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Review: Joffre's March to Timbuktu

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well-known tropical product. The photographs, though not very numerous, are useful in illustrating the characteristic features of the country's timber products and vegetation. A better and more elaborate map would have been far more serviceable than the rough outline map supplied, for a great deal of the details as to the forests and topography are almost unintelligible without cartographical illustration.

'A Journey to Java.' By M. McMillan. (London: Holden & Hardingham, [1914]. *Illustr.* Pp. x., 286.) Many trivialities are included in this account of a voyage from Sydney to Surabaya and of a tour through Java. These very trivialities, however, often convey information which may be useful to tourists making a similar journey, and by industrious compilation the authoress has added to them a good deal of more substantial matter. Her own observations furnish particulars of the present development of Java as it presents itself to the passing traveller. Miss McMillan found that many changes had taken place in the island since Miss Seidmore published her 'Java, the Garden of the East,' in 1897. The addition of a map to the book would have been welcome.

AFRICA.

THE GERMANS IN AFRICA.

'The Germans and Africa.' By Evans Lewin. London: Cassell & Co. 1915. Pp. xviii., 317. *Map.* Price 10s. 6d. *net.*

Mr. Evans Lewin, the Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute, has found the present time opportune for publishing a study of the part played by Germany in the partition of Africa. He begins by tracing the growth of German interests overseas from the seventeenth century, and the way in which they gave rise to the modern colonial movement. In a chapter on emigration from Germany Mr. Lewin gives particulars of the spread of German settlers all over the world, and shows how this loss of population from under the German flag stimulated the desire for German colonies. Having thus linked his subject to the causes of German *Welt-politik*, Mr. Lewin tells in detail the story of Germany's acquisition of her African territories and outlines her policy with regard to Morocco and the Congo. In two final chapters he attempts to estimate the failures and successes of Germany's colonial administration and discusses the future of German Africa. Like Sir Harry Johnston, Mr. Lewin assumes that Germany will not be allowed to retain any territorial holding in Africa after the war; but he takes more seriously than does Sir Harry Johnston the suggestion that German East Africa might be reserved for Japan, and he evidently favours the idea of the United States becoming an African Power. Earl Grey contributes an introduction in which he says that it may be questioned whether the British Empire would have benefited by adopting a dog-in-the-manger policy when Germany set about the task of acquiring African colonies.

JOFFRE'S MARCH TO TIMBUKTU.

'My March to Timbuktu.' By General Joffre. Biographical Introduction by Ernest Dimnet. London: Chatto & Windus. 1915. *Sketch-map and Plan of Timbuktu.* 2s. *net.*

The interest of this record of General (then Major) Joffre's march to Timbuktu in 1893-94 lies chiefly in its revelation of the military qualities of the

man, now generalissimo of the Allied forces in France and Flanders. That interest is enhanced by the biographical details furnished by the Abbé Dimnet. Major Joffre had command of the land column which was to support Colonel Bonnier's advance on Timbuktu by the Niger. He started from Segu on December 27, 1892, and when at Gundam, on February 2, heard of the disaster to Bonnier's column on the 15th of the previous month. Joffre then had the responsibility of retrieving the situation. This he did in brilliant fashion, firmly establishing French authority in Timbuktu. It was his able leadership on this occasion which first caused Joffre to be noted by his superiors as a "coming man."

Joffre's narrative is the official report he drew up for the Ministry of the Colonies, and it was published in the *Revue du Génie* in 1895. Its appearance now in an English translation is timely, and as few people in this country can have seen the original report much of the information in it will be new. The description of Timbuktu "the mysterious," as it was when first occupied by Europeans, is valuable, as are also the notes on the Tuareg tribes. Joffre writes concisely and with an admirable precision, and displays a knowledge of his subject which shows that he had studied African problems to some purpose during the two years spent in superintending the building of the Kayes-Bafoulabé railway previous to being called upon to undertake his march to Timbuktu.

F. R. C.

AMERICA.

CENTRAL CANADA.

'La Saskatchewan; Essai de Monographie provinciale Canadienne.' By Louis Gilbert. Paris: "La Canadienne." [1914.] *Maps and Illustrations*.

For the material which is summarized or analyzed in this volume the official handbooks and year-books of the province of Saskatchewan, as well as various scientific publications, have been laid under contribution. The first part deals with the physical geography and includes a summary of the geology, climate, hydrography, fauna, and flora. The second part is devoted to a description of the electoral districts arranged in three groups, the southern prairies, the central park lands, and the northern forests. The third part deals with the history of the formation and settlement of the province, the past and present inhabitants, the progress of agriculture, industry, and commerce, the development of road, rail, and river transport, the mode of government, and the provision of educational facilities. The author concludes that in spite of the occurrence of immense deposits of lignite Saskatchewan is, and will continue to be, essentially an agricultural province, "the land of wheat, the centre of the granary of the Empire." During the years 1901 to 1911 no other Canadian province received such a large influx of agricultural colonists, the rural population being increased by over 287,000. The emigrants were mainly British or of British descent, but of foreigners Germans were most numerous, followed by Austrians, Scandinavians, French, and Russians in order of numbers. As in all the western provinces, the progress of settlement is closely related to the development of railway communications.

J. D. F.