

country. INEAC is thus carrying out a vast program of agronomical selections and researches which has led to a great increase in agricultural productivity.

On the other hand, the government is working out practical action. But whether it is a question of making new techniques known, furnishing selected seeds and plants to the tribal communities, establishing agricultural centers, keeping check on the progress of the crops or improving instruction in the field of agriculture, the government's action is always based on the scientific work of INEAC.

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During World War II, Congolese agriculture, which Belgium had originally found in the primitive state of a local activity serving as a mere means of subsistence, already played a foremost role in the provisioning of the Allied nations.

After the interlude of this war effort, the policy of the Belgian government was again concentrated on all the measures calculated to improve the standard of living of the rural areas. Thanks to the Ten Year Plan, it has been possible to establish this policy on firm bases, and especially to succeed in creating the native farming developments, an aim that was first formulated in 1933.

The creation of the native farming developments had three goals: agricultural, economic, and social. On the agricultural level, it was a question of stabilizing the rural populations by replacing the former extensive and semi-nomad agriculture by an intensive and rationally organized agriculture. On the economic level, the aim was to increase rural production and make this productive effort profitable. On the social level, the plan provided for the establishment of communities that would be offered satisfactory moral and material living conditions.

At that time, an event occurred that was to have immense repercussions on Congolese agriculture; the speech made by Prince Leopold in the Senate in 1933 on his return from journeys to the Dutch East Indies and the Belgian Congo. This speech set forth principles which, down to the present time, have dominated the evolution of the methods employed in the Congo.

Prince Leopold declared that « the future belongs to those colonies where the land is cultivated under the most economical conditions ». This statement stressed the importance of agriculture, especially native agriculture. In regard to the latter, he said: « Production will be assured by the native who will no longer be a salaried worker but a free peasant, the proprietor of his land ». Insisting on this fundamental idea of the « free peasant », the Prince emphasized the importance of « promoting the native farming community developments in their most complete form, in order to permit the native to become a landowner and enjoy the economic freedom guaranteed to him by our Colonial Charter ».

In order to assure agriculture of the rational and progressive development desired, a wider appeal had first to be made to the resources of science.

In the course of that same year, 1933, the Institut National pour l'Etude Agronomique du Congo Belge (National Institute for the Agronomical Study of the Belgian Congo) — known under the name of INEAC — was founded. At the same time, the expansion of the rural economy became the basic objective of the government agricultural services.

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From that time on, the expansion of agriculture was pursued according to two plans that were parallel and complementary.

On the one hand, INEAC directs its activities towards basic research and the application of scientific knowledge in such a way as to serve the economic and social development of the

As for the social problem, the creation of the native farming developments does not constitute an end in itself, but a beginning. This development is above all a substructure upon which will be established, thanks to modernized agriculture, a new social class destined to play an essential rôle in the stability of the Congo of tomorrow. (1)

A start has already been made on finding solutions for these new problems. Thus begins a new phase in the evolution of the country.

B.

Results Obtained.

Scientific research conducted by INEAC and followed up by a program of government propaganda — such is the procedure on which Congolese agricultural progress has been based for a quarter of a century.

A few facts will serve to illustrate the results of this policy.

Results of Scientific Research.

In the course of these past twenty-five years, INEAC has made use of various branches of knowledge : botany, ecology, genetics, selection, phytopathology, technology, agricultural chemistry, rural engineering, etc. It has perfected numerous

(1) See Part 4, Chapter X, Section 2 : « The Native Independent Class ».

This was a long, arduous task which required meticulous preparation. In the regions where such a farming development was to be organized, the soil had first to be studied, boundaries marked out, and sites chosen where each peasant would be allotted a parcel of land on which he could set up his farm and grow food crops and other marketable products according to a carefully worked out system of rotation. Furthermore, the local customs tribes had to be respected, and, if necessary, the local customs had to be observed. The native farming development is not a rigid formula applied uniformly throughout the Congo ; it varies with different regions, presenting decidedly individualistic features in one place, and elsewhere a collectivistic attitude approaching the mentality of the clan.

