I think this summary fairly represents what took place on that occasion."

MR. WEEKS ON THE PART PLAYED BY THE MISSIONARIES.

I think it well to follow the publication of Mr. Weeks' evidence by the following clear and decisive statement made by him as

regards the attitude of the Missionaries—a statement which must bring conviction to every impartial mind.

“It is stated that only fifteen or twenty missionaries out of the three hundred on the Congo complain. That three hundred odd includes the Roman Catholics. With respect to the Protestant missionaries of the three American missions and the two English missions, those who have spoken out have done so in a representative capacity; *e.g.*, what I have written from Monsembe has always received the most hearty support of my three colleagues.’ These matters having been published by me, it was not necessary for my colleagues to go over the same ground. The same can be said of the action Mr. Scrivener and others have taken in their respective spheres. So the fifteen or twenty complaining missionaries really amount to triple that number.

“Again, it is stated that we are acting wrongly in attacking Belgians as a people. That is wrong, for in the State’s service there are Italians, Swedes, Danes, etc., etc., and we generally only know White men by their native sobriquets, and consequently do not know of what nationality they may be. We know a wrong has been done, a crime committed, and without any knowledge of the nationality of the wrong-doer we call attention to the evil perpetrated.

“Again, it is stated that we are acting wrongly in attacking a foreign Power as we have done. What foreign Power are we attacking? The Belgian House repudiates all responsibility in the internal affairs of the Congo Free State, therefore it is not a Belgian colony. The administrators, officers and agents of the Congo State are of almost every nationality. Are we therefore attacking all the various Powers that these gentlemen represent? I think not. The Congo State is unique in itself. When we come into the country we have to take out matriculation papers, that make us more or less, I presume, citizens of the Congo Free State, and as such we have the right to appeal to our Government, and if neither redress nor investigation results from our appeals we have, I contend, the right to appeal to the only other means at our command, viz., the public Press. The President of the Commission of Enquiry when here said that in publishing I had acted rightly, and that the results—the reduction of taxes—had fully justified my action.

“I desire information on two points: What foreign Power is the Congo Free State to those of us who live in it? Why do we

take out matriculation papers every time we come into the country, if they do not give us, in some fashion, the status of citizens?

“I have given nearly twenty-four years of my life to the amelioration, both religious and temporal, of the people, and I give place to no one in my intense interest in this country and its people. I have lived longer in Congo than in England, and is the *sous-lieutenant* who arrived yesterday from Europe to be a privileged individual, and his actions beyond criticism, because he is supposed to be a citizen, and his critic, notwithstanding his long residence in the country, the sacrifices he has made of home, children and fatherland, an alien? We come here to teach and preach, and instruct in various ways the natives among whom we live. We are not political agents, and we care not a jot who rules the country so long as we have freedom to do our religious work, and the natives are treated justly and fairly in all things. But when we see them being crushed out of existence, what are we to do? Appeal to the Congo Executive? We have done that, and wasted our time, paper and stamps. What are we to do? Sit quietly, because we are forsooth supposed to be in a foreign country? Why, the very stones would cry shame upon us if we were to be silent about the grievances of these people.

“If the Congo State had listened to our complaints, investigated our charges, set right the wrongs inflicted, or had shewn us that our complaints were unfounded, we should never have appealed to any European Press.”



SECTION II.

Events on the A.B.I.R. Concession

(AND DOCUMENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH)

Since the Visit of the Commission of Inquiry,

FROM JANUARY TO MAY, 1905.

PART I.

EVIDENCE NOT TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

The following communications will be read with interest, as showing the further abundant evidence of atrocities in Baringa neighbourhood alone, which a more lengthened stay would have enabled the Commission to investigate.

I.

On January 5th, after the Commission had left Baringa, but was still in the Congo, Mr. Harris wrote the President of that body, placing new facts before him. I give the following extracts from this letter:—

“While you were at Baringa, a Chief from Boendo escaped from the sentries guarding his village, crossed the Lomako, and came through the forest in order to lay his case before you.* However, he experienced such great difficulties that he arrived too late to see you, for he found to his keen disappointment that you

* When news reached the Upper Congo that a Commission of Investigation was going out, the missionaries did their utmost to spread the information far and wide amongst the natives, together with the belief they themselves entertained that its visit would be practically efficacious. This circumstance explains the attempt of this far-distant Chief to gain access to the Commission. How false were these hopes is made only too clear by the events which have occurred since.

had gone down river. He had brought with him several eye-witnesses of barbarities, also 182 long twigs and 76 smaller ones, which the Chiefs of his village had sent you, in order to prove that the *A.B.I.R.* had murdered 182 men and women and 76 children in their villages during the last few years. He said he was unable to give the names of all off-hand, but promised to give them to anyone visiting the town; at the same time he gave me the names of many which I have written at the end of this letter. He further said that since he had left his town a messenger had followed him to say that the *A.B.I.R.* sentry, Lofela, had clubbed his wife to death with his gun. Her name was Iyovu, but he did not want to make a charge until he had personally verified the report. I cross-questioned him in every possible way to find out if he were exaggerating any point, but my efforts only succeeded in convincing me that things were even worse in some directions than he had said.

The people were killed by hanging, spearing, cutting the throat, but mostly with the rifle. Some of the women were tortured to death by forcing a pointed stake through the vagina into the womb. I knew of other such instances, but in order to test him I asked him for an example. 'They killed my daughter Nsinga in this manner; I found the stake in her.' He told me of many other instances of terrible brutality, torture and murder, but I will not write them, not because there is any lack of proof (there is only too much), but because people in Europe would absolutely refuse to believe that anyone could be so inhuman as to commit such acts."

Further details of tortures inflicted upon the people are too horrible for reproduction. Mr. Harris continues with a number of remarks on various subjects, including a long list of murdered people—men, women and children. He concludes:

"This Chief said the reason why he was unable to supply more names of children was because they were too small, many of them being quite babies, who were killed with their mothers. I hope the Commission will be able to find a place in its dossier for this letter."

II.

The above communication was acknowledged by the Secretary to the Commission in the following significant letter, which the few persons in England, who have attacked the British missionaries, described them as "traders," ridiculed their statements, and portrayed them as deliberate liars, would do well to note:

“Coquilhatville, 2 Février, 1905.

“Etat Indépendant du Congo.

“Commission d'Enquête, instituée par décret du 23 Juillet, 1904.

“Dear Sir,

“We found your letter, dated January 5th, 1905, yesterday at the wooding post near Lolanga Mission Station. The Commission thank you for the new information you are supplying them with. Your letter to the President is now embodied into the dossier, as an enclosure to your evidence. In sight of the many irregularities disclosed by the Commission during their enquiries in the *A.B.I.R.* country, the Local Government at once resolved to create a new judicial district, consisting of the basins of the Rivers Lopori and Maringa. The Substitute's dwelling-place will be Bassankusu. Dr. Vogt, a Norwegian, now at Nouvelle Anvers, has been appointed (telegraphically) as the first Judge of the *A.B.I.R.* But he is instructed to wait further information, and will not leave at once for Bassankusu.* In the meantime the new substitute here, Mons. Tessaroli, will pay a visit to the Baringa region; the Commission request you to make him acquainted with all the cases of cruelties, oppression, etc., of which you are aware.

“As to the statement printed in the *Times*, and relating to ‘trading missionaries,’ I must say I have not seen anything of the kind in any English paper. It was M. Malfeyt, the High Commissioner, who was told (in certain Belgian newspapers) to have discovered that missionaries ‘are engaging in trade.’ This, of course, was only a ridiculous rumour; according to the laws of the State, ‘trade is free.’ Moreover, we think that you have proved that *you do not trade.*

“*Re* sentry system and Dr. Dorman,† I confess that several statements made by that gentlemen were somewhat astonishing.

