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The Achievements of France in Morocco: Discussion

Author(s): Captain Boillot, R. B. Cunningham Graham and Arthur Herbert

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foundations. So far the work accomplished has at least stopped further leakages in both of these connections, but much yet remains to be done before the whole of the domains and mosques' possessions, rights, servitudes, and the like are made clear.

The administration publishes, in Arabic as well as in French, a weekly official newspaper, the *Bulletin Officiel*, which contains not only the official texts of decrees and legal notices, but full reports of all that is being done by the various departments, official studies, and reports on subjects of interest. It has become a mine of information in regard to Morocco.

That I do not give figures about the valuable part the French zone has played in the war, whether as to soldiers or labourers or supplies, is only out of regard to the censor. How the Moorish soldier has behaved, now that he is properly instructed and armed, properly fed and clad, honestly and regularly paid, medically treated when sick or wounded, decently buried when dead, rewarded and honoured when deserving distinction, will be understood when I mention that, on the front in France, no fewer than three hundred out of five hundred ex-Fez mutineers have gained medals or promotions for courage or good conduct.

Lastly, I may mention the Topographical Service, whose minute and beautifully executed maps continue to be published as further and more exact data become available.

Many more successes could be cited, ranging from a brilliant little campaign last year in the farthest south-west—the feudatory kaids and the French against Hiba and the Germans—to drastic anti-alcohol legislation and the introduction of game laws. However, in the time available I trust I have told enough to enable you to form conclusions both as to the amazing transformation which has been accomplished, and as to the future thereby opened for this part of Morocco. Larger than England and Scotland, it has only an eighth of their population. It has long been only 40 to 70 hours' sail from French ports and 60 to 90 hours from British ports.

It is rid at last of the cancerous administration which isolated it from civilization and progress for four hundred years; almost rid, too, of its other cancer, the Blad Siba, and we now see it healing rapidly, and, under that far different administration I have endeavoured to describe, starting on a new era of its life. Such an era cannot but prove the most happy and prosperous in her history; and its advent, within six years of its inception, sums up, I think, the Achievements of France in Morocco.

Before the paper the PRESIDENT said: Mr. MacLeod, who is to address us to-night, has been long resident in Morocco, and there is little with regard to that country that he does not know. He enjoyed opportunities as our Consul there of acquiring information from every possible source. We are, I think,

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certain to hear from him a great deal that is new as well as much that is of general interest.

(Mr. MacLeod then read the paper printed above, and a discussion followed.)

The PRESIDENT : We have heard a marvellous account of the achievements of the French in Morocco, and have fortunately two or three gentlemen here who are well able to substantiate the statements that have been made to us on the subject. Captain Boillot is here representing the French Embassy. I introduce him to you as an officer who has done distinguished service at Verdun and in the battles of the Somme.

Captain BOILLOT : The unexpected honour of representing His Excellency the French Ambassador was thrust upon me at the eleventh hour—I suppose in these Daylight Saving Bill days I ought to say at the tenth. In any case, I must apologize to the President of this Society and to honourable members now listening to me for the very inadequate way in which I can thank Mr. MacLeod for his interesting and remarkably comprehensive lecture. Fortunately, my method of dealing with the subject does not, as you will readily understand, detract anything from the sincerity of our feelings of gratitude. The convulsion which is now shaking the greater part of France is so tremendous that to some extent it overshadows the efforts of my compatriots in other parts of the globe, and at a time such as this it is most gratifying and encouraging to realize that those efforts have been witnessed and appreciated by our noble allies. It is no small honour for us to receive praise from those of the British nation on the subject of colonization, and the consciousness of all that we have to teach other nations does not blind us to all that we have to learn from them. We know that in the matter of colonization the British Empire is a standing example to every nation of the Earth—I mean such nations as will, after the war, have an opportunity of colonizing, and I sincerely trust and hope that this privilege will be denied to some of them. Therefore, on behalf of His Excellency the French Ambassador, I have much pleasure in thanking Mr. MacLeod for his most enlightening and inspiring account of the achievements of France in Morocco.