Today this program has become a reality to a considerable extent. It provided for the settlement of 500,000 peasants : one-third of these are already on their farms. For their benefit, thousands of miles of local roads have been built and centers with schools and dispensaries set up ; hundreds of springs have been tapped and wells have been dug ; tens of thousands of artificial ponds intended for fish breeding have been created and, in various places, cattle gathered for reproductive purposes ; finally, to assure this young movement of economic advantages, co-operatives of « peasant producers » have been established.

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But putting this program in operation raises new problems : a technical problem and a social one.

In regard to the technical problem, it is not enough to stabilize the condition of the native Congolese farmer. Once he has settled down on his new land, the quantity and the value of his agricultural output must be increased, and to achieve this result the most modern methods and equipment must be put at his disposal : mechanized implements for field work ; the use of mineral fertilizer, and phytosanitary treatment of the plantations.

Results of Agricultural Propaganda.

Here too, the figures show in a striking fashion what progress has been achieved.

From 1950 to 1955, the national income from European agriculture in the Congo has increased by 39%, rising from over 2 billion to some 3 billion francs. As for the national income from native agriculture, it has increased by 50%, rising during the same period from about 8 billion to more than 12 billion francs.

The government's action makes use of numerous means. Certain bureaux check the quality and the standardization of products intended for export, such as coffee. Training-farms give technical training on the spot to future European colonists. Specialized services have been set up in certain regions, such as the rural economy syndicate of the Lower Congo and the anti-erosion mission of Bukavu. Bureaus for technical study give help to private individuals, native communities, etc. Moreover, effecting a junction between the research installations of INEAC and various groups of farmers, the government has set up a network of regional stations such as stations for studying problems of adaptation, and local testing centers. Finally, a number of agronomists, accompanied by native assistants, carry on, throughout the country, an intensive action which aims to educate the population and develop different crops.

Between 1950 and 1956, twenty new agricultural schools were opened; at Leopoldville and Elisabethville two universities faculties were created that give the diploma of agricultural engineer.

During the same period, one million acres of land had been prospected with a view to establishing new native farming developments; 250,000 acres had been protected against erosion, and 10,000 irrigated; 25,000 acres of forest land had been added; about twenty local stations for studying problems of adaptation had been built; finally, more than 125,000 acres of coffee shrubs, palm trees, and Para rubber trees had been planted.

techniques in agriculture and grazing; devised sanitary methods and elaborated plans for agricultural propaganda; introduced better means of production and the use of fertilizer and machinery. In short, INEAC is responsible for the basic conception of the native farming developments.

It has come to the aid of planters and cattle breeders by furnishing them with saplings and animals carefully selected and adapted to tropical conditions. Thus between 1951 and 1956, it has given them nearly 2,000 tons of selected or improved seeds, more than 5 million saplings and cuttings, about 40 tons of tubers, and close to 3,000 head of cattle of a better breed for reproductive purposes.

To list all the results obtained by INEAC would make for tedious reading. However, the remarkable increase in the yield of the crops should not be passed over in silence, for such an increase is the major criterion of the efficiency of an institute for agronomic research. Here are some eloquent figures in this domain.

In 1934, at the time when the Institute embarked upon its program, the average productivity of the Robusta coffee shrub was 478 kilograms (1) to the acre; today, if conditions in regard to soil and climate are favorable, the productive potential of the seeds supplied by INEAC is 1,400 kilograms.

Since 1930, the yield of rice has risen from 600 to 1,100 kilograms per acre, that of corn from 1,000 to 2,000 kilograms, and that of cotton from 200 to 500 kilograms as far as the variety called « Stoneville » is concerned; finally, the yield of industrial plantations for the selected palm tree has increased from 1,000 to 2,500 kilograms of oil per acre.

