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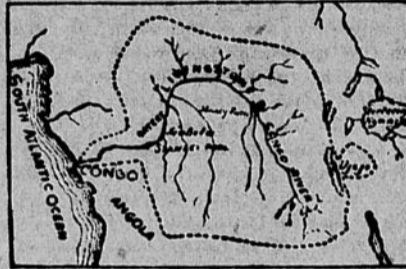
STANLEY'S AFRICAN STATE DOES NOT SEEM TO "GO."

A Territory Nearly Half as Large as the United States—Fabulous Fertility—Almost Unheard of Facilities for Fortune Making—Maps.

The lecture tour of Henry M. Stanley through the United States this winter has called attention anew to his work in Africa. The latest word is that the Free State of Congo, which owes its existence to him, is not panning out according to expectation. This is unfortunate indeed. It was the dream of Stanley to found a great nation, which should take in the whole basin of the Congo. A waterway 6,000 miles in length could with little expense be made navigable throughout. The territory thus included would embrace an area nearly half as large as the United States, a populous region of fabulous fertility. There are already nearly 43,000,000 people there.

France and Portugal had already established trading outposts and laid claim to some of the territory along the Congo. Native tribes one after another owned patches of the banks of the great river. On entering the country of every one of these tribes a new set of tolls had to be paid by the Congo navigators.

Stanley persuaded France and Portugal to cede to the Free State portions of their territory along the banks of the Congo.



MAP OF THE CONGO FREE STATE.

He next persuaded the isolated tribes to merge their interests into one government. The object of this was to do away at once and forever with the annoying river tolls and stoppages. Once belonging to one government throughout its entire length the Congo would be free to travelers and traders from mouth to source. Concessions to this effect were obtained and ratified.

It was under the auspices of King Leopold, of Belgium, that the state was founded. Something more was thought necessary to establish it on a firm foundation. Formal recognition of the new nation was deemed necessary from the governments of Europe and America. An official agreement with France and Portugal must "define" their boundaries and give the Free State full sway along the Congo.

African chiefs to the number of 450 had joined the International Association of the Free State of the Congo. There was considerable discussion in the United States congress at first about recognizing the new state. Our American law givers are not over wise about affairs outside of their own country. Gladstone brings it as an accusation against us that we turn our eyes inward to our own country and devote ourselves to getting rich, letting the rest of the world go to the dogs. It is a good way to keep out of trouble at any rate.

At length, April 10, 1884, congress passed a resolution authorizing the president to recognize the International African association on the Congo as one of the governments of the world. That set the ball rolling. The European powers speedily followed. Nov. 15, 1884, assembled the Berlin conference of nations, to ratify the coming into existence of the Free State. The representatives of fifteen governments, the United States and the countries of Europe, guaranteed place and name to the new nation. Its water ways were to be free routes of trade to all peoples. Best of all, in all time to come there should be no traffic in slaves within its borders, and each power bound itself to prevent such traffic to the utmost of its ability.

So the new state was christened. The final sitting of the conference was on Feb. 26, 1885. The part the United States took in this important negotiation is a matter of pride to every American.



ACROSS THE DARK CONTINENT.

The second map shows better than any description what Stanley really did for civilization. The dark lines show his routes of travel. The death of Livingstone had left the work of that great explorer uncompleted. No traveler in Africa had finished entirely the task he had set out to perform. To finish the incomplete discoveries of Burton, Speke, Grant and Dr. Livingstone, Stanley, commissioned by The New York Herald and The London Telegraph, set out in 1877. He entered Africa on the east side at Zanzibar. Two years, eight months and twenty days afterwards he came out on the west side, at the mouth of the Congo or Livingstone river. He had traveled around the great lakes of Africa, established the sources of the Nile, threaded the Congo from its source to its mouth, and crossed the "dark continent" from east to west, being the first white man, probably the first white or black, to achieve any of these exploits.

It will be a matter of profoundest regret if the Free State does not get on well. A brave band of seven more missionaries have just started thither to join Bishop Taylor's band. They are persons in the trades and professions—comprising two carpenters, a physician, a miner and a farmer. The country teems with undeveloped riches, and fabulous fortunes have already been made there.

There is at least a prospect that the burning shelves and cases of the congressional library will be relieved, though quite how soon we men know. The ground is being cleared for the new library building. It will stand just south of the Capitol, and will be a noble structure. Many houses will have to be torn away to make room for it. Among them is the now historic mansion that Mary Cassatt Hudson owned and lived in.

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