

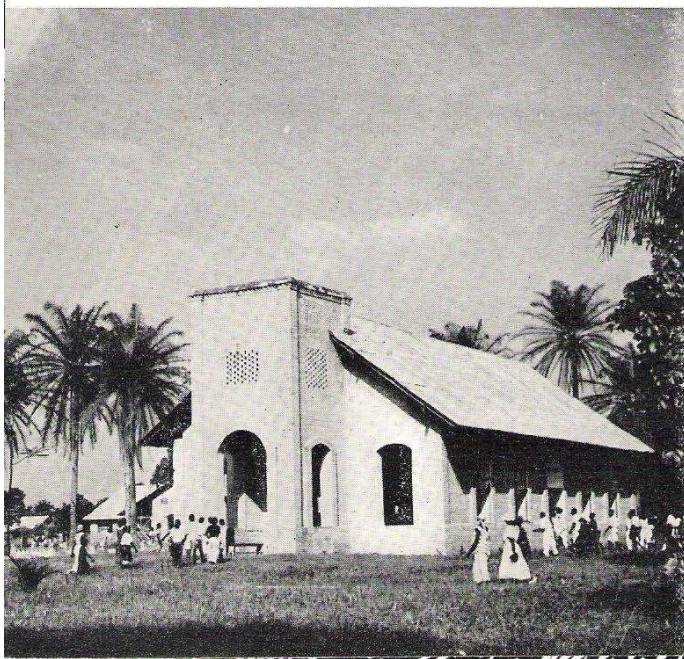


Natives are being taught to handle scientific instruments.



Natives are able medical assistants.

Church at Bolenge.



Protestant Missions

Protestant missions, most of which are American, have also contributed in no small manner to the Congo natives' spiritual and physical welfare.

The first Protestant missionary was Dr. David Livingstone, who went to the Congo in 1854. Thereafter it took several years before an English mission headed by George Grenfell left for the colony.

Today, besides American and English Protestant missions, there are Scandinavian and Belgian Protestant missions all of which meet every three years at a general conference.

Although much attention is given by the Protestant missions to education and the teaching of trades—some twenty printing shops are maintained and books are published in forty dialects—the medical services form the most important part of their activity.

To some of the natives they give a scientific education and these natives are thus trained to become able assistants mainly in the medical field.

Thanks mainly to American generosity and a substantial subsidy of the Belgian Government, Protestant missions maintain an extensive medical service in the Belgian Congo which accounted for no less than 2,574,022 consultations in 1940, and 446,471 natives treated. These figures show a notable increase over the previous years.

There are 57 medical men employed by the Protestant missions in the Belgian Congo, as well as 98 white nurses and 8 missionaries dealing with medical services only. The Protestant native personnel comprises 381 male and female nurses.