It can be considered that these proportions are not limited to the plants named, but that they can be found in all the industrial and food crop plantations of the Congo. It is therefore obvious that scientific research plays a preponderant part in the prevailing prosperity of the Congo.

(1) 1 kilogram = 2.2046 lbs.

As for the establishment of new native farming developments, the figures gathered in 1956 were decisive. That year nearly 200,000 farms had been parcelled out and more than 150,000 peasants had been settled. These first farmers did not total even one-tenth of the rural population. However, they were producing 15 % of the total output of corn and peanut plants, 22 % of the output of rice (paddy), and 27 % of the output of cotton. These favorable results are the fruits of close collaboration, according to a system peculiar to the Belgian Congo, between a specialized research service and a government agricultural propaganda service.

2. Agricultural Activities.

A.

Crops.

In the Congo, there are two economies — the native and the European — that are often linked, although each retains its own character. They unite their efforts to produce the agricultural raw materials of the country. The European economy frequently supplies the native economy with the impetus and the outlets needed. Today it can be said that almost the entire European agricultural economy is directed toward commercial and industrial outlets, whereas the native agricultural economy, formerly geared to providing a mere means of subsistence, is

Cotton.

The cultivation of cotton is mainly a native activity. It is carried on by more than 700,000 planters who exploit 825,000 acres during an average year.

The geographical situation of the Congo constitutes an economic advantage of the first importance in this connection: Since the cotton zones are located on either side of the equator, the resulting inversion of the harvesting seasons assures continuity of production.

The cotton produced is intended both for export — in which it is second only to the products of the elaeis palm tree — and for the home market where textile factories till a part of the local needs; these factories absorb one-fifth of the Congolese output of cotton. In Belgium, one out of every six tons of cotton imported comes from the Congo.

The raw cotton harvested by the natives is delivered by them to ginning factories for industrial processing. At this point, a special system has been devised to protect the interests of the native planters: these ginning factories — 125 in number — have been reduced to the rôle of sub-contractors working for the planters. The latter turn their cotton over to the factories for ginning, transportation, and selling on the world markets. According to this system, the cotton remains the property of the native planter until it is sold on the foreign market.

At the same time, the government puts into practice a policy of price stabilization so as to avert the discouraging effect that a sudden collapse of international market prices would have on the native planters. With this aim in view, a «cotton reserve fund» has been set up, to which is contributed a share of the profits realized during good years; in case of a fall in prices, money is taken out of this fund to assure the native planter of a certain minimum price for his cotton. This system is supplemented by the existence of native co-operatives which serve as intermediaries between individual planters and the organizations that take care of the processing and sale of the cotton.

freeing itself more and more from its traditional closed cycle and is participating also in the modern trends; one-fifth of its production is already earmarked for commerce.

The following is a brief survey of the present state of the leading Congolese crops. It should be noted that four large groups of products taken together represent more than eight-tenths of the value of the agricultural exports. These are the products of the elaeis palm tree, cotton, coffee, and rubber.

The Elaeis Palm Tree.

The elaeis palm tree plays a leading part in Congolese life. It not only supplies the greater part of the population with most of the edible fats needed, but its products head the list of the agricultural output.

The equatorial basin is a natural source of palm oil. It is covered with vast palm groves that were the first sources of raw materials. Gradually, these palm groves are being put to a better use in order to improve their yield; and finally, huge plantations of selected palm trees giving a higher percentage of oil have come into existence. Since the end of the war, the development of the native and European plantations has proceeded at about the same rate, the former increasing by 100,000 acres in ten years, and the latter by 87,000. Therefore, aside from the natural or improved palm groves, the Congo now has over 500,000 acres of palm plantations, three-quarters of which are in full production; more than one-third of these plantations, which are intended for commercial purposes, are in the hands of the natives.

Two facts will illustrate the economic importance of the palm tree products. The Congo alone furnishes one-sixth of the world's output of palm oil, and one-third of its output of palm nuts.

