

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1901.

The Partition of Africa.

Although there still remains, says a writer in The London Times, much work for diplomats and boundary commissions to do before the territorial limits of the various European powers and native States in Africa have been accurately determined, the two agreements which Lord Salisbury concluded in 1898 and 1899 with the French Government, the still more recent agreement with Germany, and the as yet unpublished agreement between France and Spain with reference to the Adrar country and the settlements on the Muni River, have, broadly speaking, completed the partition of the continent. The scramble among the European powers for protectorates and spheres of influence in Africa, which began fifteen or twenty years ago, developed during the intervening years into one of the most remarkable episodes of the nineteenth century, a century not wanting in events of the most profound interest to humanity. That the greater part of a continent which so recently played but an insignificant part in the politics of Europe should have been partitioned out among the great powers of Europe, without any recourse among themselves to the rude arbitrament of war, is at once a tribute to the statesmen who have guided the destinies of Europe during the last two decades, and a good augury for the future.

With the fascination story of the partition of a continent we do not propose to concern ourselves for the moment, but it may be useful, at the beginning of a new century, to attempt a brief survey of the territorial results of the scramble, now that some sort of modified finality appears to have been reached. It is necessary to speak with caution of 'finality' in such a connection. The partition is still largely a paper partition. It is cartographical rather than actual. But it marks, at least a resting place in the history of European invention in Africa of which advantage may be taken to attempt a survey of the present territorial distribution of the continent. Such a survey can, of necessity, only be a rough approximation. Authorities differ, estimates vary, and it will be many years before the area and population of the various divisions of the African continent can be stated with any degree of particularity. Indeed so far as the estimates of population are concerned, authorities differ so widely that no practical purpose can be served by tabulating the rough guesses which have been made. To take the Congo Free State as a single example; Sir H. M. Stanley is still quoted as the authority for estimating the population of King Leopold's African kingdom at 30,000,000 while M. Vivien de Saint Martin gives the population as 14,000,000 and another authority places it at somewhere about eight millions. In face of such discrepancies, it is plain that the wisest course is to wait for more trustworthy information before attempting to arrive at any estimate of the population of the African continent.

The total area of Africa is, in round figures, some eleven and a half million square miles. Except that Madagascar is included in French Africa, the various islands around the coast of the continent are left out of account in this calculation. Although the whole of the territory affected by the Anglo-French agreement of 1899 is not yet allocated, very material changes have been introduced into the administrative areas in the French Soudan. Indeed the French Soudan has entirely disappeared as an administrative unit. Large additions have been made to the existing colonies of Senegal, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Dahomey, and the remainder of the old Soudan administrative area has been divided into military districts, which, although, under direct military administration, are yet dependent on the governor-general of French West Africa, a post occupied by a civil official. Over the greater part of the Sahara no attempt has yet been made to extend French jurisdiction, either civil or military, but an expedition is at this moment engaged in reducing to subjection the Twat group of oases, which lies to the south of Morocco in the western Sahara. Recent expeditions, which have passed round the northern end of Lake Chad to the Shari region are reported to

British.	
Cape Colony.....	277 151
Natal and Zululand.....	29 434
Basutoland.....	10 293
Bechuanaland.....	386 200
Transvaal Colony.....	119 139
Orange River Colony.....	48 826
Rhodesia.....	600 000
British Central Africa Protectorate.....	42 217
British East Africa, including Nile Basin to 10 deg. N.....	670 000
Somaliland.....	68 000
Northern Nigeria.....	310 000
Niger Coast (S. Nigeria).....	21 500
Lagos and Yoruba.....	20 500
Gold Coast and Hinterland.....	74 500
Sierra Leone.....	33 100
Gambia.....	3 500
Total.....	2 713 910
French.	
Algeria proper.....	184 474
Algerian Sahara.....	123 500
Tunisia.....	51 000
Senegal.....	182 000
Guinea.....	92 000
Ivory Coast.....	119 500
Dahomey.....	59 000
Soudan Military District.....	183 000
Congo and Gabon.....	550 000
Bagirmi Wadai, Kanem.....	126 000
Sahara (including Tibesti).....	1 892 000
Somaliland.....	14 000
Madagascar.....	228 500
Total.....	3 804 974
German.	
East Africa.....	385 000
Southwest Africa.....	322 450
Cameroons.....	191 130
Togoland.....	34 800
Total.....	933 380
Italian.	
Eritrea.....	88 500
Somaliland.....	100 000
Total.....	188 500
Portuguese.	
Guinea.....	4 394
Angola.....	484 730
East Africa.....	301 000
Total.....	790 124
Spanish.	
Rio de Oro.....	167 400
Muni River.....	1 750
Total.....	169 150
Turkish.	
Tripoli and Benghazi.....	398 900
Egypt.	
Egypt proper.....	400 000
Anglo-Egyptian Soudan.....	610 000
Total.....	1 010 000
Separate States.	
Congo Free State.....	900 000
Liberia.....	52 000
Morocco.....	219 000
Abyssinia.....	320 000
Total.....	1 491 000
Nominally under Turkish suzerainty.	
Summarizing the totals thus obtained, we arrive at the following result:—	
Square miles.	
British.....	2 713 974
French.....	3 804 974
German.....	938 380
Italian.....	188 500
Portuguese.....	790 124
Spanish.....	169 150
Turkish.....	398 900
Egyptian.....	1 010 000
Separate States.....	491 000
Total.....	11 499 938
It is probable that as regards the area	