“I am, yours very sincerely,

“(Signed) H. GREGOIRE.

“To the REVEREND J. HARRIS,

“Baringa.”

* He does not appear to have entered upon his duties by the end of April, date of our last advices.

† This refers to Mr. Dorman's statements in letters from the Congo to the *Times*, that the sentry system was a thing of the past, etc., etc.

III.

MR. HARRIS TO THE VICE-GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Congo Balolo Mission, Baringa,

January 17th, 1905.

To His Excellency the Vice-Governor-General.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's wish, expressed to me through His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, that we will not delay in informing the authorities of irregularities* that we think ought to be known. During the last few months we have done this, but there is yet very much to be told, more than I can ever hope to deal with. I am sending this communication through Commissaire General B——(?), in order that he may be fully acquainted with the facts.

I have just returned from a journey inland to the village of Nsongo-Mboyo, the incidents of which have so impressed me that I feel it wise to give you an account.

In the employ of the Mission is a man who, as a youth, was captured in a native quarrel from this village, and, being anxious to know if his relatives were still alive, he has constantly urged this journey upon us. Madame Harris and I left Baringa on January 8th, arriving at Nsongo-Mboyo on January 11th. I had heard much of the plenty and beauty of this village from my man, but arriving there we found nothing but desolation; there was the place where once the village had been; that was all. However, by sending forward scouts, I got to know where the people were, and after pushing on for another three-quarters of an hour, preceded by men shouting that we had not come to fight, I found the old chief and some of his young men; a little later the mother of our employé emerged from the forest. Then, your Excellency, a sight occurred which moved us deeply; the employé, though a grown man, broke down and wept; naturally one would have expected him to show pleasure at seeing his mother. I asked him why he cried. "Oh, Bondele,† how can I be happy? My relatives have all been murdered for rubber; my friends have not a house to live in,

* The irony of this passage, taken in conjunction with the matter which appears further on under "Hostage taking for rubber," need not be insisted upon.

† Mr. Harris' native name.

or food to eat; my sister, with her right hand and left foot off testifies to the brutality of the sentries." I had ample proof of this; there was not a house for us to sit in, and though I offered a fabulous price, I could not obtain even a scrap of manioca for my men; the people were living in holes in the earth, hollow trunks of trees, and in little grass caves; many lived in the open, with a few leaves for a covering. The chimpanzee is better housed and fed than these people, and in greater safety, too. The old chief said: "White man, I am full of shame; I cannot give you a fowl to eat yourself, or manioca for your men; I am ruined." I had ocular demonstration of this, for the only present the mother of my employé could give her son was a few leaves for pottage. They had ceased working rubber because they said they could not find it; and even when they took what little they could, the white men only flogged them; they were therefore waiting now, expecting that every day the white man would come again and kill them. The abject misery and utter abandon is positively indescribable; though I know of many villages that have suffered equally, none that I know of has ever presented such a picture of hopelessness and despair.

Only a few months ago, Mons. Pilaet took his sentries there and between them killed the

Men.	Women.	Children.
Isekalokuji	Imengi	Mongu
Bofofi	Bofua	Iyoki
Itoko	Bokangu	Bomambu
Ilumbe	Nkawa	

Last year, or the year before, the young woman Imenega was tied to a forked tree and chopped in half with a matchet, beginning at the left shoulder, chopping down through the chest and abdomen and out at the side; this was how the sentries punished the woman's husband.

Bolumba, another woman, wishing to remain faithful to her husband, had a pointed stake forced into her womb, through the vagina, and as this did not kill her she was shot.

Ekila of Bokungu, for the same reason, was shot through the cheek and nose, and then her right hand and left foot cut off; she did not die, but is there to-day, expecting shortly to become a mother.

I found that, as in other towns, enforced public incest formed amusement for the sentries, the names given being

Lokugi with his sister Lokomo,

Lokilo with his daughter Efire.

After spending some time with the people and hearing their miserable story, also seeing much proof with my own eyes, I made my departure, but before I came away one young chief stepped out and said, "Tell them (the rubber agents) we cannot and therefore will not find rubber; we are willing to spend our strength at any work possible, but rubber is finished. Our mothers, fathers sisters, brothers, have been murdered in scores for rubber; every article of any value has been stolen from us, spears, knives, brass-lets, fowls, dogs, etc., and we are now ruined; if we must either be massacred or bring rubber, well, let them finish us right off, then we suppose they will be satisfied."

It was touching to see the old chief as he wrung my hand again and again. "Oh, Inglesia, don't stay away long; if you do, they will come, I am sure they will come, and then these enfeebled legs will not support me, I cannot run away. I am near my end; try and see to it that they let me die in peace; don't stay away."

I was so moved, your Excellency, at these people's story that I took the liberty of promising them in the name of the Congo Free State, that you will only kill them in future for crimes.* I told them the Inspector Royal was, I hoped, on his way, and that I was sure he would listen to their story, and give them time to recover themselves. I further urged upon them the necessity of building huts and planting gardens, otherwise when the wet season comes they will be starved to death.

The following are the names of some of the people murdered by the *A.B.I.R.* for rubber:—

Name.	Sentry by whom murdered.
Ilombe (man)	Nsala
Botuli (man)	Banji
Bofaka (man)	Bemambu
Lomboto (mother)	Luwangi
Ngondo (child)	Efonga
Ekomboto (man)	Imenema
Bofaka (child)	Belio
Bokilo (man)	Efongi
Bofumbo (woman)	Efulama

* An amazing sentence to be penned at the opening of the Twentieth Century.

Name.	Sentry by whom murdered.
Benkanga (chief)	Bangi
Boonga (man)	Sentry unknown
Eleka (chief)	Belio
Iyambi (man)	Bofolodza
Neikela (man)	Efulama
Elu-ga (mother and two children)	Unknown
Likongo (man)	Boyela
Mpeci (man)	"
Likovata (woman)	Bateko
Boyemi (woman)	"
Bolumbu (woman)	"
Linyuka (mother and two children)	"
Ntandu	Unknown
Ifasu, Yakabonga, and child	Bateko
Bofofi	Belio
Bokangu (woman)	Isemenga
Nkanjambi (woman)	Nkomboloko
Mongu (woman)	Unknown
Boko	Ilasa
Ngombi (chief)	Mona
Lifalanga	Bompenji
Jemaka	Lomboto
Longolo	Inoi
Banto	Bompengu
Benpangi	Unknown
Limbala	Lianza or
Eunai (woman)	Unknown
Isekisio	"
Botugi (chief of Bokendi section)	Ntanda
Boyo	Isekongo
Child of Beti	Bompengi
Bokecu (woman)	Loma
Elanga (woman)	Bompengu
Eleka (woman)	Unknown
Ekonga (woman)	Wuti
Mposo (woman)	Unknown
Bongenga (woman)	Icoli
Ntewa (woman)	Boti
Ifasa of Bolumbo, and Ntolo (child)	Ololi
Isekayoko (man)	Unknown
Botaka (mother and child)	"
Boembi (woman)	"
Bonkomo and child	"
Botuku	Isekyolo
Ilinga (woman)	Unknown
Efondo (woman)	"
Lomanga (woman)	"

Name.	Sentry by whom murdered.
(?) Lwanga (woman)	Nkangi
Lomboto (man)	Bateko
Lokugi of Nombi	"
Isekalokilo	Liwanga
Isekalokilo's wife	Efongi
Bosengi	Unknown
Ifasu (child)	"
Lingolo	Efulama
Isekasumbu (child)	Unknown
Likumgola	"
Bolongo	Eluma
Efunda (man), his wife and child	"
Bolua	"
Three children of Bokongi—	
Elanga, Lokuji, Bolinga	Unknown
Lokuca	Wute
Bengombo	Imena
Ilanga	Unknown

These names were given me without any hesitation, and with every evidence of truth, by the people. I should say, however, from experience, that this village has not quite so many killed as others in the district.

