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HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 108

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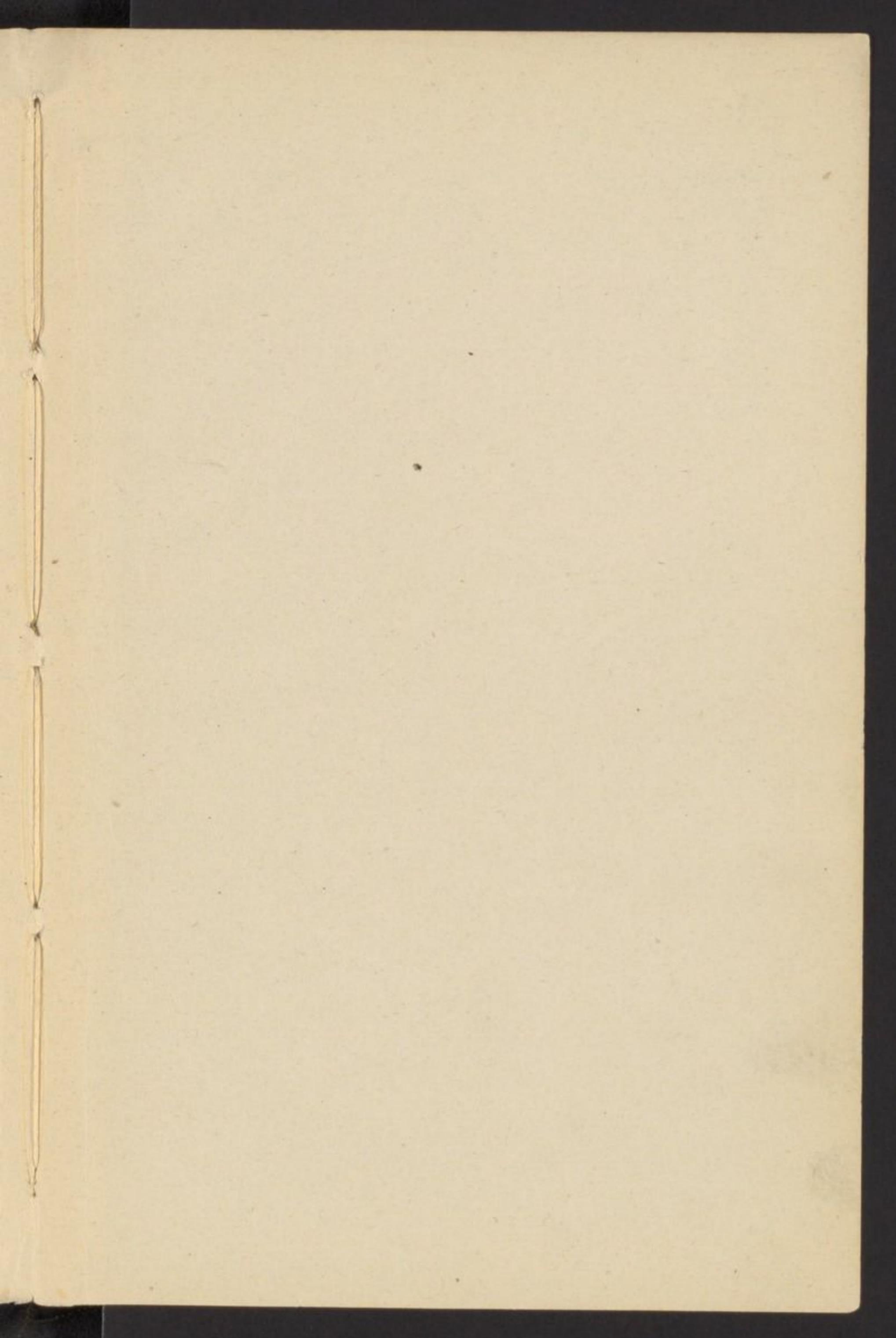
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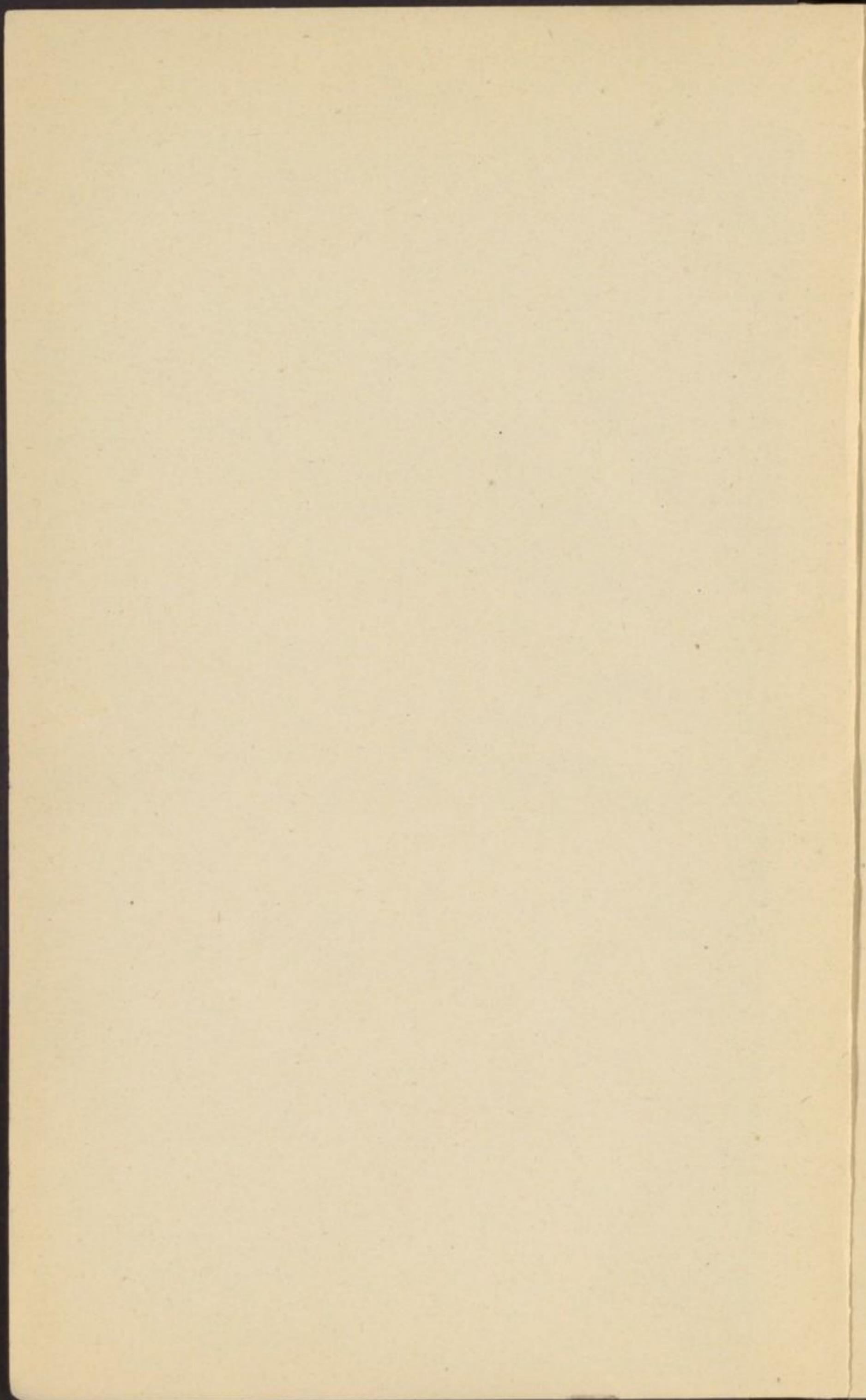