in the above table, they are over rather than underestimated, for the natural tendency is to exaggerate rather than to diminish the extent of one's possessions. But taking the figures for what they are worth it is apparent that the three principal participants in the scramble have not done at all badly. Germany, a comparative late comer in the field, has secured close on a million square miles in four "Estates," three of which at least are well populated, and afford abundant opportunity for the exercise of the traditional qualities of her people. In the matter of the superficial extent of her possessions, France is an easy first, though we should run her close if Egypt and the Egyptian Soudan were added to Great Britain's African possessions. It is true that the sands of the Sahara give as yet little promise of commercial advantage to France, but both on the Mediterranean and on the West Coast France has colonies which, if properly administered, should prove a source of permanent prosperity to the republic. If the number of actual or prospective customers were taken as the test, it is certain that Great Britain would be ahead of all competitors, while in the thickly-populated basin of the Congo the Sovereign of the Free State has command of markets which should at some future time prove of great value to the commerce of Europe.

West India and vicinity.

The Passenger Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway announce that arrangements have been made whereby the suburban train service of that Company, to points between St. John and Welsford this season, commencing June 10th, will be very much superior to anything yet offered.

In the first place there will be a local suburban express leaving Lingley at 6 40 A. M., arriving in St. John 7 20 A. M. The Fredericton express, making all stops Welsford to St. John, will, as usual, reach St. John at 8 20 A. M.

For the benefit of Sunday School Pienies and small excursion parties, and others who wish to spend a day in the country, there will be a local express leaving St. John at 9 10 A. M., making all intermediate stops as far as Welsford. This train will return to St. John behind the Montreal and Boston expresses, reaching St. John at 12 35 P. M.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays there will be a special trip of the suburban train, leaving St. John at 1 00 p. m. and returning leave Welsford at 2 10 p. m., arriving at St. John 3 10 p. m.

The outward service for the suburban residents will be, leaving St. John 4 30 p. m. by local express, making all stops, and the 5 35 p. m. Boston express, making Fairville, Grand Bay, Westfield and Welsford stops, and the 7 30 p. m. Fredericton express, making all local stops.

On Saturday night the accommodation train due to leave at 5 55 p. m. will be held until 10 00 p. m. for the accommodation of suburban residents as far as Welsford.

For the return of picnic parties and excursionists there will be a trip of the suburban train leaving Welsford at 5 55 p. m. arriving at St. John at 7 00 p. m., making all local stops; and in addition to this there will be the regular eastbound express from Boston passing Welsford at 9 40 p. m., stopping on flag at Lingley, Westfield, Rivertank, Grand Bay, Ingleside and Fairville, due at St. John 10 30 p. m.

The time used above in each case is Eastern Standard.

The Passenger Department propose to issue in the course of a few days a folder giving complete time of each of the above trains and showing local, commutation and family ticket rates from St. John to all points as far as Welsford; also information regarding picnics, Saturday—Monday excursions, etc.

The Fly Settled the Question.

At a recent meeting of the Entomological Society in London the president, Mr. G. H. Verrall, told an amusing story to prove that a knowledge of insects may even be useful in settling questions in literary history. Commentators on the works of Robert Louis Stevenson were trying in vain to discover whether the notes made by him in a certain book were written before or after he took up his residence in Samoa. It happened that a fly had been quizzed between the pages, and when Mr. Verrall saw it, he instantly recognized it as belonging to a species peculiar to the Polynesian islands. That settled the question.

Plague's Hold on India.

Some figures of the Indian census cabled from London have already shown the ravages of plague and famine in India. Letters written from Simla on March 7 show that matters have been even worse than those figures indicated, and that though the famine is now nearly at an end, the plague is almost as bad as ever.

The following passages reveal a state of affairs which surprises persons who have thought for some time that all was well again.

The Viceroy, toward the end of last year, estimated that the total mortality through the famine of 1899 1900 would amount to about 750 000. It is almost certain that this computation will prove far too low. Many experts are of the opinion that at least double that number died, directly or indirectly. The census figures for Marwar alone are significant enough. Here we find a decrease of 600,000 souls. It is not unlikely that the northern portions of Bombay may show a decrease of a round million, most of which must be directly due to the terribly severe famine of last year.

In the central provinces, the majority of the districts so far show heavy decreases. Thus Jubbulpore district is 67,000 to the bad, Narsingpur 53,000, Seoni 44,000, and so on.

During the last ten years the central provinces have had at least five years of either acute scarcity or downright famine, and a decrease in the rural population was therefore, to some extent inevitable. In the northwest provinces, which have been more favored in the matter of good seasons, things are somewhat better; but even here the tendency is, on the whole, toward a decrease. Mirzapur district shows a decrease of 78,000, Ghazipur one of 110,000, Benares 38,000, Benares City 16,000 and so on. The important town and provincial capital of Allahabad shows increase of only 336 persons in ten years. Elsewhere in India we find Bangalore, one of the principal cantonments in the south, exhibiting a decrease of no less than 23 per cent as compared with 1891. In this case plague is held to account for the deficiency.