May I urge upon your Excellency the importance, in the interests of justice, of taking witnesses' testimony nearer than Boma.*

Owing to the witnesses from Baringa having been sent over six months' journey away, the natives are refusing to give necessary information lest such a long journey will be imposed upon them too. Already there is a distinct tendency to regard this as punishment for witnessing against their oppressors.

We profit by this opportunity to assure your Excellency that our only desire is the welfare of these people, and we are at your service to assist in the righteous government of the natives, with all our energy and experience.

This has been manifest during the last few days, when, as the Police officer will tell you, the intervention of the missionaries was successful in preventing a serious fight between the surrounding towns, which was assuming grave proportions, and caused considerable anxiety to the authorities. It will always be our aim to use our influence to this end.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

JOHN H. HARRIS.

* Witnesses in atrocity cases have to go 1,000 miles away to give evidence at Boma.—*vide* foot-note, page 8.

PART II.

THE REGULATIONS LAID DOWN BY THE COMMISSION,
THE VISIT OF M. MALFEYT, THE ROYAL HIGH
COMMISSIONER, AND THE SEQUEL.

I.

THE REGULATIONS AND THE VISIT.

On March 16th, 1905, M. Malfeyt, Royal High Commissioner, arrived at Baringa. The visit of this high official, the British Government had been assured last year, would be of a nature to effect all necessary reforms.

Prior to M. Malfeyt's arrival, the Commissioners, confronted by the terrible evidence brought by Messrs. Harris, Stannard, and the other missionaries in the Concession, laid down the following interpretation of Congolese "law":—

Before a tax was fixed an enumeration of the people must be made.

No native was to work more than 40 hours a month.

The paying of their taxes in either of certain commodities was at the option of the natives.

The circumstance that a so-called "commercial company" should be empowered to "tax" at all is, needless to remark, an anomaly, and a practice contrary to elementary notions of right.* But it is impossible to deal here with the fundamental irregularities which underlie the whole conception of Tropical Administration as practised by the Congo Government. Our task in this publication is to point out the startling contradictions between the nominal laws and regulations as they exist, and the manner in which those laws and regulations are carried out in practice.

Such then were the rules laid down by the Commission of Inquiry.

M. Malfeyt's visit, it was understood, would tend to the re-adjustment of this "taxation," notably to working the 40 hours' law, upon the lines laid down by the Commission.

But M. Malfeyt announced that he "had no power to act, and only came to see and to hear!"

* In contradiction also to the judgment delivered by the Appeal Court at Boma in the Caudron case.

The "re-adjustment of taxation" was left, therefore, in the hands of the *A.B.I.R.* representatives.

How it has been carried out, and is being carried out, and how justified were Mr. Harris' warnings sent to the President of the Commission of Inquiry, after the departure of the Commission from Baringa, the following information will disclose.

II.

REPUDIATION OF THE COMMISSION.

Extract of letter from Mr. Stannard to Mr. Morel, dated April 4th, describing an interview with Mr. Delvaux, Director in Africa of the *A.B.I.R.*:

"He spoke of the Commission of Inquiry in a contemptuous manner, and showed considerable annoyance about the things we had said to the Commission. He declared the *A.B.I.R.* had full authority and power to send out armed sentries, and force the people to bring in rubber, and to imprison those who did not. A short time ago, the natives of a town brought in some rubber to the Agent here, but he refused it because it was not enough, and the men were thrashed by the *A.B.I.R.* employés, and driven away. The Director justified the Agent in refusing the rubber because the quantity was too small. The Commissioners had declared that the *A.B.I.R.* had no power to send armed sentries into the towns in order to flog the people and drive them into the forest to seek rubber; they were 'guards of the forest,' and that was their work. When we pointed this out to M. Delvaux, he pooh-poohed the idea, and said the name had no significance; some called the sentries by one name, some by another. We pointed out that the people were not compelled to pay their taxes in rubber only, but could bring in other things, or even currency. He denied this, and said that the alternative tax only meant that an agent could impose whatever tax he thought fit. It had no reference whatever to the natives. The *A.B.I.R.* preferred the taxes to be paid in rubber. This is what the *A.B.I.R.* says, in spite of the interpretation by Baron Nisco, the highest judicial authority in the State, that the natives could pay their taxes in what they were best able. All these things were said in the presence of the Royal High Commissioner, who, whether he approved or not, certainly did not contradict or protest against them."

Advices of a similar character have been received from Mr. Harris. Their accurate description of M. Delvaux's repudiation of the Commission is, however, borne out by subsequent events.

III.

RENEWAL OF THE REIGN OF OPPRESSION, OUTRAGE AND MASSACRE.

A.

Letter from Mr. Harris to the *Commissaire de District*, Baringa,
April 10th, 1905:—

C.B.M., Baringa,
April 10th, 1905.

Dear Sir,

The present situation in this district makes it imperative that we submit to you the following. During the visit of the Commission of Inquiry affairs here were so thoroughly gone into, and so unhesitatingly condemned, that we were led to hope, with some confidence, that a better state of affairs would result. Unfortunately that hope has been falsified. From that time until the visit of Mons. Delvaux, accompanied by the Royal High Commissioner, things were comparatively quiet, or at least in abeyance. We regret exceedingly that the *A.B.I.R.* are now reverting to their former methods. Though we feel that some responsibility rests upon the Agent, yet we consider that the prime responsibility belongs to the *A.B.I.R.* Director, because of the statements made here by him.

There are many things that are certainly illegal (judged by the Code Civil and Bulletin Officiel), but we only call your attention to the most prominent. You are aware, of course, that the statement is being constantly made that cannibal sentries are not armed. The Nsongo district is notoriously cannibal, and there are, in the Wala section, eight guns given to Mpombo's men, in order, we are informed, to force rubber from their own and other sections of the Nsongo district. An outcome of this is that, at least, the Eleko section, if not also the Luiza section, have left their towns and are hiding in the forest, but we are told the ultimate intention is to migrate to the Juapa.

On Monday, the 3rd inst., considerable firing was heard in the Esanga town of Elenywa; later we learned the following particulars from eye-witnesses; a body of eight or ten *A.B.I.R.* sentries, armed

with muzzle-loading *and Albini guns*, were sent from the *A.B.I.R.* headquarters, in charge of the *Capitas Elisi* and *Bompasu*.

The outcome of this raid upon the people was that *Luali*, a chief, and *Ilua*, a lad, were killed with *Albini rifles*, and the following prisoners captured, tied neck by neck, and taken to the Agent at *Bamo*, the new *A.B.I.R.* headquarters.

The man *Lingendi* and the following women and girls:—*Lifumbwa* and baby, *Besenda* and baby, *Etongo*, *Besuka*, *Bongele*, *Iwawa*, *Ekila*, *Ifasu*; the women were released after working as prisoners six or seven days.

The *Capita Elisi* said: "We are killing you because you sell meat to the missionaries, and do not work rubber 'lankesa la lokolo' (day and night, or early and late); we will come and kill very many of you, and finish you off." Will you permit me to offer the following observations:—

I. We understood from the Commission of Inquiry that the work of the "guards of the forest" was to protect the vines, and not to force the natives into the forest to search for rubber.