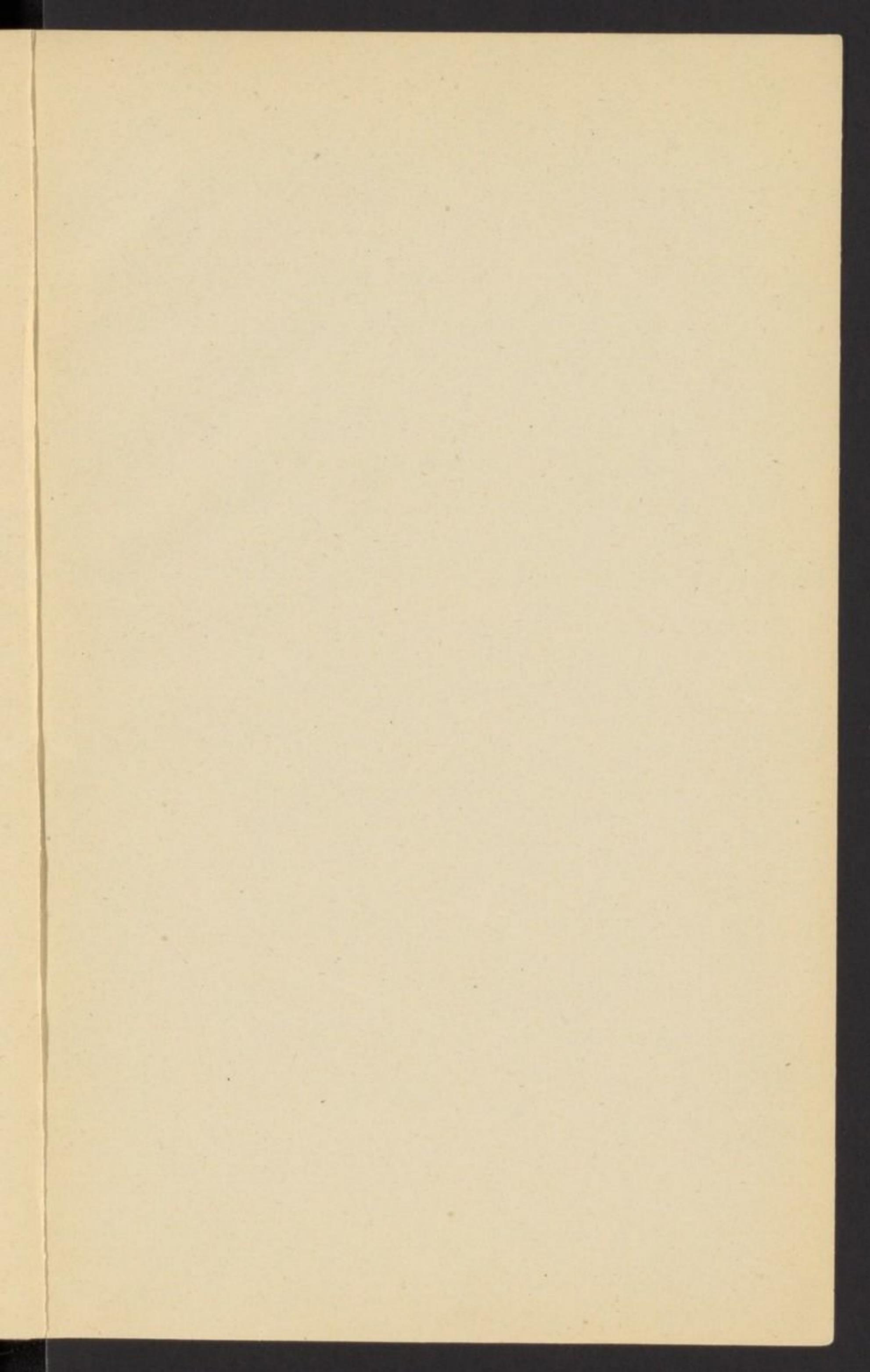


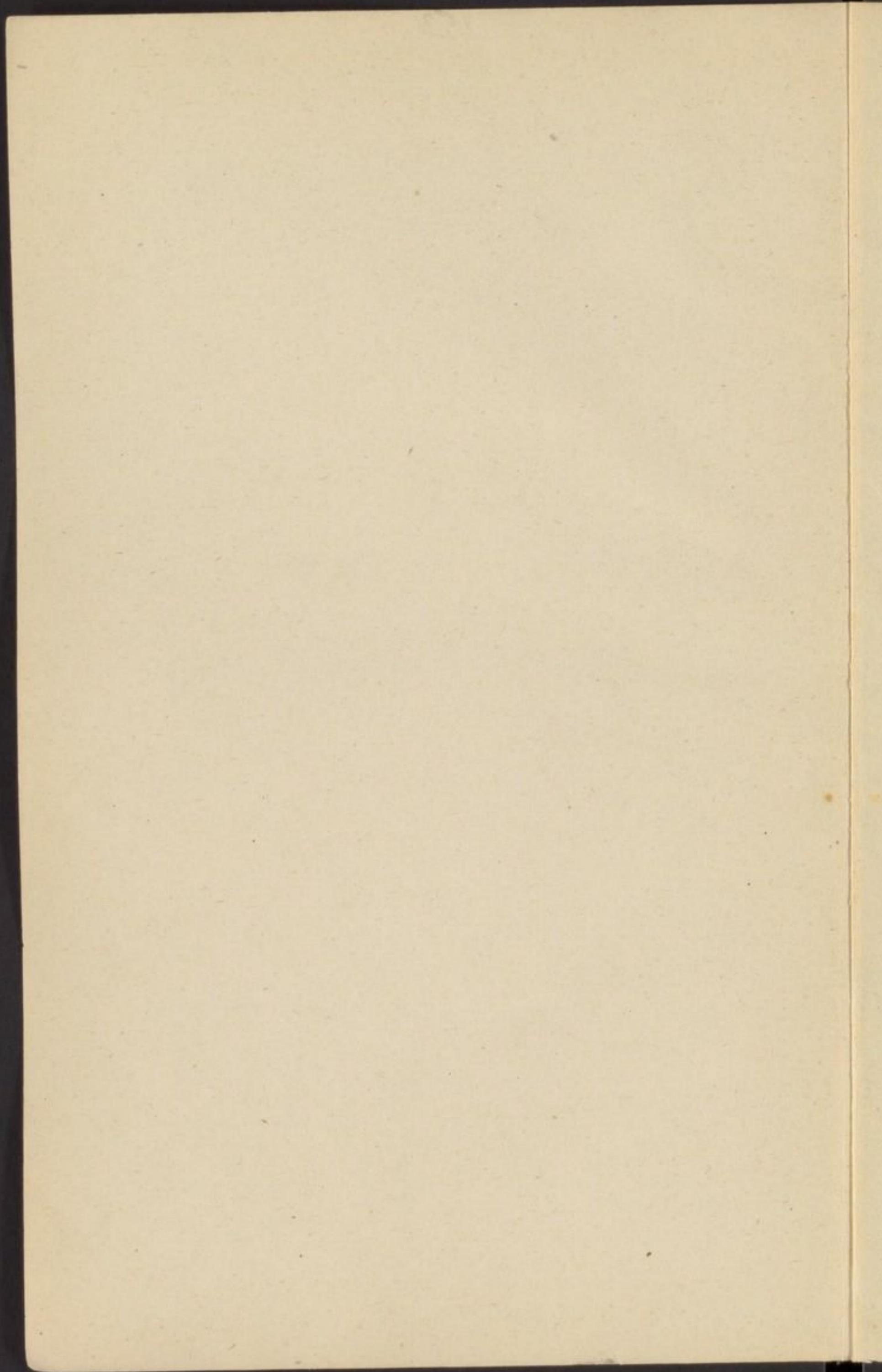
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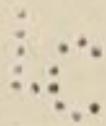
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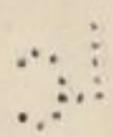
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It must be understood that, although the series of volumes was prepared under the authority, and is now issued with the sanction, of the Foreign Office, that Office is not to be regarded as guaranteeing the accuracy of every statement which they contain or as identifying itself with all the opinions expressed in the several volumes ; the books were not prepared in the Foreign Office itself, but are in the nature of information provided for the Foreign Office and the British Delegation.

The books are now published, with a few exceptions, substantially as they were issued for the use of the Delegates. No attempt has been made to bring them up to date, for, in the first place, such a process would have entailed a great loss of time and a prohibitive expense ; and, in the second, the political and other conditions of a great part of Europe and of the Nearer and Middle East are still unsettled and in such a state of flux that any attempt to describe them would have been incorrect or misleading. The books are therefore to be taken as describing, in general, *ante-bellum* conditions, though in a few cases, where it seemed specially desirable, the account has been brought down to a later date.

G. W. PROTHERO,

*General Editor and formerly
Director of the Historical Section.*

January 1920.

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I. GEOGRAPHY PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL

(1) POSITION AND FRONTIERS

THE French possessions which form French Equatorial Africa consist of the colonies of Gabun (Gabon), Middle Congo (Moyen-Congo), and Ubanghi-Shari-Chad (Oubangui-Chari-Tchad), together with the Military Territory of Chad. A rearrangement of the territorial limits and names of these divisions was decided upon in 1914, but was postponed till after the war.

The total area of this region has been variously estimated; but allowing for the cession to the German colony of Cameroon of some 100,000 square miles in 1911 it is probably about 718,000 square miles.¹ In the south it touches the parallel of 5° south latitude, where the boundary between it and Cabinda reaches the Atlantic. Its most easterly point is situated at the head stream of the Mbomu in 27° 25' east longitude. On the west its extreme point is Cape Lopez, north of the estuary of the Ogowe (Ogooué), in 8° 40' east longitude, while towards the north the exact position of the frontier is still undetermined, although it is understood to reach to about the Tropic of Cancer.

On the south French Equatorial Africa is bordered by Angola and the Belgian Congo, and the boundaries between it and these colonies are discussed elsewhere (see *Angola*, No. 120, and *Belgian Congo*, No. 99 of this series). Between French Equatorial Africa and Cameroon the boundary, which was settled by the treaty of November 4, 1911, and the Declaration of September 28, 1912, leaves the Atlantic coast near the mouth of the Massolie on the eastern shore of the Bay of Monda

¹ The three southern districts have an area of about 389,900 square miles. The limits of the Military Territory are undefined, but a French estimate of 1913 gives an area of 850,000 square kilometres or 328,200 square miles.

and runs in a fairly uniform direction somewhat north of east to the confluence of the Sanga and the Ja (Dja, Dscha) or N'Goko, just north of Wesso (Ouesso). It then turns southwards to the Kandeko and descends by it, by the Lengwe or Bokiba (Bokida) and by the Likwala Mossaka, to the main stream of the Congo. The boundary then ascends the Sanga and its tributary, the Green Likwala (Likouala-aux-Herbes), as far as Botungo, runs in a north-north-westerly direction to Bera Nyoko (Njoko or N'Goko), turns north-east to the confluence of the Bodinge and the Lobaye, and descends the Lobaye eastward to its confluence with the Ubanghi, north of Mongoumba. As Germany was here to have a frontage on the Ubanghi of from three and three-quarters to seven and a half miles, this part of the Middle Congo colony is cut off from the colony of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad. The boundary between the latter colony and Cameroon leaves the Ubanghi at a point not yet determined, and runs first in a north-westerly and then in a more directly northern direction, following the courses of various minor rivers, till it strikes the eastern branch of the Logone near Gore. The frontier then follows the Logone to its confluence with the Shari, which forms the boundary to Lake Chad.

By the Declaration signed at London on March 21, 1899, it was settled that the boundary between French territory and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan should begin where the Franco-Belgian frontier touched the Congo-Nile watershed, and should follow that watershed until it crossed the eleventh parallel of north latitude. From this point a line was to be drawn as far as the fifteenth parallel in such a way as to separate the Sultanate of Wadai (Ouadai) from the province of Darfur as it existed in 1882. The line thus drawn, however, was not to pass to the west of longitude 21° east, nor to the east of longitude 23° east. In principle it was also agreed that north of the fifteenth parallel the French zone should be limited by a line starting from the intersection of the Tropic of Cancer with the sixteenth degree of east longitude, and running in a south-easterly direction until it met the twenty-

fourth degree of east longitude. From there it was to follow the twenty-fourth meridian to the frontier of Darfur as it might ultimately be fixed. As a consequence of this treaty an agreement was arrived at in 1914 by Great Britain and France to delimit the Wadai-Darfur frontier.¹

Franco-German Commissions were appointed to delimit the frontier between Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa according to the treaty of 1911, and appear to have completed their work before the outbreak of war, but their arrangements do not seem to have been ratified.

The intercolonial boundaries need only be briefly indicated. The frontier of Gabun follows the watershed between the Ogowe and the Congo and upper Luesse, then turning south and running almost in a straight line to the most northerly point of Cabinda. The actual boundary between Ubanghi-Shari-Chad and the Military Territory of Chad is more conventional in character. From the Pennde or Eastern Logone, in latitude $8^{\circ} 25'$ north, a series of straight lines are drawn, first to the east and then approximately to the south-south-east, east-north-east, and north-north-east. From the point at which the last of these lines touches the Auk the boundary ascends that river² to the borders of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Between French Equatorial Africa and French West Africa the frontier is still undetermined; but according to the terms of the decree of 1914 already mentioned it will eventually run from Lake Chad towards Rhat (Ghat) and west of the Agram oasis to the southern frontier of Algeria. It must here be noted that in 1916 the region of Tibesti was attached administratively to French West Africa as part of the Military Territory of the Niger.

French Equatorial Africa presents great diversities of surface, and the political divisions of the country

¹ By a supplementary Convention of September 8, 1919, the frontier was finally delimited. See *Anglo-Egyptian Sudan*, No. 98 of this series, pp. 4 and 169.

² Some maps call the upper Auk the Mamun, some give this name to a southern tributary. The boundary follows the northern stream.

correspond roughly with its natural regions. Gabun and Middle Congo belong in part to the region of coastal mountains and in part to the central basin of the Congo, and much of their land is covered with dense equatorial forest. Ubanghi-Shari-Chad belongs to the plateau country which separates the basin of the Congo from that of Lake Chad, and is a typical savanna land. The Military Territory of Chad slopes down from the plateau to the basin of Lake Chad, to which it mainly belongs. The region is transitional in every respect, and its type of vegetation changes from that of the savannas of the south to that of the deserts of the north.

(2) SURFACE, COAST, AND RIVER SYSTEMS

(a) *Surface*

Gabun and Middle Congo

A section across country from the Atlantic to the Congo shows in succession a narrow coastal plain backed by mountain ranges, the Ivindo-Ogowe valley belt, and a sandstone plateau.

The Coastal Mountains.—These are divided into several well-defined groups. To the north, beyond the Ogowe, lie the Crystal Mountains, which have an average height of over 2,000 ft., and send off numerous branches towards the coast. Between the Ogowe and the upper Ngunye, the coastal mountains are continued by what may be called the plateau of Ngunye, which extends as far as the Kwilu (Kouilou) and is traversed by many rivers. The soil here is thin. The central part of the plateau has a height of over 3,000 ft. in the north-east, but a thick bed of clay covers the surface, and the Nyanga flows through a fertile valley. Lastly, to the south of the Nyanga is the hilly country of Mayumba.

The Ivindo-Ogowe Valleys.—This region varies in height between 1,000 and 1,800 ft., and is in places very irregular in its surface features. The rivers are frequently interrupted by waterfalls and rapids, but

are sometimes almost level with the surface of the land, so that a very slight rise converts large areas into marsh. Much of the land is covered with forest.

The Plateau.—In the north the country to the east of the Ivindo has been much cut up by various rivers. Farther to the south is the Bateke plateau, which has a lower elevation, and whose sandy soil only supports a steppe vegetation.

The Congo Plains.—Middle Congo is a relatively flat country drained by the Congo, the Ubanghi, and the Sanga. Alluvial deposits accordingly cover considerable areas, and the greater part of the region falls within the limits of the great equatorial forest.

Ubanghi-Shari-Chad

The colony of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad is in general appearance an immense undulating plateau rising gently upward from the valley of the Ubanghi to a height of 1,000–2,000 ft., and falling somewhat more steeply to the plains of Lake Chad. Here and there, at intervals of from ten to twenty miles, groups of rocks (*kagas*) rise abruptly to a height of from 150 to 300 ft. or more. Great beds of sandstone cover a large part of the area, and thin out towards the north. The country is much dissected by rivers, on the upper courses of which rapids form a marked feature.

The Military Territory of Chad

From the geographical point of view the Military Territory of Chad, the northern limits of which have not been fixed, is not so easily classified as the preceding regions, and several distinct types of country may be recognized.

The southern part of the colony really belongs to the plateau of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad, and varies in height from 1,200 to 2,000 ft. Farther to the north it consists in the main of great plains of lacustrine origin interrupted here and there by hills of older rock. The slope of the land is so gentle that in the last 450 miles of its course the Shari has a fall of only about 360 ft.

The country in consequence is badly drained, and the surplus waters of the rivers form many ephemeral lakes.

The great plain of Bagirmi lies to the east of the basin of the Shari. It is very badly drained, and during the floods many large lakes and marshes are formed in the neighbourhood of Lake Fitri, which constitutes the drainage centre of the region. To the east and south-east of Bagirmi the Bahr Salamat drains an immense plain of bare clayey soil full of crevasses and depressions.

Throughout the greater part of the region which has just been described the chief breaks in the comparative monotony of the scenery are afforded by the rock hills, of which one well-known group lies near the right bank of the Shari below Niellim.

North of about the thirteenth parallel the country assumes a more desert-like appearance. In Kanem, to the north-east and east of Lake Chad, there are sandy plains dotted with lakes, only some of which are permanent. Away from the lake sand-dunes, often of considerable size, form the dominant features. Farther east, beyond the Bahr el-Ghazal, runs a long sandy plateau pierced in places by granitic rocks which rise to heights of several hundred feet. Nearer Lake Fitri the land becomes flat and much of it is marshy. Wadai, which here forms the eastern borderland of the country, is a hilly district of granitic and sandstone formation.

Of the more northerly districts comparatively little is known. The country known as Bodele consists of Egueï, Toro, Gossom, and Koru. Egueï is differentiated from the surrounding country by its dunes and its bushy vegetation. Rain only falls on an average once in seven years, but water is everywhere found at a slight distance below the surface between the dunes.

To the north of Egueï as far as Toro (250 miles), which is a depressed region, the land is entirely without water. The country to the east of Toro, however, which is known as Gossom, very much resembles Egueï. Koru is a region of mobile dunes, sometimes 150 to 200 ft. in height. Water is found in several places.

In the extreme north-east Ennedi, Borku, and Tibesti form the edge of the basin of Lake Chad, but this region is now included in French West Africa. Ennedi and Tibesti are mountainous, while Borkou forms a large depression between them and opens up communication from the basin of Chad to the Libyan desert. Water is plentiful here. Ennedi, which rises to heights of nearly 5,000 ft., is a massif of varied features. In the southern part of Tibesti the culminating point, Emi Kussi, is 11,155 ft. above sea-level, and from this summit there spread out in the form of a fan four and perhaps five chains, running towards the north-west, north, and north-east.