In June 1955, the assets of the Cotton Fund exceeded 1,300,000 francs. It should be noted that the rôle of the Fund is not limited to stabilizing prices; it also serves the purpose of promoting the economic and social development of the native districts and, in this connection, it has been possible to use some of the reserves for investments intended to improve production.

Coffee.

Two kinds of coffee shrubs are cultivated in the Congo; one is indigenous to the country and is called the Robusta, while the other, which is indigenous to Arabia, is known as the Arabica. The Robusta can be cultivated at an altitude as great as 5,000 feet; the Arabica, at an altitude of 3,300 to 8,300 feet.

The Robusta is grown by the natives and by European enterprises in the North as well as in the equatorial basin; the Arabica, raised mainly by the Europeans, is found in the east, especially in Kivu and Ituri.

Two agencies — each specialized in one of these species — take care of conditioning them for export, checking the quality, and classifying them according to type.

Congolese coffee, thanks to the strict control of its quality, has quickly found foreign outlets and today is classified among the leading exports. All the different brands are now in demand in most of the coffee-consuming countries of the world and, in the New York market, brands of Arabica are quoted at the highest rates.

The cultivation of Congolese coffee is now in full swing among the European planters as well as in the native communities to which it has brought handsome profits. In 1956, almost 40,000 tons of Congolese coffee had been exported; the plantations covered some 375,000 acres, including 150,000 acres of young plantations. It can be calculated that, considering the uninterrupted growth in the areas devoted to coffee, in 1965 there will be nearly 250,000 acres in full productivity, which will assure a minimum output of nearly 60,000 tons.

Rubber.

The Para rubber tree, imported from Brazil, is the best of rubber-producing trees and has found its ideal soil in the vicinity of the equator line. Thanks to systematic cultivation, it has rapidly displaced the lianas and rubber plants that had been grown at the time of the Congo Free State.

Today the Para rubber tree is cultivated by natives as well as by Europeans. The outlets opened up by the last war have brought about a considerable growth in these plantations. Thus, to mention merely the European enterprises, between 1940 and 1956 the acreage increased from some 33,000 to nearly 150,000, of which three-quarters were productive. As for the output, between 1945 and 1956, it soared from about 2,000 tons to more than 30,000. The native plantations have also undergone a considerable development; at the present time they cover about 50,000 acres. They are generally exploited through native co-operatives, or in collaboration with colonists of the region.

Cocoa.

Because of its susceptibility to cryptogamic diseases, the cultivation of the cacao tree has proved to be very difficult in the Congo. The tree requires a great deal of care and this explains why almost only Europeans have grown it in the Congo. Moreover, it needs a rich soil and a great deal of rainfall; the large cacao plantations are found chiefly in the Mayumbe and in an equatorial zone stretching from Lukolela to Stanleyville.

Although the production of Congolese cacao is increasing, its upward trend is moderate. The areas planted expanded between 1947 and 1956 from some 20,000 to nearly 58,000 acres of which 38,000 were productive.

Tea growing is very recent in the Congo. Tea trees, indigenous to Java and India, have little by little spread over large areas of Kivu and Ituri; plantations which in 1937 covered only 130 acres now occupy more than 5,000.

Congolese tea immediately found outlets in the home markets. The natives soon took to it, and they bought little packages of it by the million. But since 1953 tea production has also found foreign outlets, and its quality has gained a place for it in the London market. Tea growing seems destined to develop considerably, and it is estimated that within ten years the Congo will be able to produce 10,000 tons of tea regularly.

Food Crops.

Food crops are intended chiefly for the use of the natives. A large part of these crops fills the subsistence needs of the natives, while the rest goes into the market to provision the important centers — the cities and the workers' agglomerations. These crops are produced not only by the natives but also by some of the European colonists living near the larger centers. A small percentage of the output of food crops is earmarked for the foreign market; in the case of certain products such as rice and fresh cassava, exportation is not permitted unless the needs of the natives have been met.