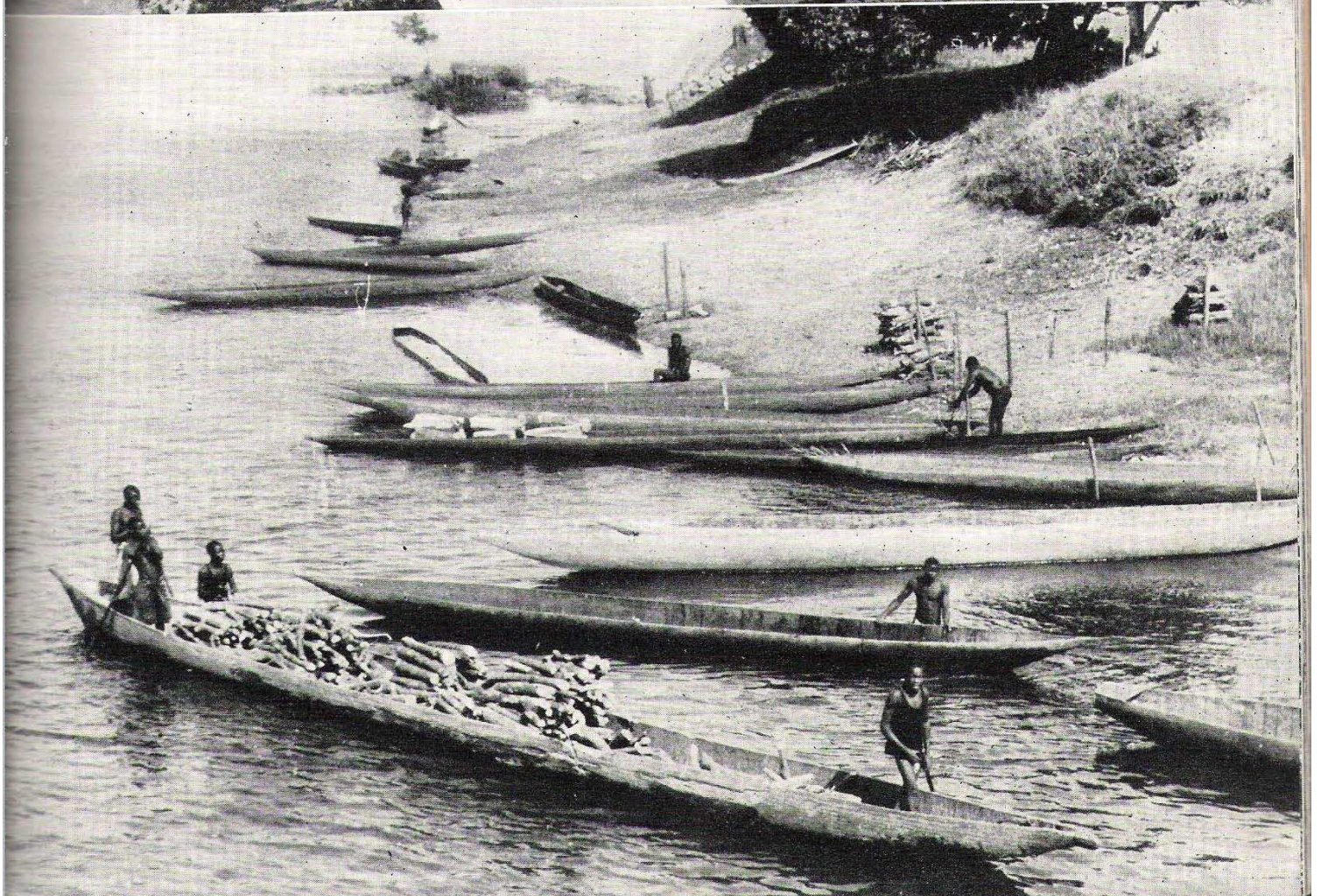
The Protestant missions have 71 hospitals and dispensaries, 41 rural dispensaries, and 27 lazarets.

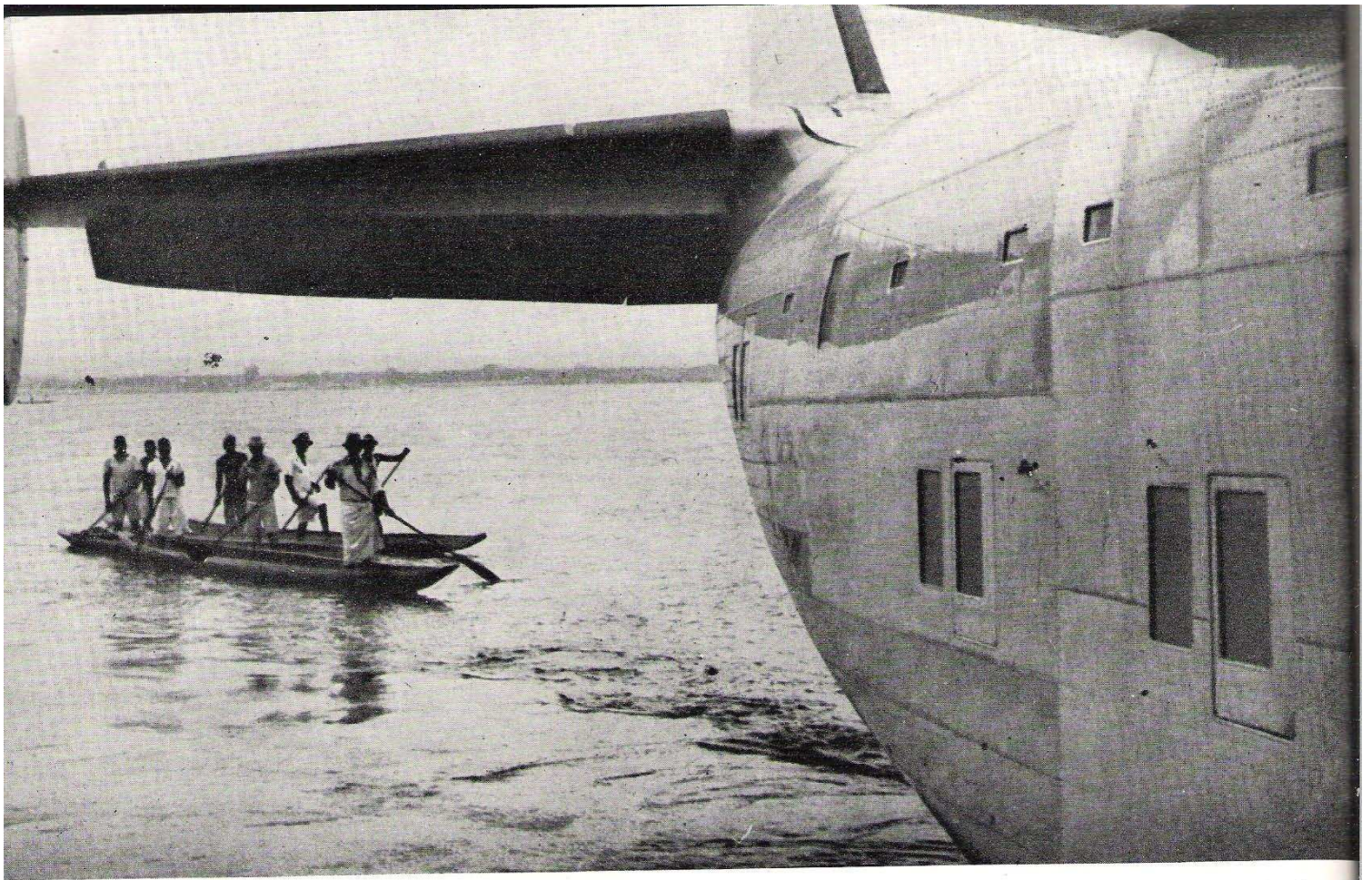
The Protestant missionaries are very devoted to their task and have gained the respect and affection of the natives.