(b) *Coast*

The coast-line of Gabun has a length of over 500 miles. In the north it is often rock-bound; but to the south of Cape Lopez the coast is much flatter and broader, and is fringed in places by lagoons into which the rivers flow. These lagoons are cut off from the sea by sand-banks, and their mouths are continually changing.

The coast presents few facilities for the establishment of good ports, and vessels have usually to lie some distance off shore. The estuary of the Gabun river, however, which lies a few miles north of the equator, is accessible to the largest ships and affords commodious anchorage and good shelter. The least depth in the channel is said to be between 36 and 42 ft.; but even at Libreville, which is the chief port, ships have to anchor in the river and goods are trans-shipped by means of lighters.

The Bay of Cape Lopez, which penetrates into the delta islands of the Ogowe, has an excellent anchorage off the port of Manji. Farther to the south is Sette Cama, situated on the lagoon into which the Ndogu (Ndao) river flows; but, though it is a port of call, landing is often attended with considerable difficulty. Mayumba, some distance south of the mouth of the Nyanga, is situated on the Bay of Mayumba,

which affords good anchorage. Loango Bay, some distance south of the mouth of the Kwilu, is the most important anchorage on the southern part of the coast.

(c) *River Systems*

Gabun and Middle Congo

Rivers flowing to the Atlantic.—In the north the rivers are short and rapid. The most important system in the country is that of the Ogowe (Ogooué). This river, which has a length of 750 miles, rises in the plateau of Achikouyas and flows north-west to the confluence of the Ivindo. It then turns west and south-west to its delta south of Cape Lopez. After receiving the Ngunye (Ngounié) from the south it sends out numerous branches, some of which communicate with great lakes like Zonange to the south and Azingo to the north. The Ogowe is the only river which provides a route to the interior; but navigation is at all times difficult on account of rocks and sand-banks and the strong current.

South of the Ogowe, the most important rivers are the Nyanga and the Kwilu (Kouilou, Niadi or Niari). The latter, which is the more important, rises in the Bateke plateau, and flows first north-west and then south-west across the coastal plain. These rivers are of little value for purposes of navigation, but on the Nyanga moderately sized vessels can sail to Mongo, sixteen miles from the mouth of the river.

Rivers draining to the Congo.—The part of Middle Congo adjacent to Gabun is drained by tributaries of the Congo. Of these the most important are the Likwala Mossaka, the Alima, the Nkeni, and the Lefini. Farther to the east, in the detached portion of Middle Congo, the principal rivers are the Green Likwala (Likoualau-Herbes), the Ubanghi, and the Congo. The first of these is, in the lower part of its course, a fairly deep river. Various arms, some of which are navigable, connect it with the Sanga and the Ubanghi. The

Ubanghi and the Congo, which form the eastern and southern boundary of this region, are here broad rivers. Steamers can make their way from Brazzaville to Bangi.

Ubanghi-Shari-Chad

This region falls partly within the basin of the Congo and partly within that of Lake Chad (Tchad). The Ubanghi and its tributary the Mbomu (M'Bomou) form the southern frontier of the colony from Bangi eastwards, and these rivers have several important right-bank affluents. The Mbomu flows for a considerable part of its course in broad reaches, interrupted here and there by rapids and falls. The Ubanghi passes through a relatively flat country, but at Setema it traverses a series of rapids, where it narrows from nearly two miles to about 400 yds. Below these it once more broadens out, but contracts again when it reaches the rapids below Mokwange.

The west and north of the colony belong to the basin of Lake Chad, and the principal rivers are the Shari (Chari) and the Logone. The Bahr Sara is now generally regarded as the master stream of the Shari system. It rises in Cameroon as the Wa or Wam (Ouahm), and it is only after its confluence with the Fafa that it becomes navigable.

The Gribingi is the principal right-bank tributary of the Shari. It rises in the Kaga Mbre, and in the upper part of its course encounters numerous rapids. Below Fort Crampel (Gribingi) it receives the Koddo and its bed becomes much more regular. On the Shari system there are considerable stretches of navigable waterway. The western part of the colony is drained by the Logone, which eventually flows into the Shari.

As the region lies within the belt of summer rainfall the rivers which belong to it are usually in flood towards the end of the rainy season. On the Ubanghi there is high water between June and December, while on the Shari the floods usually attain their maximum in September or October.

The Military Territory of Chad

In the Military Territory the river system undergoes a profound change, as, with the exception of the Shari and Logone, there are no perennial streams of any size in the country. Even the Bahr Salamat, which near Lake Iro has a breadth of over 600 ft. and banks over 15 ft. high, runs for a few months only each year. The Bahr el-Ghazal is probably an ancient emission from Lake Chad, and the amount of water which it contains varies from year to year according to the strength of the annual floods. Throughout the country are numerous wadis which are in flood during the rains, but at other times are dry. A number of these lead towards Lake Fitri, a shallow sheet of water about 150 miles east of Lake Chad.

(3) CLIMATE

Gabun and Middle Congo

Few meteorological data are available for Gabun and Middle Congo, but their general climatic character is fairly well known.

Rainfall.—In Gabun and the adjacent parts of Middle Congo the period of heaviest rainfall appears to occur between September and December, when the equatorial rain-belt is moving southwards; but from the latter part of December to the earlier part of February there is a considerable decrease. As the sun moves northward there is a second rainy season between the middle of February and the middle of May. Then follows the dry season, when rainfall is reduced to a minimum. On the whole the mean annual precipitation is greater in the north of the country than in the south.

In the detached portion of Middle Congo there is a heavy rainfall some time after both equinoxes, and there is also a well-marked minimum between the middle of December and the middle of February. On the other hand, there is no month without considerable precipitation.

Temperature.—Over the whole area the temperature is high throughout the year. At Libreville the annual mean is about 79° F. (26.1° C.), and the annual range from about 75° F. (23.8° C.) in July to about 80° F. (26.6° C.) in February, March, and April. The upland districts in the interior are cooler. At Brazzaville on Stanley Pool the mean temperature for the year is about 77° F. (25° C.), and the range from about 71° F. (21.6° C.) in July to about 80° F. (26.6° C.) in March.

Ubanghi-Shari-Chad

Rainfall.—On the whole it may be said that over the whole colony there are two seasons, a wet and a dry, the former occurring while the sun is north of the equator. The dry season is longer in the north of the colony than it is in the south. The rains proper begin in March, and the first maximum is reached in May, with a second maximum in October. The total rainfall for the year is probably under 70 inches. Farther to the north the dry season is longer and more pronounced. At Fort Crampel the four months, November to February, are practically rainless. The mean annual rainfall here is probably about 50 inches.

Temperature.—The temperature is everywhere high throughout the year, but shows a tendency to increase towards the north. At Mobaye, March (which is the hottest month) has a mean temperature of 80° F. (26.6° C.), and August (the coldest) one of 74° F. (23.3° C.). At Fort Crampel, farther to the north, the mean temperature of March is 83° F. (28.3° C.), and of July and January, the coldest months, 79.5° F. (26.4° C.). The range between day and night is often considerable, and in some places is as much as 30° F. (16.6° C.).

The Military Territory of Chad

Rainfall.—Meteorological observations are almost entirely wanting for the Military Territory. In the south the seasonal distribution of rainfall is similar to that in Ubanghi-Shari-Chad, but the dry season is

somewhat longer. The earlier maximum seems to take place in July and the later in September. The mean annual precipitation is probably about 40 inches.

Farther to the north, in the region of Lake Chad, the dry season lasts from the beginning of October till the end of June, and the wet season is confined to the months of July, August, and September. The rains occur as a result of local thunder-storms, and as a rule do not last for more than a few hours at a time.

Temperature.—In the south temperature conditions are somewhat similar to those in the north of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad. At Fort Archambault the hottest period is just before the beginning of the heavy rain, and the month of April has a mean temperature of 85° F. (29.4° C.). During the rains the temperature falls steadily till September, which has a mean of 76.4° F. (24.7° C.), while in January it falls to 76.1° F. (24.5° C.). Farther to the north, in the country near Lake Chad, the highest mean temperature (90° F., 32.2° C.) is in May and June. In August it is 80° F. (26.6° C.), but it rises again, then falls to a minimum of 65.5° F. (18.6° C.) in January. In this region, therefore, three seasons may be recognized, the cold, the hot, and the rainy.

(4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

Gabun and Middle Congo

In Gabun malaria is very common, but small-pox is no longer endemic in the region. Leprosy also appears to be on the decrease, and beri-beri is said only to occur among natives who have entered the colony from other districts. Sleeping-sickness is not at present widespread.

The diseases of Middle Congo are on the whole similar, but sleeping-sickness is much more prevalent. Dysentery, intestinal complaints, and affections of the digestive organs due to the presence of parasites, are all common. Small-pox is endemic.

Ubanghi-Shari-Chad

The principal dangers to which Europeans are exposed are malaria and sunstroke. Sleeping-sickness is the chief plague among the natives, and also threatens to attack Europeans.

The Military Territory of Chad

In the Military Territory the principal diseases among Europeans are malaria and dysentery, and among natives malaria, dysentery, and especially various forms of filariasis. Leprosy appears to exist in the east of the Territory. Smallpox appears to be declining, but venereal diseases are said to be widespread among the Arabs.

(5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

(a) Race

Gabun and Middle Congo

Gabun appears to be inhabited by several ethnic groups, but the relation in which these groups stand to one another is by no means clear. The following are the chief divisions:

(i) *The Okande group*.—The Mpongwes, one of the chief families of this group, are settled in the middle and lower valley of the Ogowe. The Oroungos occupy a considerable part of the delta land of the same river. The Goloas are found round Lambarene, while the Eshira-Ashango tribes live on both sides of the Ngunye. Physically, the differences between these families are very slight, and they appear to be vigorous and intelligent.

(ii) *The Fiot group*.—To this group belong the Bavis or Loangos, who occupy the country on both sides of the lower Kwilu, and the Bayakas, along the Niari or upper Kwilu. The Baloumbos, the Bapounos, and other tribes occupy the lower basin of the Nyanga and the neighbouring districts, and appear to be derived from an intermixture of Okande and Fiot

blood. The Fiot peoples are, as a rule, of less than average stature.

(iii) *The Bateke group*.—The Batekes, and the Balallis with whom they are closely connected, occupy the Bateke plateau. Farther to the north other tribes, such as the Mbochis, are probably of mixed Bateke and Orande blood.

(iv) *The Fans or Pahouins*.—This group of comparatively recent invaders occupies the country north of the Ogowe and west of the Ivindo. The Fans are generally tall, muscular, and well made.

(v) The *Bakotas* occupy much of the country which lies to the north of the Likwala Mossaka.

(vi) The *Bakales* live in the districts south of the middle Ogowe, and form an enclave between the Pahouins in the north and the Eshira-Ashango peoples in the south. They are generally tall in stature, and chocolate-brown in colour.

The detached portion of Middle Congo is occupied in the main by the *Mbwakas*, who belong to the Banda group which inhabits the greater part of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad.

Ubanghi-Shari-Chad

The principal peoples of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad are the Mandjias, the Bandas, and the Zandes or Niam-Niams. They belong, in the main, to the Sudanese family.

(i) The *Mandjias* are settled in the west of the country, in the watershed between the Shari and Ubanghi basins, and are divided into numerous tribes. In appearance they are not unlike the Mbwakas of Middle Congo.

(ii) The *Bandas* are almost entirely localized in the colony, where they occupy the greater part of the central and eastern district. Many different tribes have been recognized. Physically they resemble the Mandjias, but are taller.

(iii) The *Zandes* inhabit the extreme south-east of the colony, but the riverain peoples almost as far west as the bend of the Ubanghi are probably connected with

them. Their physique is considerably above the average.

(iv) In the extreme north-west of the country some *Sara* tribes live round the Nana Baria, a tributary of the Bahr Sara, but the majority of these people live in the Military Territory.

The Military Territory of Chad

As a result of its great geographical diversity the Military Territory of Chad is inhabited by peoples of very different ethnic origin. The Sudanese and Arab elements are the most important.

(i) The *Saras* occupy a large part of the country drained by the Shari and its tributaries. They fall into two great groups, one of which lies to the west, and the other to the east, of that river. The western group is split up into a great number of tribes, which probably represent an intermixture of the indigenous inhabitants with Sudanese from the east. The eastern group, which is less extensive, occupies a considerable stretch of country on either side of the lower course of the Bahr Salamat. The *Saras* are, as a rule, tall and well made, and often possess great physical strength.

(ii) The *Bagirmis* appear to be derived from an intermixture of negro and Arab blood. They cover a considerable extent of country to the east of the Shari, south of Fort Lamy. The *Bulalas* and the *Kukas* in the region to the south-east of Lake Fitri are also negroid tribes with an intermixture of Arab blood.

The *Budumas* and the *Kuris* who inhabit the islands in the archipelago of Lake Chad have, thanks to their isolation, preserved their original characteristics.

The *Kanembus* form the sedentary population of Kanem. The purity of their race has been affected by various invaders.