II. That it was illegal to send the sentries out armed with *Albini rifles*.

III. That it was illegal to imprison women and children.

Of course we knew from the "Code Civil" and "Bulletins Officiel" that these things were illegal before the Commission of Inquiry came here, but they were so often committed that we had almost come to believe that State law did not apply to the *A.B.I.R.* You will recognise the serious effect upon us of this raid. The people have been definitely told that they have been and are to be killed for selling meat to the missionaries and employés of the Mission. That means that by buying necessary food from the natives, we place them under the risk of being either shot or imprisoned. We submit that this is an intolerable position, both for us and the natives, and we have consequently given out, that from this day forward, we cannot buy meat until we have some effective guarantee that they can sell to us with impunity.

We would also like to call your attention to the fact, that the laws with regard to taxation have never been in force in this district. They are—

- I. Enumeration of the people.
- II. Forty hours' law.
- III. Alternate tax law at the option of the natives.

Mons. Delvaux emphatically denied that the alternative tax law had any relation to the natives; it only meant that the *A.B.I.E.* could enforce what *they* liked.

The only interpretation of the forty hours' law was 4 kilos of "dry," or 8 kilos of "wet" rubber per man!*

With reference to the raid on the Esanga village, we would also like to remark, that whilst the Commission of Inquiry was here, amongst the sentries most often accused of gross irregularities was this man Bompasu, who was *Capita* for Mons. Tegnev, admittedly one of the most brutal white men ever in the district. The man Bompasu had for some time, prior to the visit of the Commissioners, been removed from his position on account of his excesses. It seems to us passing strange, that after the investigation of the Commission of Inquiry, such men should be reinstated, with the above result. None knew better than the present *Chef de Factorie* the character of this man, because he was Agent with Mons. Tegnev at Baringa. Bompasu was, we understand, slightly wounded at Esanga. We appeal to you, as the executive authority of the district, in the hope that you may be able to do something. We recognise that we are requesting a great deal of you, in asking for the effective carrying out of State law. It is manifestly clear to us that rubber, as at present demanded, can only be procured by the continued sacrifice of lives, and the shedding of blood, the complete ruin of the forests, and the extermination of the native race.

Is not this too big a price to pay We feel sure you will agree that it is.

*That is to say, 8 kilos, instead of 6, as formerly.

We have been compelled to acquaint His Britannic Majesty's Consul with our position, and beg to enclose a copy of our communication to him for your perusal.

(Signed) JOHN H. HARRIS.*

B.

Letter from Mr. Stannard to Mr. Morel.

"Baringa, April 7th, 1905.

"The devil's work is in full swing again. The *A.B.I.R.* are determined to get their rubber from this district, no matter what it may cost in the shedding of blood and human suffering. [Then follows a more detailed account of the raid upon Elengwa, described in Mr. Harris' letter to the *Commissaire de District.*] The people have been told that very soon the sentries are coming again to kill more, and that if they do not bring in rubber they will soon be 'finished off.' Of course we shall report this to the State, but what is the use? Its action in regard to Van Caelcken's trial does not give much encouragement or hope that any real justice will be done. Surely if a Lagos native has to appear at Boma, and is sentenced to ten years† for being the indirect cause of one woman's death, then in common justice the Director and Agent of the *A.B.I.R.* should be called to account for the murder of these men (*vide* Harris' letter to *Commissaire*), and the imprisonment of these women and children. It is the old practice of imprisoning women and children until they are redeemed by the men of the village. The sentries who went to Boma for committing so many murders under Van Caelcken are now back in their towns, and the *A.B.I.R.* have been trying to enlist them again in the same kind of work. I would add that the women prisoners taken at Elengwa were tied neck by neck, and marched off to the *A.B.I.R.* prison."

* Mr. Harris sent a copy of this letter to the President of the Commission of Inquiry in a letter dated April 11th, 1905.

† Sylvanus Jones, a subordinate of Caudron.—*Vide* Caudron Case, *op. cit.*

C.

Letter from Mr. Harris to the *Commissaire de District*.

C.B.M., Baringa,
April 26th, 1905.

To Monsieur le Commissaire de District.

Dear Sir,

On April 10th I informed you that the women and children captured from Esanga, and put into the *A.B.I.R.* prison at Bamo by Mons. Weyn, in order to force rubber, had been released; this, I find, is an error, as no such release has taken place. On April 18th and 19th I paid a visit to Nsongo for evangelistic purposes, but I could do very little, as the villages were destitute of women and children, and the few men remaining were constructing stockades in order to defend their village, the reason being as follows:

In mine to you of April 10th, I informed you that eight muzzle-loading guns had been given to Mpombo's sons to force rubber from the people. I wish again to emphasize that these men are notorious cannibals. They were given the guns by Mons. Weyn when he visited Nsongo, about a month ago. At the same time, without counting the people, or even visiting the villages, he ordered them to bring, every fifteen days, 80 baskets of rubber, *i.e.*, Ngundo 30 baskets, Ikenjo 20, Bolumboloko (Wala) 30.

It seems that when the *A.B.I.R.* moved its headquarters to Bamo, these men returned the muzzle-loaders and were given Albin rifles and ammunition. They then went back to the village to force rubber. One of these men named Elanga shot the chief of Ngundo, named Lokoko, and the people of this section managed to capture both Elanga and his gun. Mpombo, the senior chief of district, agreed to Ngundo people doing as they liked with his son Elanga, if only they would deliver up the rifle, as he was afraid the *A.B.I.R.* would give him a "big palaver." This they agreed to do, and Mpombo returned the gun; the fate of Mpombo's son Elanga is not known.

At the expiration of about 14 days, *i.e.*, four days ago, Mpombo sent all the rubber he had been able to force to the Agent at Bamo; this was in charge of the six sentries, armed with Albini rifles. Accompanying this party was another, composed of men, women and children, who were going to the river bank, in order to exchange palm nuts, oil, etc., with the people on the opposite side, and they agreed to wait there for the party returning from Bamo. After they had been waiting for some time a party did arrive, but it was not the one they were waiting for—the whole company, rubber carriers and sentries, had in the meantime been put in the *A.B.I.R.* prison. It was the redoubtable Bompasu, armed in true brigand fashion—Albini rifles and cartridge pouch across the shoulder, revolver and knife stuck in his belt; under his command was a body of about 20 *A.B.I.R.* sentries, armed also with Albini rifles, cartridge pouches and knives; these were supported by an ill-assorted company of “braves,” armed with spears, shields, knives, etc. Of course the market people were no match for such a formidable body; some few are thought to have escaped, but nearly all were made prisoners; the man Lokononga is dying in the bush, run through the body and thigh by one of Bompasu’s command. Isekolima is also lying in the forest, but there are hopes of his recovery. The first batch of prisoners was sent off to the rubber agent, and the expedition then proceeded against the Nsongo village of Bolumboloko (Wala). Its main object seems to have been the capture of the chief Mpombo. The reason for this no one seems to know, unless it was because the rubber was insufficient; but Mpombo seems to have done all a man could do to force more. However, Bompasu arrived and captured many people; the full number is not yet known, because the majority of the natives are still hiding in the bush; but certainly the following are in prison at Bamo, besides the captures made at the native market:

Men—Nsala, Lofiko, Elisi, Esengi, Bompendu, Mongu, Elika, Isompombo, Mala, Ifelo, Etotoi, Eali, Bokamana.