Perhaps at no time since its first appearance in Bombay, in the autumn of 1896, has the plague been more serious in India than at the present moment. If one hears less about it this is simply because everybody has got so used to its continued presence, which is taken very much as a matter of course. In Bombay city the people have grown absolutely callous. There is no longer a scare, no longer a precipitate flight to the country districts. The disease has established its right to a permanent residence in the western capital, and this right has been tacitly conceded by the inhabitants. Nothing could be more marked than the positive indifference of the natives of Bombay to the ravages of the pestilence. The lower orders, profiting by the policy of laissez faire which the authorities, for political motives, felt compelled to adopt last year, have ceased either to take the most elementary precautions themselves or to allow other people to do this for them. The more enlightened native citizens not only make no attempt to combat the ignorant prejudices and bigoted opinions of their humbler fellows, but positively encourage them in their passive resistance to the simplest sanitary laws.

Yet in Poona cantonment, not much more than a hundred miles away, excellent results have been obtained by adopting precautions. Last year, when another outbreak seemed imminent, the military authorities did what they could to encourage the people to submit to inoculation. In a few months upward of 14,000 persons, out of a population of some 35,000, had undergone the operation. The results were almost immediately apparent, and triumphantly vindicated the merits of the plague prophylactic. In Poona city, which adjoins the cantonment, plague was raging furiously. There the accepted policy of the day, a policy forced on Lord Curzon by the blind fanaticism of the people of India, held fall away. In a short time there were upward of 5,000 plague cases, with 4,311 deaths out of a population of not much more than 100,000. The cantonment as stated, ad-

joins the city. Communication between the two is as incessant as between Fleet street and the Strand; yet thanks to the precautions adopted by Gen. Burnett and the military authorities the cases in the cantonment only numbered 210, with 143 deaths, out of a population of upward of 30,000. The native soldiers, who mix freely in the bazars, were inoculated. Only one case occurred among them, and that proved mild, the patient recovering.

Calcutta has never shaken off the plague, but somehow or other it does not seem a very favorable place for the spread of the epidemic. Elsewhere in Bengal, however, the outlook is more disquieting. Patna, Monghyr, Gaya and other towns and districts are now absolutely in the grip of the pestilence. The mortality in these places has for weeks past been of an alarming character. The plague is spreading. From Patna it has crossed the Ganges into the planting districts of Behar. Thence it has gone to Ballia, a somewhat fanatical place in the northwest provinces.

From Ballia the plague has lately spread to Benares. It could hardly have taken a more fatal course. Benares is the sacred city of the Hindoos. Thither flock, from every part of India, hundreds of thousands of devotees, of both sexes and of every age, eager to worship at the sacred shrines and bathe in the holy Ganges. Thus from Benares infection is carried to every portion, however remote, of India. An outbreak of plague in such a centre is therefore, one of the most serious calamities which has so far occurred in the history of that pestilence in India. It is rendered more serious by the character of the population. All that is most bigoted, most fanatical, most opposed to British rule and the spread of Western science and civilization is concentrated at Benares. There are to be found in hundreds the fakirs, jogis, sanyasis and other medics, and ascetics, the majority of whom are the bitter enemies of our rule in India. There the flame of religious fervor burns at its brightest. To attempt in such a place to check the pestilence by ordinary and common-sense measures of sanitation would mean an immediate tumult and bloodshed. The disinfection of houses is regarded as wholesale defilement; the segregation of the sick as a preliminary to their murder.

Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Lieutenant Governor, has just visited the place, and has spoken to the people on the necessity of adopting such precautions as the vacation of houses, disinfection and inoculation. After him there got up a retired Judge, an intelligent gentleman, well acquainted with the prejudices of the people. He declared that they would have neither house vacation nor inoculation, though the more enlightened amongst them might perhaps allow disinfection. With prejudices such as these to contend with, it may be imagined how great are the difficulties of the local authorities in dealing with the plague.

The Government of India has estimated that for the first three months of the current year a sum of 36 lakhs in excess of their previous estimates will be required for famine relief in Bombay, while a further sum of 106 lakhs has been estimated for the period after April 1, next. There is no longer any doubt that the situation in a large portion of Bombay is past saving, and is, in fact, very serious indeed. The Bombay Decan never had any rain worth mentioning last season, and the result is that crops were either not sown or withered for want of moisture. Water and fodder for cattle, even drinking water for human beings, are extremely scarce, and acute famine will exist for several months to come. In Gujerat, once the garden of India, things are worse. The hardy peasant of the Decan is more or less injured to famine. He is accustomed to a scarcity of rain in his stony wastes on the average every third year. With the Gujerati, however, the conditions are entirely different. Both he and his cattle are incapable of successfully meeting the wear and tear of famine. The Government is understood to be already organizing measures of relief on a large scale, and it is hoped that these will comprise village works, and not huge camps 20,000 strong.