(iii) *The Arab Tribes.*—The Arabs are widely distributed over the northern part of the country, but in many cases there has been considerable intermixture

with negro blood. The Ulad-Sliman who live in the north of Kanem appear to be an almost pure stock.

The Ulad-Rachid occupy considerable stretches of country on the right bank of the Bat-ha and in the upper basin of the Bahr Salamat. They are said to possess a strong admixture of negro blood. The Dekakires on the right bank, and the Yessies on the left bank, of the Bahr Laïri, appear to be of similar origin, and also the Khozzams who inhabit the country farther to the north-west. The Salamats, to the south of Am Timan, are known as black Arabs, on account of the large amount of negro blood in their veins.

(iv) *The Tibbus*.—In the region of the Bahr el-Ghazal there are a number of tribes whose original home appears to have been in the Tibesti highlands, and who possess many of the characteristics of the Tuaregs, a people of Berber stock. They are spoken of as a well-made, fine-looking race, without any trace of Sudanese negro blood, although in colour they are almost black.

(v) *The Peoples of Wadai*.—Wadai, though it is still very imperfectly known, seems to be inhabited by a variety of races. The negro appears to have reached the region partly from the Nile and partly from the Central Sudan. The Arab element is also strong in the country, and there are several tribes belonging to the Tibbu family.

(b) *Language*

In Gabun and Middle Congo the people speak dialects of the Bantu language. Elsewhere in this region the Bateke group of dialects is the most important. In Ubanghi-Shari-Chad and in the Military Territory conditions are more complicated. The Negroid peoples use one or other of the various Sudanese languages, but where they have come under Arab influence they often speak a little Arabic as well. In Ubanghi-Shari-Chad the Bunda language is slightly akin in structure and vocabulary to the Bantu form of speech. Among the Sara peoples, on the other hand,

there is no single language. The Tibbu tribes speak dialects which are probably derived from some primitive Tibbu-Berber language. These now show little connexion with Berber, but in the south have become assimilated to Sudanese negro dialects. Arabic is spoken by a number of the Arab peoples.

(6) POPULATION

All the figures given for the population of French Equatorial Africa appear to be unreliable. The *Annuaire du Gouvernement général de l'Afrique française* gives 15,000,000 as the total, but this figure is obviously too high. Another estimate (1915) is 9,000,000. The only detailed figures are as follows: Gabun (1911), 259,000; Middle Congo (1913), 591,000; and the Military Territory of Chad (1911), 1,400,000. These are probably too low.

II. POLITICAL HISTORY

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1839. Cession of Gabun to France.
1848. Foundation of Libreville.
1862. Exploration of Ogowe begun.
- 1875-78. De Brazza on the Ogowe.
- 1880-84. De Brazza in rivalry with Stanley establishes French influence north of Congo.
- 1884-85. Berlin Conference ; recognition of Congo Free State. Boundary Treaty between France and Congo.
1885. Boundary Treaty with Germany (December 24).
1886. Boundary Convention with Portugal (May 12).
1887. Boundary with Congo Free State fixed at Ubanghi (April 29).
1894. Boundary with Germany carried up to Lake Chad (March 15). Mbomu river constituted boundary with Congo Free State.
1898. Boundary from the Niger to Lake Chad fixed with Great Britain (June 14).
1899. Boundary with Anglo-Egyptian Sudan fixed (March 21). Policy of development by concessionaire companies begun.
1900. Boundary of Spanish Guinea determined ; right of pre-emption secured by France.
1901. Protests by British firms against proceedings of concessionaire companies.
1904. Further adjustment of boundary from the Niger to Lake Chad with Great Britain (April 8).
1906. Settlement of claims of British companies.
1908. Appointment of M. Merlin as Governor-General. Boundary Convention with Germany (April 18).
1910. Settlement of the question of concessionaire companies. Pacification of Chad.
1911. Cession to Germany of large areas, giving access to the Congo and Ubanghi. Renunciation in favour of Germany of right of pre-emption over Spanish Guinea (November 4).
1912. Declaration providing for detailed arrangements under Treaty of 1911 (September 28).
1919. Supplementary Convention (Sept. 8) as to boundary with Sudan.

(1) Acquisition of the Congo

FRENCH sovereignty in the Congo area was first established by a treaty of February 9, 1839, under which the King of Gabun, who was on friendly terms with French missionaries and traders, ceded his territory to France. Effective occupation took place in 1844; and in 1848 the capital, Libreville, was founded with a draft of freed slaves. The territory was explored in several expeditions by du Chaillu; and from 1862 onwards French control was extended till it reached the Ogowe river.

In 1875, however, Savorgnan de Brazza began a series of explorations which led him beyond the hills at the head of the Ogowe to the Alima, which flows east into the River Congo. When the news of Stanley's great journey down the Congo became known, de Brazza, who had returned to Europe, was despatched to Africa as the agent of the French Committee of the International African Association, ostensibly on a mission to explore the territory between Gabun and Lake Chad, but with authority from the French Government to acquire political control over the territories which he visited. In 1880, therefore, de Brazza not only established a post on the Ogowe, but obtained a treaty from a chief which enabled him to found a post, now Brazzaville, to the north of Stanley Pool, and even to secure a footing on the south bank of the River Congo. During the next few years, in close rivalry with the agents of the International Association of the Congo, he secured further treaties with chiefs along the Congo. The difficulties which resulted were only removed by the exchange of Notes of April 23, 1884, which secured to France the right of pre-emption over the Congo Free State, and by the Convention of February 5, 1885 (annexed to the Act of the Berlin Conference), which settled in general terms the boundary line between the French Congo and the Congo Free State. The actual boundary in

the Manyanga region was fixed by the Protocol of November 22, 1885; and the Protocol of April 29, 1887, fixed the boundary north of the Congo as the *thalweg* of the Ubanghi up to 4° north latitude, the Congo Free State agreeing not to exercise any political influence on the right bank of the river north of that parallel, while France gave a similar undertaking as regards the left bank.

The efforts of King Leopold to extend the territory of the Congo Free State to the Nile in the years after 1890 brought him into conflict with French expansion in the same direction. The dispute was finally settled by the Agreement of August 14, 1894, which conceded to the Congo Free State a boundary running along the River Mbomu to its source; thence the frontier continued in a straight line to the Congo-Nile watershed, and along the watershed to its intersection with 30° east longitude. In return, the Congo Free State undertook to confine its activities to the region east and south of a line which, following the meridian of 30° east longitude from its intersection with the watershed to 5° 30' north latitude, continues along that parallel to the Nile. The Franco-Belgian Agreement of December 23, 1908, which followed the annexation of the Congo Free State by Belgium, confirmed the French right of pre-emption over the Belgian Congo, and assigned to France the island of Bamou (M'Bamou) in Stanley Pool, placing it, however, under a regime of perpetual neutrality.

The boundary with Angola was fixed by Art. III of the Convention of May 12, 1886, Portugal being allowed for sentimental reasons to retain the Cabinda enclave to the north of the Congo. The boundary with Cameroon was determined by the Protocol of December 24, 1885, under which Germany agreed not to claim any territory south of a line from the mouth of the Campo (Ntem) river to its intersection with 10° east longitude, following the parallel of latitude of that point to 15° east longitude. The further demarcation of the boundary between Cameroon and French Congo was provided

for by the Convention of March 15, 1894; but this was superseded by the Convention of April 18, 1908. The difficulties between France and Germany over the question of Morocco, however, rendered further changes necessary; and the Convention of November 4, 1911, which recognized the French protectorate over Morocco, was accompanied by a Convention, signed the same day, making large territorial cessions to Germany.¹ Under this arrangement German territory was carried to the south of Spanish Guinea, a short distance north of Libreville, the capital of Gabun; the territory on both banks of the Sanga river down to its confluence with the Congo was surrendered by France, Germany receiving access to the Congo by means of an area on the river bank of not less than 6 or more than 12 kilometres; similar access was given to the Ubanghi by the cession of the area intervening between the rivers Lobaye and Ngabo Lesse; the upper course of the Logone was surrendered; and the only compensation afforded was the cession by Germany of territory between the Shari and the Logone.

Germany, however, undertook not to oppose the construction of a railway by France from Gabun to the Middle Congo and thence to Ubanghi-Shari-Chad, if desired; but she reserved the right to take a part in the work. In return France bound herself not to interfere with the extension of a railway from Cameroon. Germany also agreed to lease to France the necessary ground for establishing posts on the Benue, the Mayo-Kebi (Mao-Kabi), and in the direction of the Logone, as bases of supply for troops in transit, similar privileges being conferred on Germany. France, moreover, acquired the right to transport troops by the German railway which was to be constructed in the north of Cameroon. Both Powers explicitly renewed the assurances of freedom of trade and navigation on the

¹ Cd. 6010; Cd. 5970. See also *French Morocco*, No. 101 of this series, p. 88. L. Regismanset (*Questions coloniales*, Paris, 1912, pp. 226-46) gives a summary of the French side of the transaction.

Congo and the Niger and their affluents, and on the railways of the two territories, as laid down by the Act of Berlin. Finally, while France refused to transfer to Germany her right of pre-emption over the Belgian Congo, she agreed that in the event of the modification of the territorial status of the conventional basin of the Congo by the act of either Power, that Power would be bound to confer with the other, and with the other Powers signatory to the Berlin Act. The terms of the Treaty of 1911 were made definite by a Declaration of September 28, 1912, which laid down principles affecting the demarcation of the boundary, defined the exact conditions in which the territories ceded by the two Powers should be handed over, and detailed the principles affecting the position of the concessionaire companies in the areas ceded by France.

The net result of the transaction was the loss to France of about 270,000 square kilometres in exchange for some 15,000 square kilometres, and a net loss of population roughly estimated at a million out of a total of 6,500,000. The area still left to France, however, consisted of 1,945,000 square kilometres; German apologists laid stress on the unfertile and inaccessible character of much of the territory ceded, and on the prevalence of sleeping-sickness. On the other hand, besides obtaining access to the Congo, as a preliminary to further designs on that colony, Germany secured a considerable area of valuable territory in the Sanga valley, which had been opened up successfully by concessionaire companies.

(2) *Boundary Questions*

Boundary with Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.—The boundary arrangements concluded in 1894 with Germany and with the Congo Free State were in some sort completed by similar arrangements made in 1898 and 1899 with Great Britain, for the definition of French rights on Lake Chad, and of Franco-British spheres of influence in Darfur and in the Bahr el-Ghazal province

of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The adjustment of the latter was rendered necessary by Marchand's advance from the Congo to the Nile in 1896-98. By Art. IV of the Convention of June 14, 1898, it was agreed to recognize as falling within the French sphere the northern, eastern, and southern shores of Lake Chad comprised between the point of intersection of 14° north latitude with the western shore of the lake, and the point of incidence on the shore of the lake of the frontier determined by the Franco-German Convention of March 15, 1894.

By the Declaration of March 21, 1899, supplementary to this Article, and the supplementary convention of September 8, 1919, the limits of the British and French spheres of interest were determined as described above (see p. 2). By Art. VIII of the Anglo-French Treaty of April 8, 1904, it was provided that France should be assured such a frontier on Lake Chad as would secure open water communication between her possessions to the north-west and those to the north-east of the lake. The French control of Chad was rendered effective by the defeat of Rabah in 1900, and by General Largeau's victories in 1910-14, which reduced Wadai to subjection. Largeau's victories were of great importance. Tibesti and Borku were occupied, with the result that, after the occupation of El Fasher by Great Britain, there was no independent native Mohammedan state left south of the Sahara east of Lake Chad.

The Boundary with Spanish Territory.—Spanish claims of long-standing were recognized and defined by the Convention of June 27, 1900, which gave France a right of pre-emption over Spanish Guinea; but this right was waived in favour of Germany by an exchange of Notes on November 4, 1911.¹

(3) *Internal Affairs*

The General Act of the Berlin Conference provided for complete freedom of trade in the basin of the Congo, and prohibited not only differential treatment

¹ Cd. 6010, p. 16.

and commercial monopolies, but also the levying of import duties. This ruling affected a large portion of French Equatorial Africa, including Middle Congo and much of Ubanghi-Shari-Chad, but not the northern part of Gabun, to which, accordingly, was applied the French law of January 11, 1892, imposing the metropolitan tariff of France. For the territory in the conventional area the strict prohibition of duties was relaxed by the Act of the Brussels Conference of 1890, which became effective by the Protocol of Lisbon of April 8, 1892, to the extent of allowing the imposition of duties of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*; but the revenues so derived were quite insufficient to develop the enormous territory acquired by de Brazza.

The apparent success of the Congo State regime after 1891, in the development of its territories by companies, led in 1899 to the decision of the French Government, despite the advice of the local officials, to adopt the same policy in French Congo. Practically all the useful land in the Gabun, Middle Congo, Sanga, and Ubanghi regions, was conceded to 42 companies, who were given for the period of thirty years sole rights to the natural products of the territory thus conceded, including rubber, gum, ivory, wood, palm oil, and the products of fisheries and hunting. In return for these concessions the companies agreed, in addition to certain fixed payments, to pay 15 per cent. of their profits to the colony, to provide steamers on certain rivers, and to perform other public services.