Women and Girls—Inungo, Longundo, Bokeni, Bompenju, Bongengeli, Ekila I., Ekila II., Mombi, Lolula.

I found there a baby whose mother, Lolula, was captured and taken away to prison. We are trying to keep it alive till its mother is released to feed it.

All the fowls were seized—some thirty or forty, and four dogs, to feed Bompasu's retinue; the back part of the chief's house pulled down for firewood. All the "valuables" were looted, including hunting nets to the value of £8 or £10, and carried off by Bompasu and his followers. This was especially hard, as just before and after the visit of the Commission of Inquiry there had been a relaxation of the severe treatment they had received at the hands of MM. Pilaet and Van Caelcken, which had enabled them to gather a few things together. To show how little supervision is given to ammunition, I would point out that the sentries entered the village firing off cartridges in all directions, apparently in order to frighten the people. An unused cartridge was picked up in the house in which I slept (I have given this to the police officer). I also saw a dog that had been shot in two places by Albini bullets.

I saw the woman Loko, who, being lame, refused to go as a prisoner to Bamo. Boni gashed her arm and thigh as punishment, and then released her; both cuts are about three or four inches long, but the one on the arm is very deep.

What I have written you is all that is known at present. The people are afraid that there are others in the bush, either dead or dying, and many other women and children prisoners at Bamo. We have only too much reason to believe that these expeditions are being sent out daily into other districts, but being beyond the immediate section we cannot learn reliable particulars.

Just before I left Nsongo on the 19th inst., a young man arrived there from Bamo, and told the people their women and children were starving in the *A.B.I.R.* prison; also that he had seen, that very morning, Bompasu and about 20 to 30 *A.B.I.R.* sentries, armed with Albini and muzzle-loading rifles, accompanied by many spears and shields, depart for some district, with orders to fight the people. Bompasu was told that when he returns he is to undertake another expedition to Nsongo. To-day I have been told that the Ikelemba section of Esanga was attacked yesterday by a contingent of armed men under Bompasu, but at present do

not know any particulars. We have reason to believe that the present Chef de Factorie has applied for a transfer to a district where his actions would be only known to the unfortunate natives. Usually such men are sent to such places; but, though this would be preferable to the *A.B.I.R.*, it would be, and is, very bad both for the natives and the reputation of the State. I take this occasion of calling your attention to the treatment of paddlers, feeling confident that you are ignorant of the same.

The *A.B.I.R.* seem to think that, no matter how badly they treat paddlers, they should always be willing to come in numbers to paddle for them. Nearly three weeks ago, 30 to 40 paddlers took an agent to Bamo from here, and because they did not arrive before sunset, were flogged and put in the *A.B.I.R.* prison. They have since been carrying soil for miles in gangs, in order to build the white man a house. Can you wonder that the chiefs often persuade and bribe men to paddle in vain?

On Feb. 26th the Baringa chief was summarily arrested and sent down river by the rubber agent, Mons. Weyn, because under these conditions he could not persuade two men to paddle. He has now been in detention nearly two months. In the meantime all his own affairs are being left to care for themselves. All the foregoing facts have been given to Monsieur the Lieutenant Otterly.

I am, yours sincerely,

JOHN H. HARRIS.

P.S.—I might also mention to you that the cartridge picked up at Nsongo was an ordinary "soft-nose," split, with the object, apparently, of inflicting a severe wound

To Monsieur le Commissaire de District.

Dear Sir,

I find the last expedition sent by Mons. Weyn was not against Ikelemba itself, but the adjoining villages of Ngongi, Bonsombo, Nganza. The killed and wounded are variously reported as being from five to fifteen men and women, but we have reason to believe the correct number is ten. The Chef de Factorie here is guilty of so many illegalities, and flagrant violation of the law, that we feel you will agree with us that his immediate and effectual arrest is demanded, both in the interests of justice and humanity. At any rate, it is clear that he is not a fit man to have absolute control over thousands of the subject race, from whose exploitation he personally benefits, and has at his disposal the very considerable armoury and unrestricted ammunition of the *A.B.I.R.*, with the deplorable results we have already indicated, and others of which we only hear rumours. The paddlers I referred to in my former letter are still prisoners, and this in spite of the protests of Monsieur the Lieutenant Otterly, the police officer.

JOHN H. HARRIS.

D.

Extract of letter from Mr. Harris to Dr. Guinness.

April 20, 1905.

"It is terrible to watch these poor people being massacred almost daily to force the rubber. . . . Undoubtedly things are worse to-day."

PART III.

HOSTAGE TAKING FOR RUBBER.

A.

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS IN THE TRIAL OF M. VAN CAELCKEN.

M. Van Caelcken was one of the subordinate agents of the *A.B.I.R.* at Baringa, arrested (after threatening to kill Messrs. Harris and Stannard) owing to the exposure of the atrocities committed by his soldiers.

The trial began on December 8th. Charges brought by Public Prosecutor :

- (1) Arresting and tying up five women as hostages for rubber.
- (2) Giving rifles to soldiers, the better to force rubber out of the people.

In his defence, M. Van Caelcken :

“ Avowed publicly that he tied up the women himself personally, and gave them to Chief Belio, near his Station, to be detained.”

“ Bases his power on a letter of the Commissaire-General de Bauw (the Supreme Executive Officer in the District), and in a circular transmitted to him by his Director, and signed ‘ Costermans ’ (Governor-General), which he read to the Court, deploring the diminished output in rubber, and saying that the Agents of the *A.B.I.R.* should not forget that they have the same powers of ‘ *contrainte par corps* ’ (bodily detention) as were delegated* to the agents of the *Société Commerciale Anversoise au Congo*, for the increase of rubber production ; that if the Governor-General or his Commissaire-General did not know what they were writing and what they signed, he knows what orders he had to obey ; it was not for him to question the legality or illegality of these orders ; his superiors ought to have known and have weighed what they wrote before giving him orders to execute ; that bodily detention of natives for rubber was no secret, seeing that at the end of every month a statement of ‘ *contrainte par corps* ’ (bodily detention) during the month has to be furnished in duplicate, the book signed, and one of the copies transmitted to the Government.”

B.

PROOF OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO THE PRACTICE.

The above allegations are strictly true, and explain the lightness of the sentence passed upon Van Caelcken.

* By Governor-General Wahis, present Governor-General. (Vide Caudron Case, Africa No. 9, 1904.)

Here, moreover, is one of the printed "statements of bodily detention," referred to by the accused.

A. B. I. R. Poste de.....

Sté à responsabilité limitée.

Etat des indigènes soumis à la contrainte par corps pendant le mois de..... 1903.

Noms.	Village.	Motifs de la Contrainte.	Date à laquelle elle a été exercée.	Date à laquelle elle a pris fin.	Observations.

Les registres doivent être du même modèle et tenus soigneusement et régulièrement par mois.

The preceding document was published in the pamphlet entitled "Red Rubber,"* together with circulars, and extracts of letters signed by Messrs. Albert Longtain (Director of the *A.B.I.R.* at the end of the Commission's visit), by M. Delvaux (present Director of the *A.B.I.R.*), and by the Home Executive of this so-called Society, proving that the practice has been universally carried out for many years, with the knowledge of the Supreme Executive of the Congo State in the Congo, the Home Executive of the *A.B.I.R.*, and the principal officials of that Society on the spot. A reference to the evidence of the missionaries, especially that of Mr. Ruskin, will convey an appreciation of its effects upon the people.

