

THE KASSAI HERALD

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NO

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THE KASSAI HERALD.

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—THE KASSAI HERALD—

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EDITOR.

—THIS ISSUE—

A Little Life For Africa.

A Day at Luebo.

Progress at Ibanj.

Seen and Seeing.

The Sewing Class.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Despite our fears of boat and swift currents, we arrived here safely the first of March. Our steamer, the *Roi des Belges*, as you know, is a long narrow boat and very tricky, given to upsetting at the least provocation; her boilers are old, her decks rotten, her cabins small and dirty and as usual with State steamers her *cuisine* abominable.

We had left Luebo about an hour when the Captain ran us into the bushes growing along the side of the river, scraping one side of the steamer from stem to stern, carrying away the big monkey we were taking to a friend, and which was tied to the rail. The Captain innocently asked us if we wished him to stop for the monkey! We declined. Then he ran over to the other bank and scrubbed the right side of the steamer with the bushes along that bank. We presume it served the purpose of "washing down" the steamer but it was a severe trial on the nerves of the passengers. Another time the Captain lost control of the steamer and we floated sidewise, steamed backwards and for an hour or more went every way but the right way. Mrs. Snyder and Anna kept quite well despite these adverse circumstances and

by the the providence of God we reached Leopoldville safe and well. A large steamer belonging to the Dutch Trading Co. coming over the same route two days behind us was overturned by the swift current resulting in the complete loss of the steamer and a rich cargo of rubber besides the loss of some of the crew.

Arriving at Leo, we found Mr. Vass sick and in bed with fever; he had worked too hard at reconstructing our steamer.

How proud we felt when we first saw the *S. N. Lagsley* floating, no longer an aching desire, no longer an imaginary thing; but a reality a living, moving steamer all our own! What emotions swayed us as we thought of her future, of her possibilities for carrying the blessed gospel of love and peace to the thousands of malicious and hostile Bas-sanje people who inhabit the river banks for miles and miles, of the food and good cheer she would convey to the missionaries, of the influence for good that she will exert over all and the blessings that will be poured out upon the dear children at home who gave the steamer for this work!

March had scarcely blown its days away when we noticed with apprehension that both baby Anna and Mrs. Snyder were fast failing in health and must go home. What a severe wrench this was I leave to your imagination.

The prospects for a Convention in May are not at all bright; but of this and of my visit to the Governor I hope to write in another letter.

We rejoice greatly over the progress of the work at Luebo and Ibanj and our sincere desire is that the church at home may know it as we do.

S.

Leopoldville April 30 1901

—STEAMER NOTES.—

BY REV. L. C. VASS.

THE "*Lapsley*" is the first, and at Present the only American steamer on the Congo. Her port of entry is Richmond Va. U. S. A. where she was constructed.

The "*Lapsley*" carries a crew of twenty-eight men besides the Captain. They are for the following work, fifteen wood choppers, three firemen, one Coast man as engineer two boys as oilers, two wheel men, two leadsmen, two cabin boys and last but not least a cook.

During our trip to Luebo the engines broke down. But in Congo we always anticipate such accidents and carry quite a supply of tools and materials. After one day's hard work we were patched up well enough to continue the voyage.

Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Mallet were the first ladies to travel on the "*Lapsley*." The occasion was a pleasure trip from Leopoldville to Brazzaville, which place is about eight miles from Leo. on the opposite side of the river, in French territory. After calling at the Custom-house at Kinchassa for the necessary permit to cross to the French side, we steamed over to the Dutch Factory. Here we enjoyed a pleasant evening, walking through the beautiful mango lined boulevards. Mrs. Snyder and baby Anna riding in a jinrickisha.

Mr. Greshoff, the genial head of the Company served a delightful tea in his handsome private office.

The weather was delightful and the sail excellent. Ever one pronounced the boat a success.

From Leopoldville to Luebo is about nine hundred miles. In traveling this distance four or five tribes of people are met, each speaking a different language. They, however, know a little of a common trade language, and one can make them understand what you wish to buy. When possible, we hold services for them, many come, others stand far away and watch to see what we will do. It is hoped that these services, little of which is understood by them, may open the way for more direct work when the opportunity is afforded to new laborers, who can go and live amongst them and learn their language. The songs seem to attract them very much. Their singing is all so different, consisting only of monotonous repetitions of a few strains always in a minor key.

We take this occasion to publicly thank the Congo State authorities at Leopoldville for many favors shown us while reconstructing the steamer. Monsieur Costermans, the Inspector of the State, gave us every assistance possible, and in many ways assisted us over difficulties that otherwise would have caused much and serious delay.

The reception that the "*Lapsley*" received at Luebo was simply grand. Never has such a crowd gathered here to welcome a steamer. There were fully 5000 natives besides all the white population. Amidst the songs of the children, the shouting of the men and the firing of guns, the long looked for boat ended her first trip up the Kasai.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard by their presence added very much to the pleasure of the occasion.