The effect of these concessions was not long in making itself felt. The natives were forbidden by the French Government to sell any of the produce which they collected to any but the companies, while the companies held that the natives had no right to the products, and should only be paid for collecting them in goods, the value of which the companies fixed. The British firms which had hitherto been dealing with the natives complained of their treatment,¹ the con-

¹ There is a clear statement of their case in the *Journal of the*

cessionaires (it was stated) not only proceeding to acts of violence against the British representatives, but also obtaining the decision of the local courts that their trading with the natives was illegal.

The situation was further aggravated by the unrest caused by the imposition from 1899 onwards of a capitation tax. This was a form of taxation to which the population was unaccustomed; it was condemned by de Brazza,¹ who was sent to the colony to report on the situation. The British Government protested against the treatment of the British firms; and so clear was their case² that in May 1906 it was settled by the payment of 1,500,000 francs and the grant of 30,000 hectares. Fortunately the French Government realized that French Congo was rapidly bidding fair to rival the Congo Free State in maladministration through the steps taken by some of its officials to further the interests of the companies, and decided on a change of policy. The Governor-General, M. Merlin, who was appointed in 1908 to introduce reforms, succeeded by an agreement of June 13, 1910, in obtaining from six companies in Gabun the surrender of 6,000,000 hectares in exchange for a grant of 125,000 hectares. Another agreement of June 13, 1910, made with eleven companies in the Sanga-Ubanghi district, sanctioned their fusion into one company. In return the companies' monopoly over 17,000,000 hectares was converted into a monopoly of the rubber only, and the period of the concession was reduced to ten years, with permission to exploit for a further ten years an area ten times the extent of the amount actually brought into cultivation before 1919. Fifteen per cent. of the profits of the new company for a period of 99 years was secured to the Government.

Agreements with the majority of the remaining

African Society, ii, 38-43, and a bibliography of the controversy in E. D. Morel, *Africa and the Peace of Europe* (London, 1917), p. 53.

¹ Cited in *Journal of African Society*, v. 87-89.

² It is admitted by C. Humbert, *L'Œuvre française aux Colonies*, pp. 46-53.

concessionaire companies have also been concluded, making it certain that in due course the territory will be freed from the burden of the concessions.¹ The areas of the concessionaire companies in the Sanga district passed to Germany by the Convention of November 4, 1911, the rights and obligations of the French Government being expressly transferred; but the German Chancellor, in his speech in the Reichstag on November 9, 1911, laid stress on the fact that German administration and jurisdiction would prevent abuses.² Meanwhile, M. Merlin, with the aid of a loan of 15,000,000 francs (out of a nominal 21,000,000 francs), took effective steps to extend French control over the native tribes throughout the territory, and important reforms were instituted in the organization of the administration and of the judiciary, as also in education and sanitary measures.

¹ A list of the companies and their payments is given in Cd. 7048—66, p. 8.

² Cd. 5970, p. 4.

III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

(1) RELIGIOUS

GABUN and part of Middle Congo lie beyond the full range of Mohammedan influence. Mohammedanism, on the other hand, is particularly flourishing in the region between the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Lake Chad, where religious feeling often finds expression in attacks on pagan tribes. Christianity, even in the coast region, has made, and promises to make, little progress. There is, in fact, no effective rival to Mohammedanism, which makes the same appeal to the natives of Equatorial Africa as elsewhere in the continent. It involves practically no discarding of fetishism and sanctions polygamy, which the dependence of the native on his family for labour renders an essential part of the native economy; it approves domestic slavery, which is the complement of polygamy. It is also largely a proselytizing faith; and there seems ground to believe that its adherents are increasing in number. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the Mohammedanism which is thus propagated is intellectually degraded in character, since the negroes who accept it are of a very primitive mentality.

(2) POLITICAL

Government-General.—A decree of the President of the French Republic of December 29, 1903, constituted the Colony of French Congo and its dependencies, and divided it into Gabun, Middle Congo, Ubanghi-Shari, and Chad. By the decree of January 15, 1910, the name French Congo was changed into

French Equatorial Africa, while the territories in question were reorganized as the three colonies of Gabun, Middle Congo, and Ubanghi-Shari-Chad, to which is attached the Military Territory of Chad. Until 1915 each colony formed a separate administrative and financial unit, administered by a Lieutenant-Governor under the supreme control of the Governor-General at Brazzaville; but by the decrees of May 14, 1915, and April 12, 1916, the Chad territory was defined and placed directly under the Governor-General. The Governor-General represents the authority of the Republic in the whole territory; he is the sole channel of correspondence with the French Government,¹ and is in supreme control of all civil and military establishments. He appoints to non-pensionable offices and nominates to pensionable offices. He is assisted by a Secretary-General and a Council of Government composed of the Secretary-General, the three Lieutenant-Governors, the chief of the military forces, the head of the judiciary, the delegate of Equatorial Africa to the *Conseil supérieur des Colonies*, one notable from each of the Councils of Administration of the three colonies, and the *chef du cabinet* of the Governor-General. This body is required to meet once a year, and the Governor-General must act with it in fixing the boundaries of the colonies, in determining taxation of all kinds, subject to the approval of the French Government, and in settling the budget of the General Government and of the several colonies. He may consult it on any other matters or, in its stead, a permanent Committee which consists of practically the same members, excluding those not normally resident in the Middle Congo. Legislation for the territories is effected by laws of the Republic, or normally by Presidential decrees, while the Governor-General has wide powers of issuing *arrêtés* or administrative regulations.

Local Governments.—The Lieutenant-Governors are responsible for the administration of each colony;

¹ The Treasury, however, deals direct with the French Minister of Finances under the decree of December 30, 1912.

they have the power of issuing *arrêtés*, and in their functions have the assistance of Councils of Administration, consisting of the head of the Secretariat, the inspector of administration, the officer commanding the battalion stationed in the colony, a high legal official, and two notables nominated for two years from French citizens. This Council may be consulted on any subject; and it must be consulted in matters relating to taxation, to the budget, to the fixing of districts, and to all alienations of the *domaines privés ou publics*, important contracts, and expropriation of land. By adding two legal members the Councils become qualified to act as tribunals dealing with questions of administrative law which do not go before the ordinary courts.

Administration.—By far the larger portion of the territory was until recently in military occupation, and not subjected to regular civil government. About two-thirds of the Middle Congo area is under civil control. In the parts settled by Europeans the Governor-General in Council is authorized to establish *Communes*, the mode of appointment of the governing body, its powers and revenues, being defined specially for each case.¹ In the territory under military occupation the native chiefs continue to rule, subject only to a quasi-political control by the military commanders. This system may be regarded as a transitory condition preparatory to the establishment of full civil control, as at present existent in French West Africa,² and no development of it on the lines of the native government of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria appears to be projected.

Judiciary.—Two sets of courts exist, French and Native, whose powers are regulated by a decree of April 13, 1913, which replaces an earlier but defective

¹ Decree of March 4, 1911.

² M. Merlin claimed in 1913 that 60 per cent. of the country was administered, as against 20 per cent. in 1908, and that only 20 per cent. of the whole was foreign to French control. There are 59 administrative divisions.

decree of May 10, 1910. The competence of French Courts is exclusive in all cases affecting French citizens,¹ Europeans generally, and such natives as enjoy in their place of origin a status equivalent to that of Europeans. By consent native cases may be heard by these tribunals, which then apply native law, and may be assisted by assessors, European or native, unless the natives prefer to have French law applied. The courts form an elaborate hierarchy: (1) Justices of the Peace, appointed from among administrative officers, with the powers of police tribunals in criminal matters in France, and with the powers of French *tribunaux de paix* in civil matters; (2) Tribunals of First Instance at Brazzaville, Libreville, and Bangi, and Justices of the Peace with extended powers at Loango, Wesso, and Cape Lopez, who exercise appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of Justices, criminal jurisdiction in all cases of contraventions and *délits* (in the latter case subject to appeal), and civil jurisdiction in all civil and commercial matters (subject to appeal where the capital value of the subject matter exceeds 2,000 fr.); (3) a Court of Appeal at Brazzaville, to hear appeals from Courts of First Instance and Justices of the Peace with extended powers; and (4) a Criminal Court, normally at Brazzaville, but liable to be transferred to any of the other capitals, with exclusive jurisdiction in the case of crimes proper. Proceedings in the colony may be subject to revision by the *Cour de Cassation* in France. The so-called Native Courts deal with other cases. Such courts are formed in each administrative division, or if necessary in subdivisions; they are presided over by the chief administrative officer of the division, who is assisted by assessors, one European, one native, who have, however, only advisory functions. The court applies local custom in so far as this is in accordance with the principles of French civilization. In civil matters its decision is final; in criminal matters it can impose the death penalty, imprison-

¹ A decree of May 23, 1912, specifies conditions on which educated natives can become French citizens.

ment, fine, or banishment ; but any sentence exceeding two years' imprisonment may be appealed against to the Court of Homologation at Brazzaville, which consists of the members of the Court of Appeal and two other persons nominated by the Governor-General. In addition the Procurator-General can appeal to that court against any sentence whatever, or against an acquittal.

(3) MILITARY

In 1907 the total military force was only two battalions, consisting of about 2,100 men. In 1908 the number was increased to four battalions, one in each colony and one in the Chad territory. In 1909 a second battalion was added for Chad ; and the force, which had hitherto been under the General Officer commanding at Dakar, was placed under a Colonel commanding-in-chief at Brazzaville. In 1911 a third battalion was placed in the Chad territory ; and in the following year the Governor-General proposed the increase of the force in each colony to two battalions, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels, each consisting of four companies in the case of Gabun, and of three in that of the other colonies. Each company was to be 200 strong, and the first company of the first battalion in each case was to be stationed at the capital, to act as a reserve and a depot, and to have attached to it an instruction camp for recruits.

(4) EDUCATIONAL

Lack of funds has hitherto prevented any substantial progress in the provision of education for the natives. The principles, however, are laid down by an *arrêté* of April 4, 1911, which provides for elementary and advanced education and for professional education. Primary elementary education comprises French, reading, writing, elementary arithmetic, and practical lessons mainly connected with agriculture and hygiene. Advanced education adds the metric system, a sum-

mary knowledge of contemporary French history and of the history of the French African Colonies, especially that of French Equatorial Africa, elementary geography, science as applied to hygiene and agriculture, and elementary medical knowledge. Professional education includes training to fit youths as blacksmiths, metal-workers, masons, carpenters, &c. Primary elementary education is given either in urban schools under European teachers, such schools having been established at Brazzaville, Libreville, Bangi, and Nola, or in schools established in each division and conducted under the control of the head of the divisional staff. Advanced education is given only in the urban schools, but will be extended later; professional training is afforded at Brazzaville, Libreville, and Mobaye. In the urban schools, when necessary, provision is made for special departments for girls, where they will be taught, in addition to the ordinary subjects, washing, ironing, sewing, cooking, and housewifery. In the meantime, however, by far the greater part of the children have no opportunity of receiving any education whatever from the State. Among the Mohammedans, as in West Africa, a system of instruction obtains to the extent of teaching the children to repeat verses of the Koran which they do not understand.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

(1) *France and Germany*

Germany's annexation of Cameroon diminished the value of the French territories, and, taken in conjunction with the French failure to secure the Congo, explains the comparative indifference shown in France to the work of de Brazza. To Germany, on the other hand, French Equatorial Africa forms a barrier to the acquisition of the Congo, which for some time has been an object of German ambition, and the way to which was in some measure prepared by the Convention of 1911, which secured to Germany access to the

Congo. This ambition, and the close proximity of Cameroon to the Congo, sufficiently explain the desire of France to secure, if possible, the reversion of most of Cameroon and thus definitely to shut off German access to the Congo. Her claims in this respect have been satisfied by the recent Treaty of Peace (1919).

(2) *France and the United Kingdom*

By the Berlin Act equality of treatment in all matters of trade and navigation is secured to British subjects in the basin of the Congo, including much, though not all, of the most valuable territory in French Equatorial Africa. This is supplemented, as regards the region from the Chad to the Sudan, by the provisions of the agreement of March 21, 1899, which includes in the zone of equal treatment in matters of trade and navigation for a period of thirty years from June 13, 1899, the region south of $14^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude, and north of 5° north latitude, between $14^{\circ} 20'$ east longitude and the course of the Upper Nile.

(3) *France and Italy*

The occupation of Tripoli and Cyrenaica by Italy in 1912 has naturally resulted in a desire to extend her influence southward; and the contemplated trans-Saharan railway from Tripoli might possibly involve some arrangement with France respecting territory in the north-eastern Sahara.

IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

(A) MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

(1) INTERNAL

(a) *Roads, Paths, and Tracks*

THE only road in the colony runs from Fort Sibut (Krebeje) to Fort Crampel (Gribingi), a distance of 94 miles, and connects the navigable waters of the Tomi and the Gribingi, on the main route to Lake Chad. It was opened for wheeled traffic in 1912, and can be used by motors except at the height of the rainy season; it is proposed to perfect it, to continue it southwards to Bangi, and to start a regular motor service. Further, about 750 miles of paths or tracks have been made by the French; but communication in the equatorial forest, which covers the whole country south of 5° north latitude, is chiefly by waterway.