An interesting periodical, "Congo Mission News," is published by the Congo Protestant Council.

Embarking on a long journey

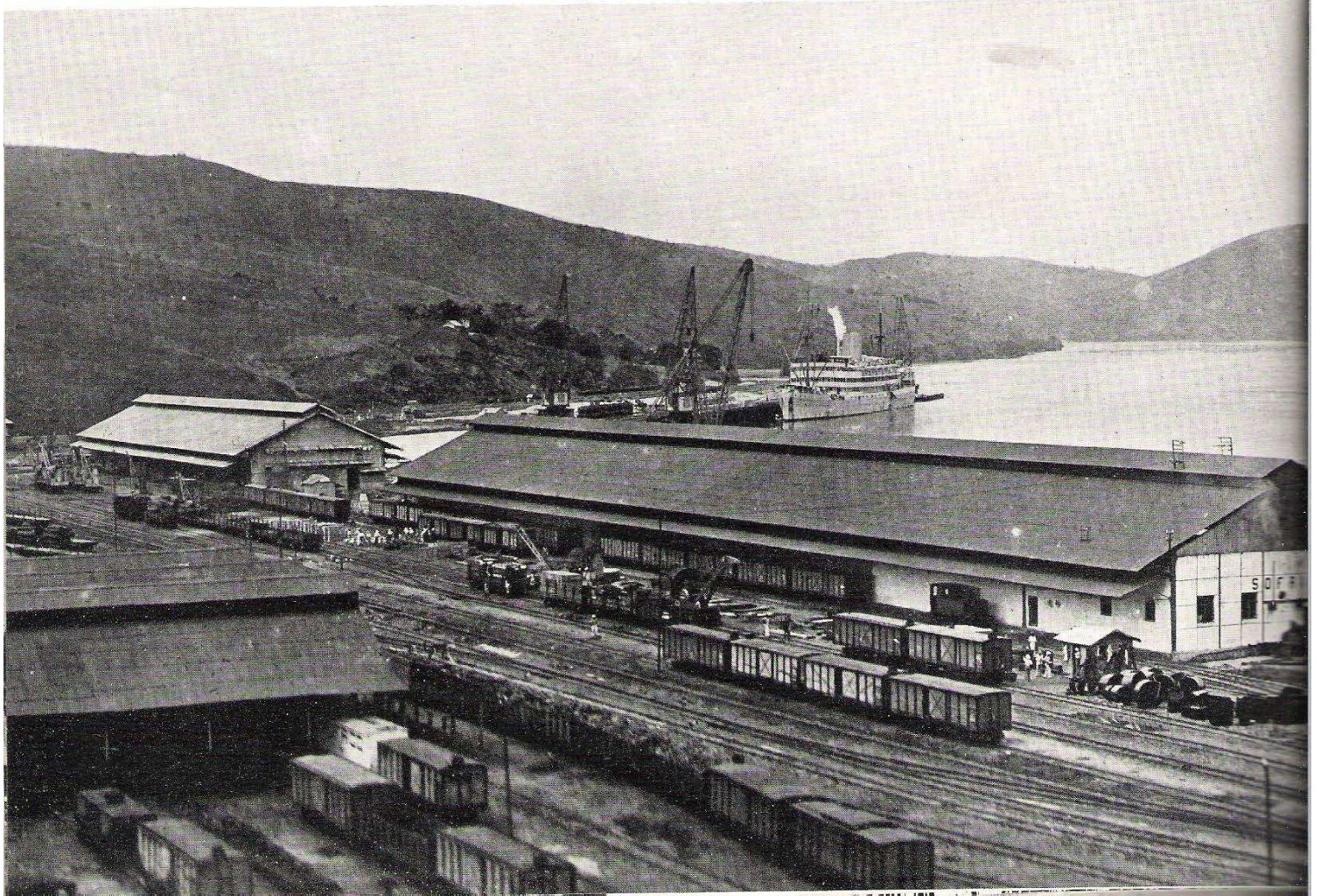
*Natives shipping kindling wood
on the Congo river.*