That the practice is still in full swing, even in the neighbourhood of the Mission Stations—and how much more so in the remote districts, where no outside observers exist, may be surmised—will be seen from the account of the raid, in April of the present year, by *A.B.I.R.* soldiers, acting under the orders of the representative of that Society at Bamo, upon the village of Bolumboloko. It would seem, moreover, that although subordinate agents continue to be prosecuted and sentenced to trivial punishments for this practice when circumstances connected with any specific case are brought prominently to the notice of the Judicial Authorities, the circulars of the Governor-General and the Commissaire-General have not been rescinded.

C.

LAWS AND DEEDS.

In this connection Mr. Harris, writing to Mr. Morel, under date of March 25th, 1905, says:

"One of the strangest features of the Congo administration is the peculiar relations that exist between the judicial officers and the Executive. For instance, a judicial officer pronounces a certain course of action undoubtedly illegal, but that makes no difference at all in practice. The action is pursued just as if such a judgment had never been given. In the Caudron case it was held by the Judge of the Supreme Court that the Governor-General had no

* *Op. cit.*

power to give 'commercial companies' the right to force a tax in rubber upon the people by imprisoning them if they failed to comply with such illegal demands. On March 6th of this year, a document was shown to Mr. Stannard and to myself, authorizing the *A.B.I.R.* Agents by name to force the people to bring in a rubber tax, and if they refused, to imprison them. This was to be done without any trial whatever. The document was dated December 1st, 1904, and bore the signature of Governor Costermans."

Evidence of the universality of this practice all over the Congo is to be found in a number of published documents, extending over a number of years, amongst which may be mentioned the Mongalla revelations of 1901 and the judgment of the Boma Courts; the Caudron judgment; Consul Casement's report; the revelations of Lieutenant Tilkens in the Belgian Parliamentary debates; the reports of Italian officers from the *Province Orientale*; of missionaries from the Katanga region; of Mr. Scrivener from the *Domaine de la Couronne*; Mr. Weeks from Monsembe; Mr. Ackermann from the Lomami, etc., etc.

Under present conditions, indeed, the taking of hostages—a covering name for a peculiarly atrocious form of slavery—is a necessary adjunct to the forced production of vast quantities of india-rubber. Nor is it likely to be relinquished, seeing that the present Governor-General of the Congo State, who has been reinstated in his position, and is now in supreme executive control of the whole territory, himself authorised in writing a practice declared on paper to be "illegal," and even sometimes punished by nominal terms of imprisonment in the case of men in subordinate positions, but authorised and encouraged by the Executive itself.

D.

THE SCANDAL OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL WAHIS' RETURN TO THE CONGO.

The following letter appeared in the *Morning Post* and the *Daily News* of 2nd May:

"Sir,—It is now definitely announced in the Belgian papers that General Baron Wahis will sail by the next Antwerp steamer to the Congo as Governor-General.* No more instructive incident

* Governor-General Wahis is now exercising his supreme functions.

could have arisen to shew the complete hopelessness of any real change of policy in the Congo under the present régime. It is only necessary to point out that Governor-General Wahis has been, all these years, the incarnation in Africa of the policy of King Leopold, whose 'personal mandatory' he is while in Africa, by the terms of the Congolese Constitution. He has thus not only been intimately associated with all the deplorable aspects of that policy, which have gradually been dragged to light, but he has been actually the supreme director of that policy on the spot. Only the other day, in the Belgian House, circulars promulgated by him as Governor-General, acting on instructions from Brussels, in connection with the disgraceful system of paying officials proportionately to the amount of rubber and ivory obtained by them from their respective districts, were exposed fully for the first time. (The translation of the amazing revelations made in the course of this debate will be found in the Congo Supplement of the *West African Mail* for April, and have been commented upon in the *Morning Post*.)

"Nor is this all. In the recent trial and conviction of the man Caudron, of the Mongalla Trust, as published in 'Africa No. 9, 1904,' the Judge of the Appeal Court at Boma—that is to say, the highest judicial authority in the Congo State, and a member, moreover, of the Commission of Inquiry—declared in the most specific manner that the written authorisation given by Governor-General Wahis to the officials of that Trust to levy taxes in rubber upon the people, and to imprison them if they failed to comply, was illegal, and that the accused, in acting upon the Governor-General's authorisation, acted illegally in imprisoning natives for this 'offence.' The gravity of the Governor-General's act was all the greater, inasmuch as three years previously a number of agents of the same Trust were condemned to long terms of imprisonment (which they have never served, all being free men in Belgium at the present day), for similar practices, which had led, on their own confession, and as the records of the tribunals shew, to the death of hundreds of women from starvation in prison. Soon after the publication of the judgment in the Caudron case, which first appeared in the Congo Supplement of the *West African Mail* for May of last year, King Leopold issued a Manifesto calling upon the judicial establishment of the Congo State to 'seek out' all who, whatsoever their rank or title, had been guilty of perpetrating or authorising illegalities towards the natives, and the Sovereign of

the Congo State, in the same Manifesto, expressed his unswerving determination to punish all persons guilty of such offences, no matter who they might be. Yet in the face of the deliberate judgment of the highest judicial officer in the Congo State, and in the face of King Leopold's Manifesto, and yet again in the face of all that has gone before, which is now only gradually being revealed, Governor-General Wahis returns once more as the King's 'personal mandatory' in Africa.

Yours, etc.,

"E. D. MOREL."

"Hawarden, 29th April."

PART IV.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

The following correspondence has passed between the Foreign Office and the Congo Reform Association, relative to the position of affairs in the *A.B.I.R.* territories:

31st May, 1905.

To the Most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
Foreign Office, London.

My Lord,—I am desired to inform your Lordship, on behalf of this Association, that the information received by us from the British missionaries at Baringa, in the territory of the *A.B.I.R.* concession, is increasingly grave in character.

In the course of the debate in the House of Commons on 9th June, 1904, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs detailed certain measures which, according to the information supplied to H.M. Government, had been adopted, or were about to be adopted, by the Government of the Congo State "for the protection of the natives."

Those measures included "the creation of a new office of Royal High Commissioner of the Congo." This official had been instructed "to ensure the complete execution" of reforms. The *A.B.I.R.* Company had also issued "instructions forbidding restrictions on the freedom of commerce," and had itself "sent out an officer, armed with independent powers, to enquire into its administration, and to insist upon the removal of any officials whom he thinks ought to be removed."

I regret to state that the advices received by this Association are of a nature to shew that these measures have been illusory, and that neither the visit of the "Royal High Commissioner" to the *A.B.I.R.* territory, nor the visit of the *A.B.I.R.*'s "officer," nor yet the visit of the Commission of Inquiry, have resulted in any betterment of the condition of the natives.

They have not led to any modification in the claims upon the produce of the soil, upon the labour and upon the bodies of the people, asserted and exercised by the *A.B.I.R.* Society with (as is now proved by the proceedings in the trial of M. Van Caelcken) the entire approval of the Executive, and which, in the opinion of this Association, are the cause of the terrible abuses prevailing. Indeed, these claims, far from having lessened, would appear to have actually increased.