The main lines of communication with the territory round Lake Chad are as follows:—

i. To the north:

- a. Fort Lamy to Tripoli, *via* Mao, Ngigmi (N'Guigmi), Bilma, and Murzuk.
- b. Fort Lamy to Ben Ghasi, *via* Ati, Abeshr, Wanyanga, and Kufra.

ii. To the east:

- a. Fort Lamy to El Obeid in the Sudan, *via* Ati, Abeshr, and El Fasher.
- b. Fort Lamy to Fort Crampel and to Kafiakinji, *via* Ndele.

iii. To the south:

Fort Lamy to Fort Crampel (by river) and thence to Bangi, *via* Fort Sibut.

iv. To the west :

- a. Fort Lamy to Kano in Northern Nigeria, *via* Mao, Ngigmi, and Zinder.
- b. Fort Lamy to Southern Nigeria by the Logone and Benue rivers.

(b) *Rivers*

There are in the colony about 4,750 miles of waterways navigable for steamers during the whole or part of the year. Of these, 1,000 miles belong to the Gabun or coastal system, 2,500 miles to the Congo basin, and 1,250 miles to the Chad system. Unfortunately, however, the navigation of nearly all the rivers is much interrupted by rapids. The colony possesses between 50 and 60 steamers ranging from 3 to 300 tons, as well as a number of flat-bottomed barges, motor-boats, &c. The chief navigable waterways, with their steamer services, are as follows :

Gabun System.

i. *The Ogowe and its Affluents.*—(a) On the main stream navigation is always possible from Port Gentil to Njole (Ndjole); a regular service is maintained by two paddlewheel steamers, of 180 and 150 tons, belonging to the Chargeurs Réunis. From Njole two small steamers of 15 tons each, belonging to the Société Gabonaise d'Entreprises et de Transports, ascend when there is sufficient depth of water to the falls of Boue. The same company has placed on the river above the falls a 12-ton steamer, which plies to the next rapids, the falls of Bunji, below Lastoursville.

(b) The Ivindo below Makoku is rendered un-navigable by rapids. The Société Gabonaise has transported to Makoku another 12-ton steamer which navigates the upper reaches of the river and its affluents, of which 400 miles are said to be navigable.

(c) On the Ngunye the two paddlewheel steamers of the Chargeurs Réunis sometimes ascend as far as the falls of Samba above Sindara. The Société Gabonaise has placed another small steamer on the river above

these rapids, for service on the middle reach of the river from Nagoshi to Muila (60 miles).

ii. *The Coastal Rivers and Lagoons.*—The paddlewheel steamers of the Chargeurs Réunis are sometimes able to navigate the lagoons of Fernan Vaz, which, in common with the rivers Komo (Como), Kwilu (Kouilou, Niadi or Niari), and others, are also traversed by small steamers and motor-boats belonging to the local planters or trading companies.

Congo System.

i. *Stanley Pool.*—The service across Stanley Pool, between Brazzaville and Kinshassa, is carried on by the Belgian company La 'Citas' (Compagnie Internationale de Transport au Stanley Pool). Steamers run three times weekly each way.

ii. *The Congo and Ubanghi.*—The service up the Congo and Ubanghi between Brazzaville and Bangi (935 miles) is maintained by the Compagnie des Messageries Fluviales du Congo, which has a fleet of 11 screw or paddlewheel steamers of from 20 to 300 tons burden, and 13 barges. In the dry season (October–April) the large boats cannot go higher than the rapids of Zinga, and when the stream is very low they are unable to proceed beyond Dongu, at the confluence of the Ibenga. It is believed that the stream could easily be made permanently navigable as far as Bangi for the company's largest steamers. The service is monthly; and the journey up-stream takes 10 to 12 days, down-stream about half that time.

iii. *The Tributaries of the Congo and Ubanghi between Brazzaville and Bangi.*—The only regular service is that maintained by the Messageries Fluviales up the Sanga to Wesso (312 miles from the confluence), but several other companies and organizations own steamers and barges, and in this part of the colony there are 47 steamers. By the Franco-German Agreement of 1912 Wesso was left in French territory: otherwise the whole course of the river was ceded to Germany, and by an agreement of December 1912 the Kameruner Schiffahrtsgesellschaft took over the steamship service.

Above Wesso the Sanga is navigable for small steamers to Nola (181 miles), and sometimes to Bania, and the Ja (Dja, Dscha) is navigable to Ngoila (Soufflay): the Green Likwala (Likouala-aux-Herbes), which joins the Sanga 25 miles above Bonga, is navigable as far as Botungo.

Of the other tributaries of the Congo and Ubanghi, the Lobaye, Ibenga, and Nkeni are navigable for small steamers in the rainy season only, the first as far as Loko (44 miles), the second to Enyelle (E'Niellé, 55 miles), and the last to Enzien. The Likwala Mossaka is navigable for steamers of medium size as far as Makua (165 miles) almost all the year round, and for 20-ton boats to Etumbi (75 miles farther) from the end of September to the end of June. Its tributary, the Kuyu, is navigable for small steamers from the end of September to the end of April, as far as Fort Russet (50 miles). The Alima is permanently navigable for 20-ton steamers to Leketi (215 miles).

iv. *The Upper Ubanghi and its Tributaries.*—At Bangi and again 25 miles farther north navigation is interrupted by rapids. From Mossamba opposite Mokwange, at the upper end of the higher rapids, to Mobaye (about 200 miles) a small steamer belonging to the Compagnie de Navigation et Transports Congo-Oubangui plies between the end of June and the end of December. The Ubanghi and Mbomu (M'Bomou) are navigable for canoes and whale-boats all the year round from the rapids of Mobaye to the falls of Guturu (about 125 miles), though there are three portages. During certain seasons the Mbomu is again navigable as far as the influx above the falls of the Mboku (M'Bokou, 200 miles).

The Kotto (Kotta, Kuta), which joins the Ubanghi just below the confluence of the Welle and the Mbomu, and the Shinko (Chinko), the chief tributary of the latter river, also possess long reaches navigable for canoes, at any rate in the rainy season. The whole system is valuable as a means of access to the Sultanates.

The route to Lake Chad ascends the Kemo, which joins the Ubanghi at Fort de Possel, and its tributary the Tomi to Fort Sibut (80 miles). The rivers are

navigable for canoes or whale-boats during 8 or 10 months in the year.

Chad System.

Between Lake Chad and the Congo traffic passes along the rivers Shari and Gribingi. Two small screw steamers of 14 tons each, both over 20 years old, ply on the Shari between Fort Lamy and Fort Archambault from August to December, taking 8 days ascending and 4 returning. From Fort Archambault to Fort Crampel on the Gribingi, to which there is a road from Fort Sibut, the journey takes 15 days in canoes; it is possible for steamers, but is difficult, dangerous, and seldom attempted. During 8 months in the year steamers are able to navigate the lower Shari and Lake Chad itself to Bol, which is used as a port for Kanem.

The steamers were originally taken up to Lake Chad by the Government, but have now been sold to the Compagnie de l'Ouhamé-Nana, which also possesses barges and whale-boats for the transport services of these regions.

Of the tributaries of the Shari, the Sara and its affluent the Fafa are navigable for whale-boats from mid-August to the end of November as far as Batangafo; the Logone as far as Gore, and the Bahr Salamat for some distance. Attempts have been made to utilize the Logone as a secondary line of communication with Lake Chad. In the rainy season steamers can ascend by the Niger, Benue, and Mayo-Kebi as far as Bipare, and flat-bottomed boats reach Lere. At the same time, the Chad steamers can ascend the Logone to Ham, whence a canal for whale-boats has been cut to Pogo. But the agreement of 1911 made the Logone a frontier river and placed a large part of the route in German territory, and owing to the consequent lack of facilities it was abandoned by the French.

Projected Improvements.—Certain improvements of river transport are provided for by the loan of 1914:

(a) In Gabun the channels between the Fernan

Vaz lagoon and Port Gentil are to be improved so as to ensure perennial communication by two routes. Landing stages and cranes are to be installed at Njole.

(b) On the Congo, quays 330 ft. long are to be built at Brazzaville, and the French channel across Stanley Pool is to be buoyed. The Congo is to be buoyed and lighted as far as the Lefini so as to be navigable for steamers of 1,000 tons both night and day. The rapids of Zinga are to be buoyed and the reefs blasted so as to ensure that Bangi will always be accessible for steamers drawing 5 ft. of water. The total cost of all these works was estimated at rather more than £200,000.

(c) *Railways*

The only railway in the country is the narrow-gauge Decauville line between Brazzaville and Minduli (about 100 miles), built and worked by the Compagnie Minière du Congo Français for the transport of copper ore. It is not open to the public either for passengers or goods. The company intends to continue the line to Chikumba (Tchikoumba), 15 miles farther west. The Société des Mines de Djoué (Jue) had projected a similar line from Brazzaville to Renéville (59 miles).

The following railways were projected, the cost of construction to be covered by the loan of £6,840,000 authorized in 1914 :

- i. Pointe Noire to Brazzaville (1 metre gauge, 360 miles). It was estimated that the cost would be £3,800,000 and that construction would take 8 years.
- ii. Bangi to Fort Crampel *via* Fort Sibut (60 cm. gauge, 217 miles). The estimated cost was £600,000.
- iii. Njole to Makoku (1 metre gauge, 195 miles). The estimated cost was £1,774,000, and the time required for building was stated to be 8 years. This line was ultimately to form part of a line from Ovendo to Wesso, 625 miles long, the estimated cost of which was over £4,500,000.

These plans have been somewhat modified by the war, none of the money required having been raised before war broke out. The Njole-Makoku line has been abandoned for the present, since the late war removed its chief *raison d'être*. It had been intended that it should run parallel with the frontier of Cameroon, and that by the diversion of the trade of the district a revenge should be taken in the economic sphere for the political defeat which France suffered in 1911. If the project is revived it is clearly possible that a route more advantageous commercially may be found for the line. In a speech of December 28, 1917, M. Augoulvant stated that he hoped to raise £880,000 as a first instalment of the loan, and to start work on the Pointe Noire-Brazzaville line.

(d) *Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones*

Letters are carried in the interior of the colony by monthly or bi-monthly messengers. There are 23 offices from which parcels may be sent, all of them in Gabun, except those at Brazzaville and Bangi.

The following telegraph lines exist :

	<i>Miles.</i>
1. Libreville to Massabe <i>via</i> Loango	578
2. Libreville to Njole	132
3. Loango to Brazzaville	307
4. Mbamu (on Stanley Pool) to Pangala	84
5. Liranga to Bangi	419
6. Bangi to Fort Lamy	850
Total	2,370

Brazzaville is in communication with Léopoldville by optical telegraph ; and from Léopoldville messages for Bangi and the Chad region are sent over the Belgian wire as far as Gombe, whence they are delivered by boat at Liranga. There is a submarine cable, 624 miles in length, along the coast connecting Libreville, Port Gentil, Loango, and Pointe Noire. Abeshr (Abécher) is in communication by optical telegraph with Tumtuma (85 miles).

There are powerful high-frequency wireless stations at Pointe Noire and Brazzaville, which are in communication with each other. Less powerful stations, with a range of 100–150 miles, exist in the Chad regions at Fort Lamy, Ngigmi (N'Guigmi, the terminus of the French West African line), Mao, Mussoro, Ati, Faya, Goz Beïda, and Abeshr. The system covers about 880 miles.

There are local telephone systems at Libreville, Port Gentil, and Brazzaville.

(2) EXTERNAL

(a) Ports

The chief ports are Libreville on the Gabun estuary and Port Gentil at the mouth of the Ogowe.

Libreville possesses one of the finest natural harbours on the west coast of Africa, but since the rivers of the Gabun estuary are short, it has no means of tapping the riches of the interior, and consequently its trade is declining. The French look upon it at present merely as the port of the local back-country. Of the 1909 loan they spent on it only £10,000, and on the construction of the slipway, lighthouse, &c., provided for by the 1913 loan, they propose to spend only £25,000. The population of the town numbers 2,000–3,000 and includes about 200 Europeans.

Port Gentil has the bulk of the timber trade, the logs being floated down the Ogowe, and will ultimately serve, it is hoped, as an outlet for the resources of the lagoon district along the coast. Sums of £19,000 from the 1909 loan and £28,000 from the 1913 loan were allotted to Port Gentil, for the construction of wharves and a slipway for ships of 500 tons, and for the provision of buoys and lighting.

Loango is an open roadstead, important in the past as the starting-point of the caravan route for Brazzaville. Since the construction of the Congo Railway, the significance of its position has practically disap-

peared. The bar, which makes access to all the ports difficult, is particularly dangerous here.

The relative importance of Libreville, Port Gentil, and Loango is fairly represented by the takings at their custom offices. These include export as well as import duties, and in 1916 were as follows :

	<i>Francs.</i>
Libreville	268,000
Port Gentil	459,000
Loango	73,800

Sette Cama and *Mayumba* are minor ports. It is proposed to build lighthouses at both and at three other places along the coast, the estimated cost being £8,000.

Under existing conditions the colonies which together constitute French Equatorial Africa communicate with the sea *via* Brazzaville and Matadi. In the future, however, they will find their outlet through Gabun, when the projected railway is constructed between Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Elaborate plans have been made for transforming the open roadstead of Pointe Noire into a first-class port. The ultimate cost is estimated at £1,780,000, but £155,000 would suffice meanwhile to provide two lighthouses, docks and accessories, and, in a sheltered part of the roadstead, a wharf 22 metres wide and 200 metres long, accessible to tugs and lighters drawing 10 ft. of water.

