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Foreign Office

1913

23 Jan.

Last previous Paper

Conditions in British & German African Colonies.

Sends deep from Brussels enclosing copies of press articles by J. Deleclere & M. Morel re: treatment of natives.

(noted wa)

Dr J. Anderson

Put by ?

H. J. R.

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Next subsequent Paper

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 2600/1913

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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REC'D
JAN 23 1913

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for *the*
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of
State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

January 23, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure:

Name and Date.

Subject.

Mr. F. Villiers

No. 6 Africa January 17

*Conditions in British and
German African Colonies*

(Similar letter sent to

17 January 1913

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JAN 15 1913

Sir,

With reference to my despatch

No. 4 Africa of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from Monsieur Jules Leclercq, published by the "Mouvement Geographique", in which commenting on "Dawn in Darkest Africa" he criticizes in strong language the system of "hard labour" which prevails in British East Africa and Uganda. He also speaks severely of the manner in which the natives are treated in the German African colonies. Monsieur Leclercq enjoys a good reputation. He was for long Vice President of the Tribunal of First Instance and 3 or 4 years ago was named "Conseiller" in the Court of Appeal. He has travelled a great deal and has published interesting accounts of his various experiences.

I also enclose copy of a letter from M. Lorel to "Le Peuple", Organe Quotidienne de la Democratie Socialiste. He reiterates that a bluebook will shortly be published which, he hopes, will testify to the reform of administration in the Congo. In this event His Majesty's Government will not delay in recognizing the annexation and the Congo Reform Association will then be dissolved.

The "Peuple" ridicules the importance attached to the opinions of Mr Harris and Mr Lorel which, it is maintained, are shared neither by His Majesty's

Right Honourable

Government

Sir Edward Grey, K.G., M.P.

etc.

etc.

etc.

Government, nor by any political party in England. The object of the "XXe Siecle" is in the first place, from clerical hatred of liberal England and republican France, to bring Belgium into the German orbit, and secondly, with a view to promote the scheme of army reorganization recently introduced by the Government, to create a belief that the Powers of the triple entente are ready to swallow up Belgium and that an army of 500,000 men is therefore necessary to defend the country.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect, Sir.

Your most obedient

and humble Servant

(signed) J. J. Villiers