native canoe meets the Clipper at Leopoldville. ↑

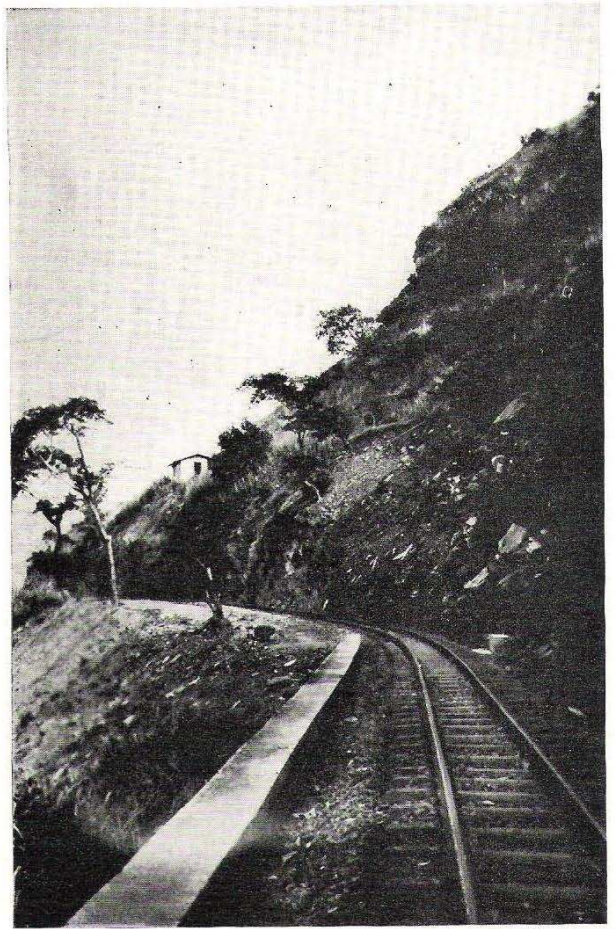
↓ The port of Matadi.



A Modern System of Communications built up in Twenty Years

Although strenuous efforts were made by the Belgians in the Congo, before World War I, to open up the colony by building roads and railways and modernizing river navigation, the biggest stride in that direction was made in the last 20 years and it can be said that in those years the Belgian Congo has built a large and modern system of communications.