(b) Shipping Lines

In 1913 the Gabun ports were used by 193 vessels, of 437,855 tons; in 1916 they were visited by 28 vessels only, and of these 11 were French mail-boats. Mails are carried by the Chargeurs Réunis, a subsidized French company which before the war ran a mail and passenger service every month from Havre and Bordeaux to various West African ports between Dakar and Matadi, including Libreville and Port Gentil, and also a monthly cargo service from Dunkirk, Havre, and Bordeaux. There is no other regular French line, and

French writers complain of the suppression by the Compagnie Fraissinet of the direct service to Marseilles which existed until 1909. Before the war the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo ran a regular passenger service every three weeks between Antwerp and Matadi, calling at La Rochelle, but not at any of the Gabun ports, while Elder, Dempster & Co. and the Woermann Linie ran regular monthly services from Liverpool and Hamburg respectively to the Gabun ports. More than half the total merchant shipping was German.

The French, Belgian, and English lines continued to run during the war, but at irregular intervals, and the shortage of transport has had a serious effect on the economic position of the colony.

(c) *Cable and Wireless Communication*

The submarine cable from Libreville *via* Port Gentil and Loango to Pointe Noire forms a part of the French West African cable system starting from Kotonu in Dahomey; thus communication is ensured with Europe either by the St. Vincent-Eastern or the Dakar-Brest route. There is a short telegraph line between Ntum (N'Toum), an office on the Libreville-Njole line, and Ekododo in Spanish Guinea. The wireless station at Brazzaville communicates with Lissala, Stanleyville, and Kindu in the Belgian Congo.

(B) INDUSTRY

(1) LABOUR

(a) *Supply of Labour*

Since agriculture and industry are still on a small scale, workmen are needed chiefly for two purposes: first, as porters or boatmen to take supplies up-country; second, for Government undertakings, such as the construction of roads, paths, and telegraphs. They are also required, to a smaller extent, for wood-felling and the gathering of rubber. Even for these requirements the supply of labour is inadequate. The

population is scanty ; sleeping-sickness has wrought much havoc of recent years, and north of 7° north latitude great tracts of country have been depopulated by the slave-raids from Wadai and Bagirmi. Further, the negro is an unwilling worker, having indeed little stimulus to work except when he wants to buy a wife. He is not always trustworthy, while as a rubber-gatherer and a wood-cutter he is wasteful and destructive. It is, therefore, not remarkable that the tribes which afford the best labour are finding the burden laid on them almost heavier than they can bear. Some are dying out, and the survivors take refuge in the forest when any exceptional demands are likely to be made upon them.

Improvements, however, are undoubtedly being effected. The slave-trade has been suppressed, and sleeping-sickness is being fought and shows signs of diminishing. Further, with the improvement of communications that should follow when the railway loan is made available, the need for porters should be greatly reduced. Thus the projected railway from Bangi or Fort Sibut to Fort Crampel will release a considerable force of labour from an exceptionally arduous and detrimental portage. Something is also being done for the education of the natives, both by the Government and by missionaries.¹ A few of the concessionaire companies, moreover, have endeavoured to teach them better methods of gathering rubber, and it is unfortunate that the most active of these, the *Compagnie Forestière Sangha-Oubangui*, had most of its holdings within the territory which was ceded to Germany in 1911. At present, skilled labour has to be imported from Accra or from Senegal, where the native labourers were recruited who built the Belgian railway from Matadi to Stanley Pool.

(b) *Labour Conditions*

Contracts with natives are regulated by a decree of April 7, 1911, which protects their freedom of con-

¹ See p. 31.

tract, and provides that their engagement is to last not less than three months, that they shall be paid in cash, shall be given medical attendance, shall not be required to work more than ten hours a day, and shall be given one day's rest in the week.

There is no obligation upon the natives to work for a private European employer, but they are compelled, when within the radius of effective Government administration, to do some work for the State. This enforced labour is based on the theory that the State, in return for the benefits which it confers, is entitled to levy a tax, and that the native must pay in work if not in money.

Where the natives are not under direct European control most of the work is done by women and slaves.

(2) AGRICULTURE

(a) *Products of Commercial Value*

i. *Vegetable Products.*—There are few plantations managed by Europeans, except in the Gabun colony, where cocoa, coffee, and vanilla are grown; and all told, the plantations are said to cover no more than 111,200 acres, of which only 3,200 are reported to be under cultivation. The climate and soil of the colony are said to be as favourable for the production of cocoa as are those of San Thomé, yet its cultivation has made very slow progress, and in 1912 there were only about fifty plantations, with 1,178,000 trees. Some progress has been made during the war, the cessation in the export of wood having made it easier to get labour, but no great advance is likely until the natives learn to plant on their own account, as the natives of the Gold Coast do. Coffee-planting also makes little, if any, progress, as the profits to be obtained are small. The amount of vanilla grown is insignificant.

North of 7° north latitude, millet is the staple crop of the natives; it is used to make a fermented drink as well as for food. Peas, beans, sesame, the castor-oil

plant, and a little corn are also grown in these regions. Cotton is extensively cultivated in Bagirmi, Tubowa, and Wadai; in 1910-11 attempts were made to grow it farther south, but with little success. Rice grows wild in western Kanem.

South of 7° north latitude, manioc and bananas are grown almost everywhere, and maize is cultivated by certain tribes. Oil-palms, ground-nuts, and tobacco are produced especially by the Bateke in Middle Congo. Pepper and sweet-potatoes are cultivated by the natives, but as a rule only in sufficient quantities for their own consumption.

Among forest products are palm-nuts and palm kernels, which are abundant but little exploited, piassava of inferior quality, copal, kola-nuts, and mangoes. There is no export of any of these save from Gabun, the difficulty of transport from Middle Congo being at present insuperable. There are vast fields of papyrus in the delta of the Ogowe; coffee and cotton grow wild in Middle Congo and Ubanghi-Shari, while in the north the date-palm abounds in Wadai, Kanem, and Borku.

ii. *Live-stock*.—The most important wild animals from the point of view of commerce are the elephants, which are still numerous throughout the great equatorial forest. No attempts have yet been made to domesticate them, and unless this is done the herds will almost certainly be killed off by the natives as the population increases under the security of French rule. Wild ostriches are found on the edge of the Sahara zone, and a census of domestic animals in 1911 showed a total of nearly 1,500 tame birds, of which 200 were on an experimental ostrich farm kept by Captain Devedeix at Aburai in Bagirmi, and given up in 1914. The trade in ostrich feathers between Abeshr and Bagirmi has been interrupted in recent years owing to the insecurity of the caravan routes across the desert.

Of domestic animals there are very few south of 7° north latitude, except goats, dogs, hens, and ducks. Stock-raising on a large scale is not possible south of

9° north latitude, owing to the tsetse fly. Live cattle are, however, exported for slaughtering to Bangi and the region of the upper Shari, and attempts have been made to keep cattle near the European settlements.

A census made in 1911 of the domestic animals in the Chad regions gave the following figures, which are certainly below the correct numbers :

Cattle	.	.	.	.	394,807
Horses	.	.	.	.	19,326
Sheep and goats	.	.	.	.	981,580
Camels	.	.	.	.	18,837
Donkeys	.	.	.	.	9,109
Ostriches	.	.	.	.	1,482

The total was therefore 1,425,141 head, valued at £1,500,000 to £1,600,000.

The cattle are of several varieties, both with and without humps ; the horses are either imported Arabs and Syrians, or belong to the small indigenous Logone breed ; the sheep are bred for food, no use being made of the wool ; the native donkeys are small, and worth only a fraction of the sums paid for the large Egyptian donkeys, some of which have been imported into Wadai. In general the animals are of poor quality, and little has yet been done to improve them, though a beginning has been made by the appointment of three veterinary surgeons.

Bees are kept by the natives of Bagirmi, the annual production of honey being estimated in 1911 at 52,000 litres.

(b) *Methods of Cultivation*

Methods of cultivation are everywhere primitive ; the ground is never manured, and the hoe is used instead of the plough, even in the north. The manioc, grown everywhere south of 7° north latitude, exhausts the soil very quickly, and the clearings round the villages have to be constantly extended. This in itself is no inconsiderable labour, the axes used by the natives being small and weak.

Irrigation is unknown.

(c) *Forestry*

Of forests there are 301,000 square kilometres (116,200 square miles), and their products, chiefly wood and rubber, constitute by far the greatest riches of the country.

Timber.—A considerable export trade in timber from the Gabun ports had been developed before the war, but there are difficulties to be overcome before the forests can be thoroughly exploited. First, there is the question of transport. The more valuable woods, such as ebony and mahogany, are too heavy to be floated down the rivers or across the lagoons, and consequently have to be cut up into logs, and European buyers, finding these logs inconveniently small, prefer wood from Madagascar or Brazil. Hence nearly all the wood exported is *okume*, a kind of light mahogany which will float; it is used in the manufacture of cheap furniture and cigar-boxes. Further, even when the wood has reached the sea, it is often difficult to get it shipped, owing to the existence of a bar along the whole coast from Mayumba to Cape Lopez. These obstacles can be overcome only by the construction of a system of canals and short railways, which would enable large logs of seven or eight tons to be taken to Port Gentil for shipment. A second difficulty arises from the character of the forest itself. Unlike European forests, which are composed generally of trees of a single variety, African forests contain many different species growing side by side. Hence if only one or two kinds are being sought for, as is usually the case, great tracts of country have to be traversed and probably many trees uselessly cut down.

Besides *okume*, ebony, and mahogany, walnut and the wood of the tulip and silk-cotton trees are exported.

Rubber is gathered everywhere from Gabun to Bagirmi, but it may be doubted whether the future of this industry is likely to be prosperous, in spite of a temporary expansion due to the war, for, on the one hand, the vines in the more accessible districts

have been recklessly destroyed, and, on the other, the price of rubber has fallen heavily; further, the competition of the plantations is increasing. There is little prospect at present, however, of the cultivation of rubber on any considerable scale, for though the concessionaire companies are under an obligation to plant trees in proportion to the amount of rubber they gather, most of them carry out this duty in a perfunctory manner, and take no pains to ensure the success of their plantations, which are wholly lacking in vitality.

(d) *Land Tenure*

The native system of land tenure is imperfectly understood; land appears to belong either to the chiefs, or to private individuals, or to the community. The last is by far the most common usage, and it is of some importance to note that, not only is the cultivated land surrounding a village considered to belong to the community, but also the neighbouring forest. This is partly because new land is required for cultivation every year, and partly also because the natives obtain fruit and wood from the forest. These rights are recognized by the French Government, and the uncultivated land, whether pasturage or forest, surrounding a village is included in the native reserves, over which the rights of the concessionaire companies do not extend.

(3) FISHERIES

Throughout the colony the rivers and lakes abound in fish. The natives catch them for food, and in certain districts also carry on a small trade in dried fish. Freshwater oysters are found in places and their shells are used for making a hard lime, employed in building the foundations of houses for Europeans.

In 1912 and 1913 whale-fishing was successfully conducted off the Gabun coast by a Norwegian company, which built a factory for extracting the whale oil and making guano. The outbreak of war put a stop to the industry.

(4) MINERALS

The only mineral of much commercial importance is the copper found south of the Niari, or upper Kwilu, and on the right bank of the Jue (Djoué), between Brazzaville and the sea. The former deposit is exploited by the Compagnie Minière du Congo Français, founded in 1905, with a capital of £260,000, which has constructed a Decauville railway to Brazzaville for the transport of the ore. This is the only mining company in the country which is actually working, the Société des Mines du Djoué having abandoned operations in 1913. Zinc, lead, and iron are found in the same regions, and in the neighbourhood of Boko Songo, farther south. Iron is said to be abundant in the Sultanates; natron is found in the pools north of Lake Chad; salt in Bilma and Dar Waia and to the north of Ennedi; tin has recently been discovered in the valley of the Konanzo near Bambari and in the region of Mayo-Kebi, which was ceded to Germany in 1911. No mineral except copper is worked by Europeans, though the French profess considerable confidence in the mineral possibilities of the country.

(5) MANUFACTURES

Manufactures, whether native or European, are unimportant. The natives do some metal work in the regions where minerals are found, but the tendency is for the industry to disappear when faced by the competition of European manufactures. Home industries such as weaving, leather working, pottery, and the manufacture of fishing nets are also carried on. European enterprises are limited to a few small bakeries, distilleries, and ice factories, two saw-mills, two brick-fields, factories for the extraction of palm and whale oil, establishments for the repair of river boats, and others of minor importance.

(6) POWER

There are at present no hydro-electric installations, but the numerous falls and rapids, particularly of the Gabun rivers, afford opportunities for their establishment.

(C) COMMERCE

(1) DOMESTIC

(a) *Towns*

The capital of French Equatorial Africa is *Brazzaville* on Stanley Pool. In 1912 it had a population of 4,886, including 409 Europeans. It is the great river port of the colony, and before the war had an annual shipping movement of 14,000 tons. The town itself owes much to M. Merlin, the late Governor-General, and to Mgr. Augouard ; it contains a cathedral and the brick-built offices or warehouses of the chief trading companies.

Bangi is the European commercial centre next in importance, and has 102 white inhabitants.

Fort Lamy, whose population in 1911 numbered 60 Europeans and 3,138 natives, is the administrative capital of the Chad territory. It is favourably placed from the point of view both of land and river communications, and has made considerable progress since its foundation by M. Gentil in 1900.