Mr. R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM : We have had a most interesting and exhaustive lecture from my friend Mr. MacLeod. During the last thirty years I have frequently visited Fez—I cannot remember how many times, though probably Mr. MacLeod can, as I have no doubt that I was a dreadful bore to him when I came. All that he has said to you who do not know Morocco has been instructive, interesting, and, I have no doubt, will give food for reflection. But to one who knew the country thirty years ago it has been a fairy tale. I have followed the lecture and have watched the country develop and civilize and become greater and more analogous to a European state year after year as our lecturer has spoken. When I first visited Fez it took eight or ten days to travel from Tangier, if the roads were good. You went along stumbling like Christian on the path to heaven ; in heat, in cold, in dust, and in all sorts of the ordinary troubles of travel. At last you emerged upon a little plain, and in a gully of the hills, like a white cloud, Fez burst upon you. Its crenelated walls hemmed it in ; it was approached through horseshoe arches over which were generally the heads of the rebels. Up in the pure sky the myriad towers of the mosques shot like flames ; the palm trees waved ; there was no noise, no dust, no smoke—a city of the Arabian Nights : beautiful : a dream : unlike any other city of the whole world, with the possible exception of some of those of Central Asia. You entered the town. Then the spirit of your dream was

altered. There was the press of hurrying and running ; camels, mules, crowds of men in every direction. The narrow streets were like sewers, into which all the filth of all the houses was thrown, and unburied horses and mules lay at the corners of the outskirts of the town. Life was of no value. If I remember rightly, Mr. MacLeod and I once went out to see a tribal fight only a few miles from the walls of Fez. Those were the ordinary incidents of Moorish life. Many of the districts of the town were inaccessible to foreigners ; they were barred off : sacred : the contaminating foot of the Christian was not allowed to enter them.

By a little anecdote I may bring before you better than in any other way the mental attitude of some of the people. Talking one day just outside the town to a reaper who had returned from the harvest in Algiers, I said to him : " Which do you like best "—he was from that very country, the Baru 'Mgild, in which the lecturer showed you that beautiful photograph of the snow upon the pines—" your own country or Algiers ? " " Oh," he said, " Algiers ; that is the country. The Government does everything for the people. I was there at the *fête* of the Republic. The first day we had the races. The second day I went to the theatre ; one hundred Christian girls danced, each one of them worth a thousand dollars. It was Paradise ! But the third day was the best, for early in the morning they brought out a French soldier, and they cut off his head with a machine." Of course it was some poor devil who had been guillotined. But such was the attitude of mind of that man towards human life he thought that was a mode of entertainment provided for the citizens by a paternal Government !

Mr. MacLeod has shown you well the material progress of Morocco during the last twenty-five years. What he has not told you of and what he has not touched upon is his own share in the evolution of civilization there. I knew him thirty years ago when he was one of eight or ten Europeans ; when life was dangerous and uncertain for the European who ventured 5 or 6 miles outside the town ; when, if one did not exactly have to crawl into the presence of the Sultan, one had to go there with some precautions. I have been there with him. All that is changed. I need not speak to you of the difficulties he encountered, the prejudices he had to throw on one side ; of the intrigues of nations now friendly to us ; and of all the difficulties that an ill-paid and ill-supported Consul in a lost corner of the world, such as Fez, has to undergo in order to make the name of Britain respected, as he did there in that city. He raised it ; he forced the Moors to consider Great Britain, to salute our flag. What he did for British prestige in that town few but myself really know ; and I am glad to be here to testify to the immense work that our lecturer himself did by the example of his life, by his thorough knowledge of the customs of the country, and by his indomitable and invincible patience, in dealing with the oriental mind and oriental diplomacy, to make the name of Great Britain respected in a country where nothing was respected except force and cruelty. He has told you of the evolution of the country ; he has touched briefly upon the increased longevity owing to better sanitation and to medical advice. I myself remember when I was about forty-five years of age gazelle-hunting with some of the horsemen of the Beni-Duarein—a tribe outside Fez. A man asked me how old I was, and was astonished that a man of forty-five could still ride and gallop and endure a long day in the hot weather. Those hardy tribesmen rarely reached the age of fifty. The infant mortality was something terrific throughout the country ; men and women of between forty and fifty seemed aged and worn-out people. The effect will be, as the lecturer