The chief food crops are fresh cassava, corn, rice, and peanuts. They have an important place in the Congolese economy. Indeed, these four items alone cover an area of nearly 3,750,000 acres; they yield more than 8 million tons. A quarter of these products are marketed; it is calculated that the remaining 6 million tons, intended for the needs of the natives, can be evaluated at more than 4 1/2 billion francs.

Other Products.

Other agricultural products, although not negligible, play a less important rôle in the general economy of the country. Among these, cinchona, pyrethrum, tobacco, derris, and plants producing essential oils for perfume are worthy of mention; they were introduced into the Congo fairly recently and are for the most part cultivated by European colonists.

The Mayumbe region specializes in growing bananas; the output is already sufficient to meet one-quarter of the Belgian demand. In the Lower Congo, the sugar cane plantations are rapidly expanding, thanks to the increase in home consumption. If sugar exports — which exceeded 12,000 tons in 1939 — have completely ceased since 1950, home consumption on the other hand increased from 18,000 to 28,000 tons during a period of three years, from 1953 to 1956.

The urena fiber plant is grown in some parts of the province of Leopoldville. This activity is entirely in the hands of natives, but its progress is hampered by the difficulties encountered in merchandizing the processing operations.

Among products that are gathered by the natives and that still constitute a source of profit, the punga fiber plant should be mentioned; but especially noteworthy is copal, a fossilized vegetable resin which occurs in the marshes of certain equatorial regions; it was of great importance during the war.

B. Forestry.

The sum total of Congolese forest land, including the wooded savannas, covers some 450,000 square miles, over 50% of the area of the country. However, less than 5% of this forest land is

government's forest conservation policy; it is supplemented by fiscal regulations providing a reforestation tax which must be paid by people engaged in forest exploitation.

C.

Fishing and Pisciculture.

Fishing, as well as hunting, was at one time among the chief sources of sustenance for the Congolese. Fish then occupied — as it does today — an important place in the food supply. This can be easily understood when one realizes the immensity of the hydrographic basin of the Congo River together with its numerous ramifications.

However, in this enormous hydrographic basin there existed, side by side with reaches that abounded in fish, others where it was rare. Moreover, the traditional manner of fishing was often disastrous, because it was generally practiced without any system, and even involved the use of toxic substances.

First of all, the « fish-capital » of the reaches abounding in fish had to be protected. In order to do this, a series of measures were taken that were intended to assure rational exploitation by appropriate fishing methods. Then, with the aim of utilizing the reaches less well provided with fish, a system of pisciculture was introduced permitting the breeding of an indigenous fish that would be particularly adaptable to various environments — the tilapia.

This system has borne fruit. One simple fact will serve to illustrate: in 1956, rational methods applied to fishing in

exploitable, and the acreage utilized at present is inferior to 500,000, or 15% of the total amount.

This very low percentage is due first of all to the great distances separating the exploitable regions from the consumption centers and the chief transportation facilities. Besides, the average productivity of the Congo's forest land is very low. This is accounted for by its heterogeneous composition — as many as forty to eighty different species per acre can be found — and by the fact that the varieties worth exploiting are scattered far and wide. It is estimated that an acre of forest land will yield from 6 to 14 cubic meters of usable logs, or 10 cubic meters on the average. Moreover, the virulence of the wood-destroying agents is a factor not to be overlooked. Expenses involved in production and transportation therefore being high, Congolese wood is costly, and only a few varieties of great economic value are exploited.

The wood exported represents 20% of the tonnage and 4 to 5% of the value of the exports of agricultural products. The greater part of the trees felled are intended for local consumption: construction work, furniture, and fuel for industry.

The policy pursued in regard to the Congo's forests is aimed at valorizing the ligneous capital and assuring its conservation; the latter is indispensable if the country is to be protected against the danger of erosion. With this aim in view, a vast program is under way, a program providing for better care of the forests, an increase in the number of valuable trees, and also reforestation. By the end of 1955, it was estimated that 65,000 acres of forest land had been cared for or made more valuable, 87,000 had been wooded with a view to production, and 400,000 acres of savannas had been protected by planting thick borders around them. A detailed set of rules — as has been shown in the chapter entitled « The Land Policy » — (1) spells out the

(1) See Part III, Chapter V.