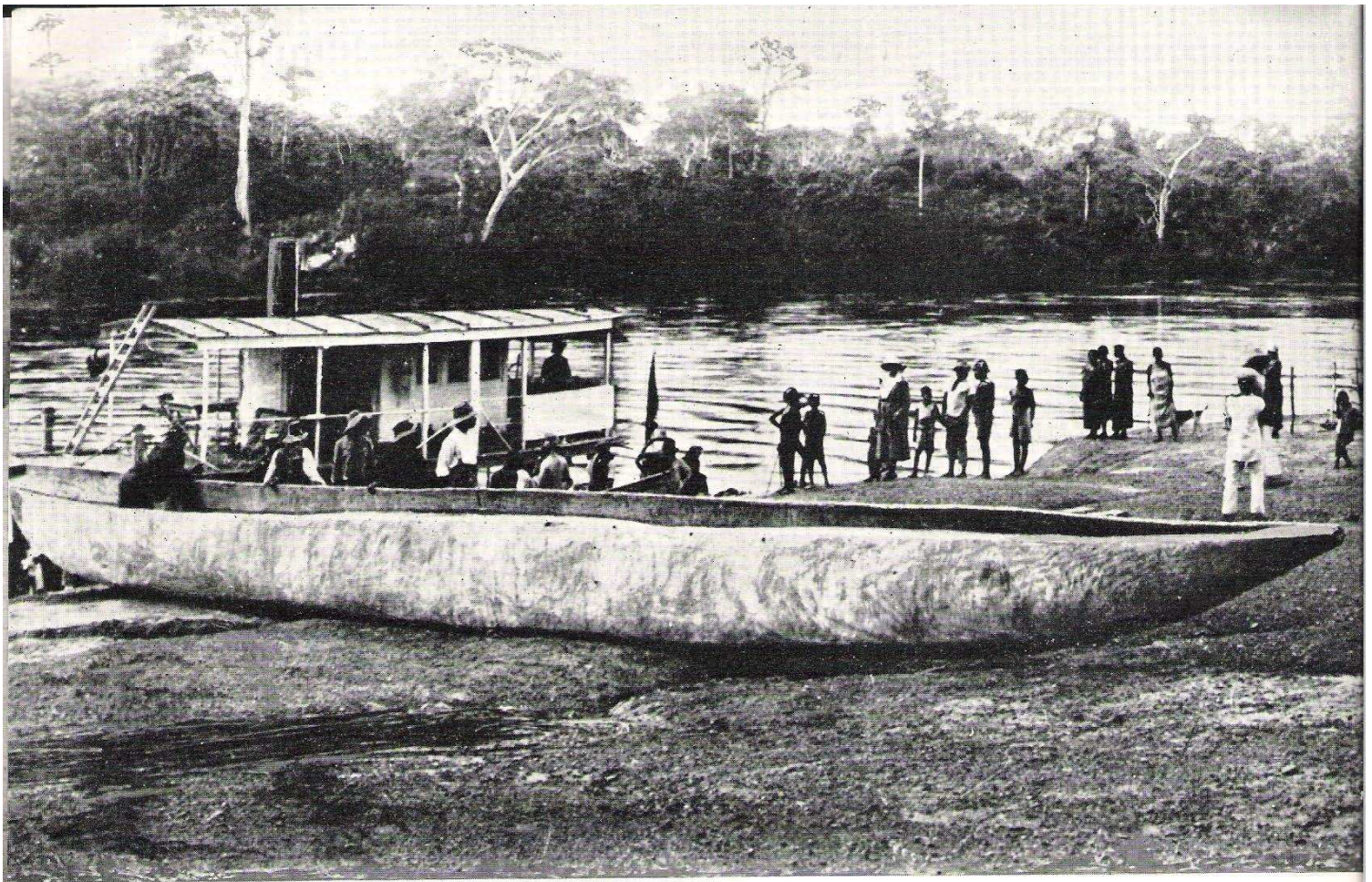
Over 3,500 miles of railroads are in operation. River navigation now extends to over 21,000 miles and river boats total over 110,000 tons. A network of 45,000 miles of highways completes these communications and some 10,000 cars



Many obstacles were overcome to build the railway

Belgian engineers turned trails into highways.





Finely shaped canoes built by the natives can be seen on every river.

and trucks as well as 2,000 motor cycles circulate daily on the roads.

The Congo is one of the few African colonies which has

A small railroad station.



a complete air mail system and the interior airlines now cover 10,000 miles.

Before the German aggression against Belgium, there was a regular airline between Belgium and the Congo, the distance of 4,000 miles being covered in three days. There are also numerous direct air links between the Belgian Congo and the other African countries. At the end of 1941, a Clipper service between the United States and the Congo was inaugurated. The 42-ton air boat takes five days to fly the 8,690 miles — the world's longest. The line connects with other airlines, namely to the Sudan and to South Africa.

By sea, the connections with Belgium were taken care of, before the war, by a Belgian company whose freighter and passenger ships were among the most modern in existence.

The Belgian Congo was the first African country to install a wireless system and today there is no city of importance in the Congo which has not its wireless installation. There is, of course, a good telegraph and telephone system.