has said, to treble or quadruple the population, certainly, in the next generation. And what will be the result? What has been the result of all these reforms on which the lecturer has so well touched? Morocco to-day is no more an African, but a European country: with the same economic laws, the same method of life almost (with the differences of religion) to be observed there as are to be observed in southern Europe, and in fact the country has entered into the great family and polity of European nations. What is to be deduced from that? That it is impossible for any one nation to monopolize the trade or the influence of a country which is practically one of the European countries. Of course I am speaking to British subjects, not to Germans. My proposition would have but little weight with them, I understand. But to ourselves, to the French, and to any other civilized nation it must be manifest that a country which has entered into the fellowship of the rest of the European countries cannot be made a *mare clausum* and kept reserved for the commerce of any one particular nation. At that Peace Congress which perhaps some day will come, one of the questions to be discussed will most likely be the following: a proposition undoubtedly will be made—has been made, I understand—that we should entirely clear out of Morocco if the French will entirely clear out of Egypt. Now an *entente cordiale* is a splendid thing in war time, but in peace it will not fight. There is no peace betwixt commercial jealousies and rivalries. It has been the practice of France in dealing with her colonies to exclude by tariff walls and other means all foreign commerce. I do not see why the British merchants who have passed their lives in Morocco, who have devoted their capital, their industry, and their energy to develop British trade there, should be made the mere sport of any Government in regard to their position. The Foreign Office naturally has no policy; it would not be a Foreign Office if it had. It rests with us to indicate a policy for that Foreign Office, and that policy should be to keep—without quarrelling with the French, of course—British interests in Morocco, to extend our trade there, to endeavour to cater for the commercial wants of the country, and by no means to listen to the counsels of those who would wish us to leave Morocco if the French would leave Egypt, because should we do so we should lose most heavily, not only in prestige but in our commercial affairs. It is not for me to say more when there are so many, I have no doubt as well or better qualified than I am, to address you upon Morocco; but if you will allow me, before I sit down, I will once more tender for myself, and I hope for those gathered together before me, thanks for the most interesting lecture; and once more, most emphatically, I wish to impress upon all who hear me the magnitude, the self-abnegation, and the sincerity of the work that our lecturer has undertaken in Morocco during the last thirty years.

Sir ARTHUR HERBERT: It is indeed a surprise that I should be called upon at this late hour to speak upon Morocco, a country which I only knew very cursorily twenty-five years ago. I was there with Sir Ernest Satow, who was Minister, for a short while, and I look upon the time I had with him as being the most instructive and possibly one of the most pleasant in my life. He was an all-round man, who could speak on any subject, an oriental and a European scholar. When we were in Tangier we had an enormous number of cases, and I think Mr. MacLeod will bear me out when I say that Sir Ernest Satow learnt Arabic sufficiently to understand and to go into the merits of nearly every case. And if he did not understand he took expert advice. He went up to Fez and stayed there, and he came down with a clean sheet, which

was a most remarkable performance. Sir Ernest Satow was not a man to advertise himself, but I am glad to have this opportunity of testifying to the enormous work he has done. As for Mr. MacLeod, I can only say that it was a great pleasure to me to see him here after twenty-five years. I know the work he did in Fez; I was a recipient of his hospitality; and the few days I spent there were most pleasant. I have heard of him from time to time ever since, and have witnessed the very great work he has done, and the self-abnegation he has shown in remaining in Morocco and carrying out the work of caring for British interests for thirty years.

The PRESIDENT: I have regretted all my life that I have never been anywhere near Morocco. There is a point which I think many of you will recognize at once as indicative of the extraordinary progress which the French have made there. Not so very long ago a lecturer here told us of his journey south-east from Mogador to the Atlas range, where he found a very beautiful valley at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, and was entertained royally by a local sheikh and his village people. But after he left he found that a very ingenious plot had been made to murder him, and he heard that the sheikh who had entertained him and all the villagers who had assisted were massacred by the people from the hills. It was eventually proved, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that all this was due to German intrigue and German money. That was in the year 1911—just those six or seven years ago when the French began their reclamation of Morocco. One would like to ask what has become of German interests in Morocco. It seems to me that we may possibly be able to congratulate ourselves that the occupation of the French there, their marvellous energy, their remarkable achievements, have completely superseded them. I rather regret that in the course of the lecture Mr. MacLeod has not been able to indulge in a few more personalities. Many of us would like to know something about that very picturesque old rascal Rasuli, the most powerful Arab in Morocco, who will, no doubt, in a comparatively short time, figure in war-time history. You will all agree that we have enjoyed a most interesting paper, and I will ask you to join in a formal vote of thanks to Mr. MacLeod for his address.

RESECTION IN SURVEY

G. T. McCaw, M.A., F.R.A.S.

Read at the Afternoon Meeting of the Society, 15 April 1918.

RESECTION in survey is a method of observation which is opposed to Intersection. An outpost, itself unoccupied by an observer, which is observed *from* fixed stations, is known as an "Intersected Point." An outpost which is occupied and whose position is determined by angular measures made *to* fixed stations which are not themselves occupied for the purpose of determining the position of such a point, is known as a "Resected point." If A is a fixed station and P an outpost, non-reciprocal observation from A to P implies intersection; from P to A, resection.

This method of interpolating positions possesses considerable advantages from the point of view of speed, economy, and convenience. In