Such a result shows the tremendous importance of pisciculture in provisioning the Congolese populations; it will soon largely make up for the difficulties presented up to now by supplying them with meat.

Furthermore, mention should be made of the establishment, at Matadi, of a salt water fishing venture which furnishes the markets of Leopoldville and the Lower Congo with more than 3,000 tons of salt water fish every year, and at a price decidedly lower than that charged for fresh fish transported at great expense to these large agglomerations.

Finally, specialized instruction in the art of fishing has been undertaken. At Kilwa, on Lake Moero, there is a professional fishing school that trains professional fishermen, boat builders and mechanics, and monitors who will spread a knowledge of rational fishing methods among the population. The success this school has met with gave rise to the founding of a similar establishment on Lake Tanganyika, which also offers great resources.

D.

Cattle Breeding.

When the Belgians arrived in the Congo cattle-breeding was non-existent, except in some small areas of the Northeast where tribes of immigrated shepherds had settled down. In the rest of the country, to be sure, the villagers kept small livestock, but there was no breeding in the technical sense of the term. It was above all through hunting and fishing that the natives found food to supplement their vegetable and fruit diet; but even these resources were problematical and generally irregular. Here, as in crop raising, the deficiency in the amount of food produced caused chronic malnutrition.

Cattle had to be introduced into the country — especially bovines — in order to combat malnutrition and also assure provisioning of the cities and the industrial agglomerations. But

reaches where fish is abundant made it possible to market 100,000 tons of fish annually; to this quantity must of course be added the amount consumed locally by the fishermen and the riverside dwellers. It is interesting to estimate the importance of these 100,000 tons of fish in the life of the country by a comparison with cattle. Out of 100,000 tons of fish 70,000 are consumed. To market 70,000 tons of meat, it would be necessary to slaughter at least 300,000 head of cattle, which would presuppose the normal exploitation of a total of 2,500,000 head in pasture lands. Such a comparison gives an idea of the real value of the « fish-capital » that the Congolese dispose of.

But the work undertaken does not stop here. A considerable effort has also been made in favor of the people who do not live beside reaches of the river abundant in fish, and who therefore have no easy or direct access to these resources. For their benefit, a piscicultural organization was set up in 1948; made up at first of research stations created at Elisabethville and Yangambi, it has since developed into a network of fish hatcheries and of experiment ponds distributed throughout the provinces. The organization has also made it possible to create a total of more than 100,000 individual ponds in the rural areas. Here too, the fish used has been the tilapia; it is a prolific fish that subsists readily on household waste, banana leaves, fresh cassava, etc.

The yield of these individual ponds is still rather uneven, but provided the native takes the trouble to feed the fish regularly — it only with household waste — he can obtain without difficulty from 400 to 600 kilograms per acre each year; when pisciculture is practiced systematically, the yearly yield may amount to as much as four tons.

What does this represent in the food supply of the Congolese?

It means that the peasant who has made the effort to set up a simple pond measuring 33 feet by 66 will be able to obtain from it each year, without too much trouble, the same amount of food he would get by slaughtering a head of cattle.

Already in 1956 meat imports amounted to only 10,000 tons, less than one-third of the total amount required, whereas the local slaughter houses accounted for as much as 25,000 tons, merely in bovines and swine.

Most of the cattle is used for this indispensable provisioning of meat for the population; however, dairy products have not been neglected; domestic milk, butter and cheese are delivered regularly for local consumption.

E.

Hunting.

As can be seen, supplying the population of the Congo with meat has for a long time involved great problems. Introducing cattle, organizing cattle-breeding, together with the systematic organization of fishing methods and the widespread practice of pisciculture, have solved these problems. However, the fact that these resources are greatly increasing is no reason for under-estimating the importance of game.