Writing under date of 25th March last, Mr. J. H. Harris, of Baringa (the veracity of whose reports, as those of his colleagues, so far as they were concerned with atrocities committed by the employés of the *A.B.I.R.* prior to the arrival of the Commission of Inquiry, was amply demonstrated before the Commission), informs us that each native has now "to bring in four kilos. of dry rubber, which means eight kilos. of fresh rubber, compared with six kilos. as formerly." This imposition, which is a fortnightly one, the natives are unable to comply with. It is irreconcilable with the new law which the "Royal High Commissioner" was, apparently, deputed to arrange (although that official was not, it would seem, invested with any "administrative powers"), viz.: that the demands of the *A.B.I.R.* Society upon the natives should not involve them in more than forty hours' labour per month. To the increasing impossibility, in view of the rapid exhaustion of the forests, of obtaining within the time specified the six kilos. demanded of them every fortnight, are due the cruel sufferings to which the natives

have been subjected during the many years these claims have been enforced upon them. An increased imposition is hardly calculated to allay those sufferings. It would appear indeed that, despairing of their condition and prospects, the natives are determined to die rather than endeavour to fulfil the hopeless task of satisfying demands apparently limitless; for in a postscriptum, dated 28th March, to the above-mentioned communication, Mr. Harris says:

“*A.B.I.R.* is attempting to force rubber with scores of sentries armed with muzzle-loaders. The natives have refused, and say they will rise *en masse*. A number of sentries have been speared. Chief Bomolo of Bolemboloko, Chief Isekalongi of Lotoko, and other chiefs have sworn they will die sooner than suffer again as they did before the Commission came. They say: ‘Shew us where to find the rubber and we will work it; if not, come and kill us, we can but die once.’ Government troops have been sent for. The *A.B.I.R.* are furious with us.”

The last sentence in the above letter, which confirms several previous letters from Mr. Harris, suggests that the British missionaries at Baringa and other places in the *A.B.I.R.* Society's territory may run serious dangers from the resentment they have incurred from the Society's representatives in boldly reporting the abuses of which they have had cognisance. As your Lordship is aware, that resentment was exhibited to them upon several occasions prior to their revelations before the Commission of Inquiry.

From the above information it would appear that matters are, if anything, in a worse condition than formerly, and that the assurances given to his Majesty's Government have not been kept. It is no doubt true that several subordinate agents of the *A.B.I.R.* Society have recently been arrested, and in some cases sentenced to trivial punishments, but it is also the case that the representative in Africa of that Society, who was in supreme executive control of its operations at the time when many of the atrocities denounced took place, has been allowed to return to Europe, while his second in command is now in supreme executive control.

I would also respectfully suggest to your Lordship, as a matter justifying further representations to the Congo Government, the position of native witnesses in cases of atrocity. We are informed by the missionaries at Baringa that native witnesses sent last July

a thousand miles to Boma, in order to testify before the Courts, had not yet returned to their homes when our last advices were received.* Treatment such as this is not of a kind to encourage the natives—living as they have done upon the Society's territory under a reign of terror for the past seven years—to come forward for the purpose of testifying to the wrongs inflicted upon them.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. D. MOREL,
Hon. Secretary.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

14th June, 1905.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you call attention to the alleged continued ill-treatment of natives in the Congo State, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that various reports have reached his Majesty's Government with regard to the manner in which the administration of the Free State has been conducted since the departure of the Commission of Inquiry, and that his Majesty's Minister at Brussels has been instructed to make representations to the Congo Government on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) F. A. CAMPBELL.

The Hon. Secretary to the Congo Reform Association,
4, Oldhall Street, Liverpool.

*The bulk of them have since returned, several having died. They have been kept away some ten months.

15th June, 1905.

To the Most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
Foreign Office, London.

My Lord,—I am instructed by my Committee to forward to your Lordship copies of the two resolutions attached.

The first was passed by the Committee of this Association at a meeting held in the House of Commons, under the chairmanship of Earl Beauchamp, on 7th June; and the second was passed at a public meeting held in Holborn Town Hall, Sir Harry Johnston in the chair, on the same day.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. D. MOREL,
Hon. Secretary.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONGO REFORM ASSOCIATION AT A MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF EARL BEAUCHAMP, IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 12 OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

“That this Committee, in view of the increasing gravity of the position of affairs in the Upper Congo, where many British subjects are established, urges once more upon H. M. Government to exercise its rights of extra-territorial jurisdiction secured under treaty with the Congo Government; and while expressing satisfaction with the appointment of two Vice-Consuls in the Upper Congo, strongly recommends that Coquilhatville be selected as the place of residence in addition to, or instead of, Leopoldville.”

RESOLUTION PASSED AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN HOLBORN TOWN HALL, ON 7TH JUNE, SIR HARRY JOHNSTON IN THE CHAIR.

“That this meeting condemns the present system of personal rule established by the Sovereign of the Congo Independent State, and expresses its conviction that this system, which has resulted in an unrestricted claim over the produce of the soil, fails to fulfil the pledges in relation to the welfare of the natives given under the Berlin Act; that this meeting desires to dissociate its condemnation of the existing rule in the Congo Independent State from any

aspersion on the Belgian people; that it invites the Belgian people to take up the administration of the Congo Independent State as a national task, respecting the legitimate rights of the natives of the soil and throwing open the whole of the basin of the Congo to international commerce, without undue restrictions; that in the event of the Belgian nation being unable or unwilling to assume this responsibility, this meeting considers it to be necessary that the Signatory Powers to the Berlin Act should, in concert with the United States of America, devise and put in force a scheme for the good government of the Congo Independent State, which shall fulfil the aspirations originally expressed by the representatives of the Powers assembled at the African Congress of Berlin."

FOREIGN OFFICE,

22nd June, 1905.

Sir,—I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th instant, forwarding copies of Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Committee of the Congo Reform Association on 7th instant, and at a public meeting held in Holborn Town Hall on the same day, and I am to inform you that the views expressed in these two Resolutions will be carefully borne in mind.

I am at the same time to observe, with reference to the suggestion that a British Vice-Consul should be appointed to reside at Coquilhatville, that Leopoldville was adopted as a place of residence on the recommendation of the British Consul at Boma.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) F. H. VILLIERS.

E. D. Morel, Esq.,
Congo Reform Association,
4, Oldhall Street, Liverpool.

27th June, 1905.

To the Most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
Foreign Office, London.

My Lord,—I beg to express my thanks for your Lordship's letter of 22nd instant. Might I venture respectfully to suggest, with regard to the question of the residence of the British Vice-Consul at Leopoldville, that it might perhaps be possible, pending the construction of a residence at that place, for the Vice-Consul to reside for a time in, or at any rate to pay a visit to, the *Equateur* district, especially the *A.B.I.R.* concession? I received, yesterday, further letters from that part of the Congo, bringing information down to 28th April, and although my correspondents make no further allusion to their own position, their letters contain distressing allusions to the condition of affairs in their neighbourhood, further corroborating their previous advices, the nature of which I had the honour of communicating to your Lordship on 31st May. The news from the neighbourhood of Baringa is particularly bad, and it is difficult to resist the conclusion that those in authority in that part of the country are deliberately using the interval pending the publication of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, to force increasing quantities of india-rubber out of the people by any and every form of outrage and oppression. Mr. Harris sends me a copy of a letter he has written to the *Commissaire de District*, describing the raid made by the soldiers of the *A.B.I.R.* from the post of Bamo upon the village of Bolumboloko, in the Nsongo district, which was accompanied by the usual incidents: murder, the carrying off of men, women and girls as hostages, wholesale looting, etc. Mr. Harris' letter is most detailed as to names, dates, etc., but I forbear to trouble your Lordship with them. I venture, however, to urge most respectfully that, apart from the question of the position in which British missionaries are placed in the *A.B.I.R.* territory, the visit of a British official to the *A.B.I.R.* territory might result in an alleviation of the terrible sufferings to which the native population is being subjected, in defiance of

promises and pledges, and of the visit of a Royal Commissioner, and despite the regulations laid down upon paper by the Commission of Inquiry. I may add, in conclusion, that information has been reaching me for some time past from non-missionary sources, to the effect that the state of affairs in the far interior of the concession, especially in the Upper Maringa, beyond Baringa, the Upper Lopori and the Tchuapa, is infinitely worse than that which has been revealed in the vicinity of the mission stations.

