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The Cunene River

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## CORRESPONDENCE

## The Cunene River.

IN the "Notes on the Cunene River," Mr. Kanthack remarks that according to his conception of "hydraulics" no really large percentage of the flow of the river could be made to flow southwards to the Etosha Pan. I have just received an official report on the late flood by Captain E. Nelson, the Game Warden at Namutoni on the Etosha. After a very difficult journey on camels along the northern shore of the pan, Captain Nelson reached the Ekuma, the inlet into the Etosha, which gathers together all the spillways from the Cunene. The Ekuma was 1500 yards wide, and was several feet deep. This was on April 20 last, and the pan was filling rapidly; the natives said that the pan had not been so full since the Herero rebellion of eighteen years ago. This, I think, ought to finally settle the question whether my project is practicable, on the west at least. In regard to the flow of the Cunene, Mr. Kanthack's estimate of  $350 \times 10^9$  cubic feet is practically the same as mine, namely,  $400 \times 10^9$ ; but when Mr. Kanthack estimates the flow of the Okavango by taking the drainage area and assuming certain amounts for rainfall and run-off, the result must be quite valueless, especially as we have the accurate measurements of the river itself by Seiner and Streitwollf.

Mr. Kanthack describes very well the gorge in which I propose to place my 40-foot wall, but he did not observe the dirt-lines on the sides, giving a very accurate estimate of the height of the last flood. It is this height that I have used throughout this section of my scheme, since, as the flood of 1918 was sufficient to soak the country, I concluded that if we could permanently raise the river to this level, the spillways would receive sufficient water to restore the country to the condition of 60-100 years ago. The fact that the Ekuma was delivering water into the Etosha in a stream of 1500 yards wide and several feet deep, after traversing a desert of pure sand for distances of from 120-200 miles, is an indication of what an enormous amount of water was preserved to South Africa; ordinarily all this water flows uselessly to the sea.

E. H. L. SCHWARZ.

## Surveys in Persia.

On page 155 of the *Geographical Journal* for March General Dunsterville, in his lecture on Dunsterforce, states that "Leisure for serious geographical consideration of the country was entirely lacking." This statement is somewhat misleading, as from June to October 1918, when I think Dunsterforce was broken up, a strong detachment of Survey of India officers was attached to this force by myself, when Deputy-Director of Surveys, Baghdad. This detachment was under the command of Major E. T. Rich, C.I.E., R.E., with a personnel of two British and six Indian officers, and during the above period an area of 8000 square miles was covered by theodolite triangulation and rigorously surveyed on the scale of 2 miles to 1 inch.

The surveyed area extended from Kirmanshah to Kazvin *via* Hamadan on an average width of 20 miles, and also from Hamadan to Zinjan on the Kazvin-Tabriz road. A large amount of, to us, new geographical information was obtained from Russian maps, the names on which were transliterated and printed in English by Major Rich, with the help of a locally recruited drawing office.

After the break up of Dunsterforce, the survey was still further extended; this however is another story.

C. H. D. RYDER, Colonel,  
Surveyor-General of India.

Simla, 6 June 1921.