Doubtless game is insufficient to feed the population; however, in certain regions where cattle-breeding and pisciculture have not yet been introduced, game remains the principal source of protein food.

It has recently been estimated that hunting supplies the Congolese population with 40,000 tons of fresh meat every year. To obtain one ton of fresh meat, four or five head of cattle must be slaughtered. To procure the equivalent of the 40,000 tons obtained by hunting, it would be necessary to slaughter 170,000 head of cattle, an operation which would presuppose the existence of 1,300,000 head grazing, at the very least.

cattle-breeding in the Congo raised complex problems; local breeds had to be selected, foreign breeds introduced and acclimatized, and then the two had to be crossed. The mediocre quality of the pasture lands and the existence of tropical diseases that were often fatal created other difficulties.

With a view to favoring the introduction and propagation of the larger types of cattle, especially in the territories where breeding was as yet unknown, and also in order to acquaint the rural populations with rational methods, the Ten Year Plan has provided for a vast zootechnical program which is now being carried out. It calls for four training centers for nurses and assistant veterinarians, the construction of two large laboratories producing serums and vaccines, and, finally, the establishment of about twenty stations concerning themselves with the problems of adaptation and reproduction of bovine animals; the latter already number more than 10,000 head of breeding stock.

For its part, in a group of five experiment stations, INEAC carries on the selection of native cattle and the introduction of improved breeds adapted to local conditions; it has also set up centers where the improvement of natural pastures is studied.

In spite of the immense difficulties that had to be overcome, the herds of bovines built up in the Congo total over a million head today, more than half of them being the property of the natives. Without counting the denizens of the poultry yard, the smaller livestock exceed 2,700,000 in number.

At the present time the leading European-owned breeding stations are found in the Lower Congo, in Kivu, and on the high plateaus of Katanga, Kasai, and Ituri. The native-owned stations are often located in the Northeast; in these are raised the traditional livestock of pastoral populations.

The expansion of cattle-breeding has enabled the country to grow less dependent on foreign imports for its meat supply.

At the present time, the government's policy leans toward the establishment of hunting grounds reserved exclusively for the natives. This policy has already been put in operation by the creation of the hunting preserves of Bakumu, Mondo, and Azande, in the Northeast.

Even from a purely economic point of view, Congolese game is worth while : hunting licenses, taxes for killing certain animals, sale of zoological specimens, exportation of ivory — all these are sources of revenue not to be disregarded. But it is obvious that, together with the desire to protect wild animals, the conservation of the « fauna-capital » intended to serve as sustenance for future populations has guided the government's policy in this question.

On the one hand, with the aim of fostering continuous scientific research on the fauna and flora, and of conserving certain natural wealth, strictly controlled reservations have been established. They are managed by the Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo Belge (Institut of National Parks of the Belgian Congo). The Parc National Albert (King Albert National Park) in Kivu is the oldest ; only some parts of it are open to tourists. The other parks are located in the Northeast of the country and in Katanga ; these are the three amounts to some 6,250,000 acres. In addition to the strictly controlled game preserves, there are some adjacent grounds where rules are less strict.

At the same time, throughout the country, a body of legal measures protects the Congolese fauna and subjects it to control. Hunting is rather strictly regulated ; for this purpose, the government has at its disposal a special service working in collaboration with a body of game wardens. The hunting regulations serve to protect the fauna from unchecked destruction which would lead to its extinction, and also to organize hunting expeditions against certain dangerous wild animals such as elephants which attack plantations, or lions and leopards which often menace both human beings and cattle.

In order to combat the depletion of herds, certain zones are subject to special regulations. They may be classified as strictly or partially controlled « reservations » : in the former, all the animals are protected ; in the latter, only certain species. Furthermore, some zones can be converted into « hunting estates » where hunting is subject to the payment of special taxes and governed by certain conditions.