Apologising for the length of this letter,

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. D. MOREL,
Hon. Secretary.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

5th July, 1905.

Sir,—I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 27th ultimo, and to thank you for the suggestion that the new British Vice-Consul at Leopoldville should, pending the construction of a residence there, pay a visit to the Equator district. His Lordship will give the matter his consideration.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) F. H. VILLIERS.

E. D. Morel, Esq.,
Congo Reform Association,
4, Oldhall Street, Liverpool.

28th June, 1905.

To the Most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
Foreign Office, London.

My Lord,—I beg to append herewith extract of letter received from the Rev. J. H. Harris, dated Baringa, 11th May.

I also enclose extract of a letter from the Rev. A. E. Scrivener, of Bolobo, dated 10th May.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. D. MOREL,
Hon. Secretary.

ENCLOSURES.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM REV. A. E. SCRIVENER.

“The witnesses I sent down to Boma last December, in connection with the trial of Massard, are still there. (They may be on their way up, but I think not.) I have written to the Director of Justice, beseeching him to use his best endeavours to bring about their speedy return to their homes. For the poor old Chief this long absence is very trying. One of the boys I sent down has died there.”

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM REV. J. H. HARRIS.

Referring to the alleged re-arrest of Messrs. Pilaet and Thomson, subordinate agents of the *A.B.I.R.*, on fresh charges, Mr. Harris writes:

“In these cases a hundred native witnesses have been asked for. This has had the effect of closing the mouths of all those aware of atrocities. In the case of a White man charged, all witnesses must go to Boma, which is equivalent to a White man going from Europe to China—different language, different food, different customs, etc. It is a monstrous iniquity, devised to conceal the truth and liberate the subordinate officials.”

FOREIGN OFFICE,

6th July, 1905.

Sir,—I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, respecting the hardship involved in sending native witnesses to Boma to give evidence at the trials of White men.

A copy of your letter has been sent to his Majesty's Minister at Brussels, with instructions to endeavour to ascertain from the Congo Government why such trials cannot be held at Bassankusu, in the *A.B.I.R.* concession, at which place it was understood by his Majesty's Government that a judge had recently been appointed to reside.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(*Sgd.*) F. H. VILLIERS.

The Hon. Secretary, Congo Reform Association.

July 12th, 1905.

The most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
Foreign Office, London.

My Lord,—I beg to enclose herewith a cutting from the Antwerp newspaper, *La Tribune Congolaise*, describing a tour of inspection by the Royal High Commissioner, M. Malfeyt, in the *A.B.I.R.* concession, where it would seem everything is satisfactory, the presence of "turbulent" missionaries alone interfering with the convenience of the Society. My chief object in venturing to draw your Lordship's attention to this account, is the evidence it displays of a desire to attribute sinister motives to the British missionaries residing on the *A.B.I.R.* concession, in the pursuance of their obvious duty of reporting to the local authorities the outrages and abuses which continue to take place. Denounced by many Belgian papers as "turbulent" and "political," and subjected to much unpleasantness from the representative of the *A.B.I.R.* Society locally, their position seems full of difficulty. The true state of affairs in the *A.B.I.R.* concession, described as satisfactory in the above referred to account, may be estimated by the letter written to the Commission of the Equateur District, by Mr. Harris, dated April 26th, describing a raid upon the Wala village of Bolumboloko, in the Nsongo district, a copy of which I beg to hand your Lordship herewith.*

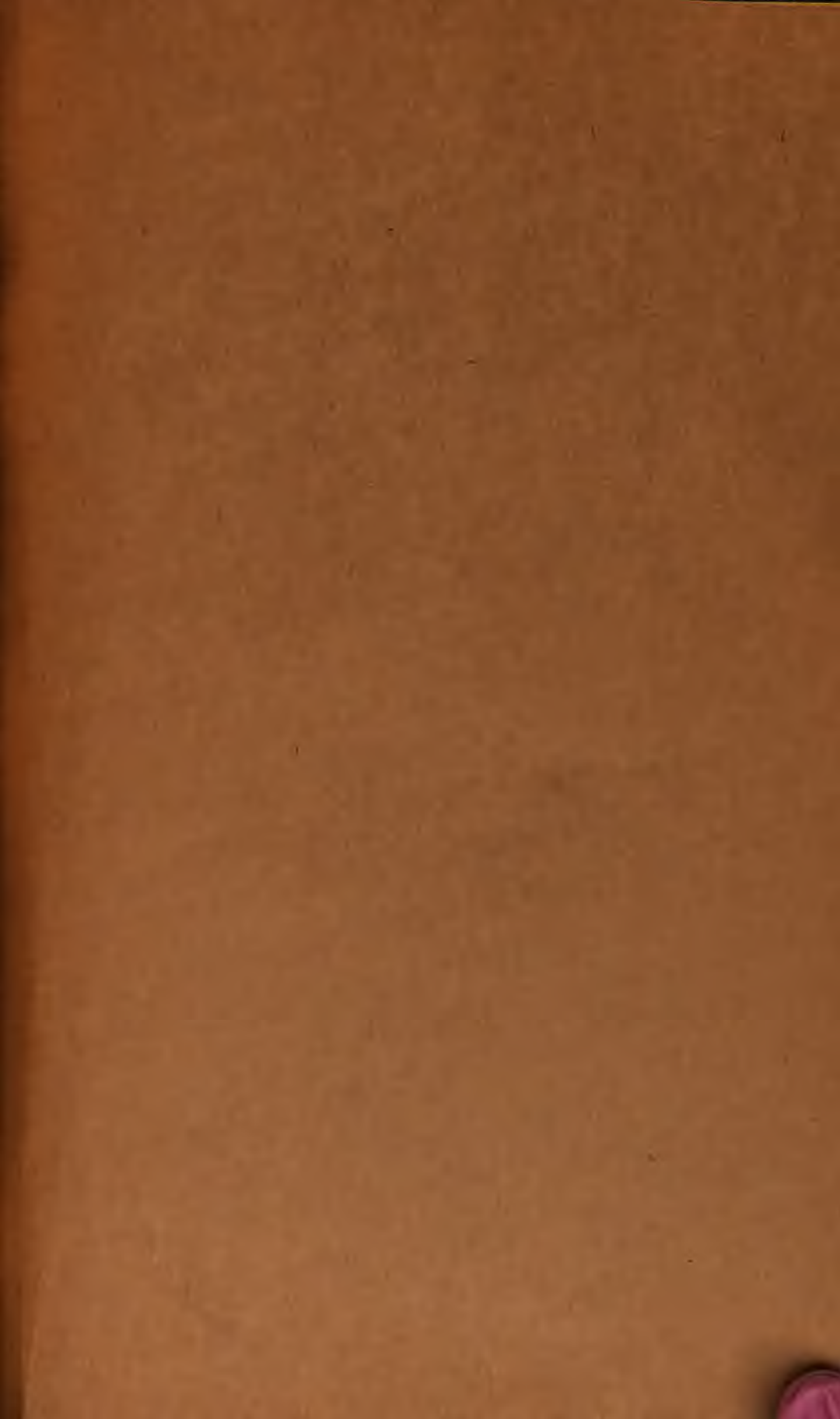
I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. D. MOREL,

Hon. Secretary.

* This letter is given in Part III., C.



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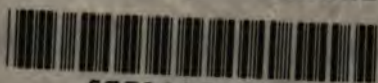
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