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Canal and Port of Saint Louis du Rhone

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His only object had been to obtain possession of his late chief's body, and to recover articles of value that had been stolen. Having failed to compass this, he started toward the end of June for Sining, where he arrived on July 15, with his followers, and was welcomed by the Chinese commissioner, who supplied his wants. M. Grenard states that he made a survey of the route from Kegudo to Sining, which had not previously been followed by any European. It will be interesting to compare the result with Mr. Rockhill's very careful observations. Miss Taylor, it may be noted, also reached Jyé-Kundo, or Kegudo, from Kan-su.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### *Canal and Port of Saint Louis du Rhone.*

APPROPOS of the note in the September number of the *Journal*, p. 269, I should like to state the following facts:—The canal which was opened in 1870 near the old tower of Saint Louis, between the left bank of the Rhone and the gulf of Fos, thus called from the ancient *Fossæ Mariana*, gives access to a port now taking rank, in amount of tonnage, as the third French port on the Mediterranean coast; after Marseille and Cette, it takes precedence before all others on the long shore-line between Spain and Italy. The regular tonnage of ships with full cargo exceeds 250,000 tons, and, besides, a fleet of steamboats runs up and down the river between Lyon and the quay of Saint Louis. The trade, especially active with Algeria, consists in cereals, cattle, iron ore, marbles, wool, coal, petroleum, and other heavy merchandize. A few industrial establishments and warehouses already surround the docks, covering a surface of 14 hectares (35 acres) and joining the sea by a canal of 3300 metres in length. The ships drawing from 5 to 6 metres easily enter the canal and port; but till recently there was great danger that the alluviums carried by the Rhone, and taken up by the west wind and sea-current, would entirely silt up the gulf of Fos, and necessitate a continuation of the canal through new-formed mud-banks. But the danger was in a great measure obviated in 1893 by the artificial opening of a new mouth of the Rhone, the "grau de Roustan," which carries to the west, that is, to the opposite side of the delta, the muddy waters of the mighty stream. Grave fears were formerly entertained on the possibility of the rising town to resist the baneful influence of malaria; but during the last twenty years, mortality has been always lower in proportion there than among the inhabitants of Arles, to which commune it belongs.

ELISÉE RECLUS.

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## MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1894-95.

*First Ordinary Meeting, November 12, 1894.*—CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, ESQ.,  
C.B., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The President made the following remarks:—

Fellows of the Society, in opening our sixty-fifth Session it is my first duty to remind you how much we are indebted, and have been indebted during a long course of years, to the Senate of the University of London, for the permission to hold our meetings in this hall, and I feel sure that we all appreciate the kindness and liberality of that enlightened body in having allowed us the use of the hall for