
Review

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the Sinai Peninsula as a conquest of Germany and her allies. The most curious feature is a "future world-traffic route" from Germany to the East, through Serajevo and Mostar to the coast about Ragusa, thence through Albania and Greece, across the west end of Crete to Ras el Tin, coastwise to Alexandria, and then across the Delta to Suez. The choice of such a route is 'wrop up in mystery.'

The third map is presumably for propaganda. It is all in pretty good English, but displays the name of the well-known Berlin publisher. British possessions are coloured red, and an ample reference-list shows against each a date, and a brief note of "How acquired." These notes have a certain acid or even toxic flavour: thus:—

Dominion of Canada,	1713-1763	Captured from France in the War of the Spanish Succession and in the Seven Years' War.
Falkland Islands	1832	Occupied despite previous Spanish claims.
Tasmania	1803	Occupied after previous Dutch settlements.
Sikhim	1890	Taken from China and declared a Protectorate.

Happily they are all plainly labelled "LEGEND." Egypt appears as "occupied and taken from Turkey during the insurrection of 1882"—whereas the Freytag map claims even the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan as still half Turkish. Lemnos and Tenedos appear for the first time as parts of the British Empire; but Togoland and German New Guinea and the rest of the then vanishing German Colonial Empire remain virgin white.

We will not on this occasion make the mistake of underrating even the most extravagant features of such maps. In our former note we were surprised at the idea that it was worth while to show the boundaries of the Ukraine Kingdom in the thirteenth century. Now it is only too plain that the separation of the Cossacks was part of the German reckoning; and we must recognize that outrageous productions of the private German map-publishers are more likely to be inspired by official wire-pullers than by unauthorized enthusiasts.

REVIEWS

ASIA

Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Sikkim. (*Provincial Geographies of India*).—

L. S. S. O'Malley. Cambridge: University Press. 1917. 6s. net.

The editor of this series was well advised in disregarding the recent administrative changes, about which so much controversy has raged, and considering the whole area, geographically, in a single survey. To the student of the British connection with India the grant, in 1764, of the Diwani of the combined regions Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, is the outstanding landmark of the transition from commerce to government. The 153 years that have elapsed show advances in order and material progress unequalled in any other country of the Old World, but, as shown in the excellent account herein given of the religious and social life of the people, the civilization which prevailed in the days of Clive remains in essentials as it was, or if progress has been here made it is strictly on the old lines, almost unpenetrated by foreign ideas.

In an area so large as that in question there are, of course, marked differences, physical, racial, and linguistic, which are concisely and explicitly set

forth in an introductory description. They are not exactly co-extensive with the administrative frontiers, but approximate sufficiently to justify the time-honoured tripartite subdivision.

The greatest variety is found in the western section, a considerable part of which consists of hill-tracts stretching far beyond the southern and western boundaries of the province. The other upland regions included in the area here dealt with are, so to speak, outside India proper. That skirting the Himalaya is quite a modern addition to British territory, while the other is more akin to western Burma. The paramount feature of the whole of this part of India is the vast alluvial plain of the Ganges, constituting the greater portion of Bihar, and, with its terminus in the amphibious conditions of a great delta, practically the whole of Bengal. The striking differences between these tracts are well brought out in the chapters on climate, population, and occupations. The swarthy denizens of the forest-clad hills of Chutia Nagpur and Orissa appear to furnish a complete Pactolus of primitive languages, customs, traditions, and views on life and death. The most remarkable and potent influence, upon the fringe of these tribes at all events, has been the temporary migration due to the opening of new labour fields by British industrial enterprise, either close at hand, in the coal districts, or as far away as the tea-gardens of Assam. The demand for alien labour in Bengal is no novelty, but until within the last generation or so it was restricted to porters from Orissa and the bodyguard of territorial magnates. The enervating climate and the extraordinary fertility of the lower Ganges valley tend to make the natives averse from arduous or risky physical pursuits, whilst, on the other hand, the keener struggle for life on the densely peopled plains of Bihar renders the hardier and more strenuous peasantry of that region ready to better itself by undertaking such duties. This migration, however, like that of the hill tribes, is but temporary, often indeed only seasonal. One of the drawbacks of this tendency, accordingly, to which the author calls attention, is the extent to which it retards the progress of factorial industry in Eastern India by preventing the formation of a permanent manufacturing element in the population. The workers, in fact, in their respective industries have to become a caste, even as have to a certain degree the cotton operatives of Lancashire.

The editor has again been fortunate in his choice of an expert to deal with this very important part of India. Mr. O'Malley was very successful in the hard task of following Sir Edward Gait in the Bengal census, and as editor of the district Gazetteers of the two provinces he has acquired a local knowledge which serves him admirably in the work under review. His chapters on the physical features of the country, and the races, religions, and industries of the people, are most instructive—and pleasant to read. J. A. B.

Mission A. F. Legendre : Massif Sino-Thibétain. Provinces du Setchouen, du Yunnan et Marches Thibétaines. Paris : Emile Larose. 1916.

The journeys of Dr. A. F. Legendre in Western Stechuén and Northern Yunnan, which were frequently referred to at the time in the *Journal* (see especially vol. 33, p. 327 ; vol. 39, pp. 72, 280), extended with interruptions due to political and other events from 1907 to 1912. During this time the whole of the very interesting loop of high mountain land enclosed in the bend of the Yangtse and Yalung rivers was thoroughly explored, together with a part of Yunnan south of the Yangtse, but unfortunately many of the notes and scientific data obtained were lost in an attack made upon the mission.

The volume now published is mainly devoted to geological studies of the