Abeshr, capital of Wadai, is the chief native town of the colony, and had in 1911 a population of 28,000, living in houses built of dried clay with straw-thatched roofs. It seems destined to increase in importance. To the north it is in communication by caravan with Kufra and Ben Ghasi (1,250 miles), and to the west with El Fasher and El Obeid (625 miles) along the great pilgrim route from West Africa to Mecca, while it is about the same distance in a straight line from Fort Sibut on the Tomi and Garua on the Benue, the terminal points of river transport towards Lake Chad by the Congo and Niger routes respectively.

The only other native towns of any importance are *Massenya*, capital of Bagirmi, and *Goz Beïda* in Wadai.

(b) French and Foreign Interests

An important part in the development of the country has been taken by the concessionaire companies. There are, further, to be considered the operations of private firms and companies without concessions, and of the transport companies.

The Concessionaire Companies.—Since the reorganizations of 1910 there remain only 13 concessionaire companies of the 40 previously in existence. In that year many of the original companies surrendered their right of exploiting large tracts of territory in exchange either for the full ownership of much smaller districts or for the right of collecting rubber on less onerous terms, but only until 1920; of the rest some have gone into liquidation, and others have amalgamated with one or other of the remaining companies. Some of the latter, notably the Société des Sultanats du Haut-Oubangui, the Société 'la Kotto', and the Société Française de l'Ouhamé-Nana, are also anxious to have their contracts revised.

The total capital of the 13 companies is £1,660,000; their profits for the year 1913, reckoned on the basis of the 15 per cent. paid by them to the State, were about £106,000. In their hands is, roughly speaking, about one-half of the total foreign trade of the colony, a large part of the remainder being composed of imports and exports for the Government. In no case does a concessionaire company possess mining rights.

Companies without Concessions, and Private Firms.—In 1912 there were 13 such companies and 69 private firms trading in the colony. One of the most important of the former is the Compagnie Afrique et Congo, which carries on trading and building operations. It has a capital of £200,000, on which in 1913 a profit of nearly £20,000 was made, and in 1916 over £11,000. The most important of the private firms are English.

The usual methods of trading are either to send native employees into the interior with goods to exchange,

or to deliver goods to native chiefs on credit and trust them to bring back rubber or ivory in return. The latter is the method more commonly adopted, but it is not very satisfactory, as the chiefs sometimes fail to come back at all.

The *Transport Companies* owe their present constitution to the agreements between the French Government and the original concessionaire companies, by which the latter undertook to provide transport on the navigable rivers within their concessions. Finding these obligations inconvenient, the greater number of them combined to form transport companies, of which the most important is the *Messageries Fluviales*, with a capital of £120,000. This company is responsible for transport on the Congo and its tributaries between Brazzaville and Bangi, and earned a profit of £20,000 in 1913. The *Société Gabonaise d'Entreprises et de Transport*, with a capital of £28,000, has five steamers on the Gabun rivers.

The most important private firms in the colony are the old-established Liverpool houses of John Holt & Co., Hatton & Cookson, and W. D. Woodin & Co., who have in all thirty-seven agencies or branches in the Gabun territory. They are not active in other parts of the colony, though Hatton & Cookson have a banking establishment at Brazzaville. Being private firms, they issue no public statements of accounts.

The German firm *Woermann & Gebauer* had agencies in Gabun before the war. The whale fishery was carried on by Norwegians. Italy is interested in the trans-Sahara trade between Ben Ghasi and Abeshr, and between Tripoli and Zinder. Greek and Arab merchants reside in the Chad territory and the Sultanates.

A considerable traffic is carried on with the neighbouring protectorates—the Belgian Congo, the Cameroons, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

(2) FOREIGN

The progress of the foreign trade of the colonies of Gabun and Middle Congo (including Ubanghi-Shari and the Chad territory) is shown by the following figures relating to the six years 1911-16 :

	<i>Gabun.</i> <i>Francs.</i>	<i>Middle Congo.</i> <i>Francs.</i>
1911 . . .	14,081,316	32,958,155
1912 . . .	16,848,637	32,074,036
1913 . . .	24,339,029	33,507,776
1914 . . .	15,616,185	12,331,028
1915 . . .	5,734,957	16,505,650
1916 . . .	8,456,090	23,239,412

(a) Exports

Quantities and Values.—The following table shows the total values of exports for the years 1913 and 1916 :

		<i>Gabun.</i> <i>Francs.</i>	<i>Middle Congo.</i> <i>Francs.</i>	<i>Total.</i> <i>Francs.</i>
Products of the colony	{ 1913	15,654,087	17,909,228	33,563,315
	{ 1916	3,541,438	15,461,801	19,003,239
Transit and entrepôt trade	{ 1913	72,274	3,029,448	3,101,722
	{ 1916	123,668	746,075	869,743
Total	{ 1913	15,726,361	20,938,676	36,665,037
	{ 1916	3,665,106	16,207,876	19,872,982

The values of the chief articles exported in 1913 were as follows :

	<i>Gabun.</i> <i>Francs.</i>	<i>Middle Congo.</i> <i>Francs.</i>
<i>Animal products.</i>		
Ivory	126,055	3,221,194
Whale oil	5,176,350	—
Others	37,027	83,639
<i>Vegetable products.</i>		
Cocoa beans	173,853	—
Coffee beans	30,255	1,997
Copal	1,730	5,168
Palm-nuts	186,920	6
Palm oil	65,255	11,709
Piassava	22,662	—
Rubber	1,480,414	16,150,977
Wood	8,319,239	1,950
Others	51,658	107,630
<i>Minerals.</i>		
Bricks	—	12,544
Copper	352	590,046
Others	352	66,030
<i>Manufactured goods.</i>		
Metal goods	31,522	128,759
Textiles	14,350	331,995
Others	8,367	225,032
Total	15,726,361	20,938,676

These figures do not give a complete statement of the foreign trade of the colonies, as they refer only to goods exported and imported by the Gabun ports, Brazzaville and Banga-Baha. They omit, therefore, almost the whole of the overland trade with the Belgian Congo, Cameroon, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Libya, Darfur, and Kordofan. It has been estimated that the true figures are between four and five millions in excess of those given.

Countries of Destination.—The following table shows the destinations of the exports of Gabun and Middle Congo for the years 1913 and 1916:

	<i>Gabun.</i>		<i>Middle Congo.</i>	
	1913. <i>Francs.</i>	1916. <i>Francs.</i>	1913. <i>Francs.</i>	1916. <i>Francs.</i>
France	2,799,763	2,168,820	11,606,814	10,236,262
French colonies	541	2,943	—	11,265
England	3,961,601	1,493,343	12,521	4,061,779
Germany	3,628,602		1,848,677	—
Belgium	—		6,332,583	—
Norway	4,030,323		—	—
Holland	1,242,035		—	—
United States	16,800		—	—
Belgian Congo	—		—	784,498	1,884,391
Other countries	46,696	—	353,583	14,179
Total	15,726,361	3,665,106	20,938,676	16,207,876

The exports from Gabun in 1916, other than those to France and the French colonies, went almost entirely to England. The following were the chief products of the colony exported to England:

	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Palm-nuts	1,302
Palm oil	144
Piassava	293
Rubber	42
Woods	2,014

No recent figures are available for the overland trade of the colony. In 1911 the exports from the Chad territory were valued at 640,871 francs and consisted almost entirely of cattle. It is probable that the greater portion of the goods went to other parts of the colony.

(b) Imports

Quantities and Values.—The following table shows the total values of imports for the years 1913 and 1916 :

		<i>Gabun.</i>	<i>Middle Congo.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
For domestic consumption	{ 1913	8,445,772	9,555,605	18,001,377
	{ 1916	4,722,196	6,311,227	11,033,423
Transit and entrepôt trade	{ 1913	166,896	3,013,495	3,180,391
	{ 1916	68,788	720,309	789,097
Total	{ 1913	8,612,668	12,569,100	21,181,768
	{ 1916	4,790,984	7,031,536	11,822,520

The values of the chief articles comprised in these totals were as follows :

	<i>Gabun.</i>		<i>Middle Congo.</i>	
	1913.	1916.	1913.	1916.
	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>	<i>Francs.</i>
Animal products	867,297	494,756	683,096	655,854
Arms and munitions	54,883	47,673	283,796	416,315
Chemical products	112,648	17,962	105,055	91,917
Coal, mineral oil, &c.	281,961	16,270	150,812	79,733
Colonial food-stuffs	368,576	110,618	277,101	199,469
Farinaceous food-stuffs	551,400	180,612	337,519	260,456
Fish	206,297	9,206	208,356	77,326
Hardware	989,477	126,830	1,007,976	351,969
Metals	96,968	3,997	181,469	123,952
Textiles	2,800,287	876,554	3,228,045	2,101,457
Vegetable oils and juices	63,254	54,213	55,768	49,977
Wines, spirits, &c.	661,616	371,475	796,289	723,333

The figures for Middle Congo represent the articles imported for consumption only. The chief articles of the transit trade of this colony in 1913 were preserved meat (52,224 francs), ivory (283,486 francs), rubber (1,916,280 francs), textiles (289,807 francs), and hardware (112,789 francs), and in 1916 ivory (334,000 francs), rubber (270,000 francs), and textiles (39,000 francs).

In 1911 the imports into the Chad territory were estimated at 652,884 francs in value, the principal articles concerned being textiles and clothing (243,772 francs), kola-nuts (88,650 francs), sugar (64,459 francs), and salt (38,675 francs). Probably a large proportion of these goods came from other parts of the colony.

Countries of Origin.—The following table shows the

countries of origin of the imports into Gabun and Middle Congo in the years 1913 and 1916 :

	<i>Gabun.</i>		<i>Middle Congo.</i>	
	1913. <i>Francs.</i>	1916. <i>Francs.</i>	1913. <i>Francs.</i>	1916. <i>Francs.</i>
France	4,629,138	2,758,693	4,108,329	3,905,540
French colonies	66,415	198,202	11,903	6,501
French bonded warehouses	434,162	—	—	—
England	2,443,356	1,324,939	1,727,633	1,008,282
Germany	828,719	—	1,009,251	—
Belgium	33,112	—	2,577,602	—
Holland	12,900	—	282,880	56,564
United States	99,744	197,124	—	—
Belgian Congo	—	25,730	1,015,349	1,868,068
Other countries	65,122	286,296	1,836,153	186,581
Total	8,612,668	4,790,984	12,569,100	7,031,536

(c) *Customs and Tariffs*

There are three different tariff systems :

(i) In the part of Gabun which lies north of 2° 30' south latitude the tariff is protective, and based on the French tariff ; it gives free entry to French goods, while other goods with a few exceptions pay the duties that they would pay on entry into France.

(ii) In the conventional basin of the Congo, which includes the territory lying south of 2° 30' south latitude, the tariff is levied for revenue purposes only. All imports, whatever their origin, are divided into three categories. The first, including coal, oil, petrol, and machinery, pays a duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* ; the second, including living animals, cereals, and building materials, pays 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, while all other goods pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Both in Gabun and in the Congo basin, spirits pay an import duty of 200 fr. per litre of pure alcohol, while export duties are charged on ivory and rubber (10 per cent.), whale-oil (3 per cent.), woods (1½ to 2 per cent.), and whalebone (5 per cent.).

(iii) In the basin of the Shari, it was agreed by the Franco-German Convention of March 15, 1894, that German goods should enter on the same footing as French, and the Franco-British Declaration of March 21, 1899, granted the same privileges for a period of thirty

years to British goods entering the territory between 14° 20' and 5° north latitude. In these two districts, a decree of April 25, 1902, fixed nominal import duties of 6 per cent. and 10 per cent., and export duties of 5 per cent. and 10 per cent., for certain articles. As there are no custom-houses, however, imports and exports are in practice free.

(D) FINANCE

(1) *Public Finance*

There are five annual budgets, a General Budget for the colony as a whole and Local Budgets for its four divisions.¹ In 1913 they balanced at the following figures :

	£
General Budget	256,000
Special Budgets :	
Gabun	84,400
Middle Congo	94,300
Ubanghi-Shari	68,600
Chad	40,000
Total	<u>543,300</u>

The principal items of the General Budget were as follows :

<i>Revenue.</i>	£	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£
Import duties	60,000	Subventions to the local budgets and institutions	90,000
Export duties	52,000	Salaries	58,000
Excise duties	32,000	Service of the loan	37,280
Navigation duties, &c.	2,700	Public Works	27,800
Tax on Concessionaire Companies	11,000	Material	15,200
Share in profits of Concessionaire Companies	16,000	Transport of personnel	10,000
Duty on ivory and rubber from lands not held by Concessionaire Companies	10,000		
Mining and other proprietary rights	3,000		
Receipts from printing	1,600		
Receipts from posts and telegraphs	5,600		
Subvention from State	24,000		
Advance for loan service	37,280		

¹ Although Ubanghi-Shari and Chad were amalgamated in 1910, they continued to produce separate budgets.

The principal items of the Local Budgets were as follows :

	<i>Revenue.</i>			
	<i>Gabun.</i>	<i>Middle Congo.</i>	<i>Ubanghi-Shari.</i>	<i>Chad.</i>
	£	£	£	£
Subvention	47,000	28,000	12,000	nil
Poll-tax	27,200	52,000	44,000	32,720
Licences	4,000	4,000	2,280	4,260
Taken from reserve funds	nil	8,160	4,000	nil

	<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	59,520	58,600	43,800	28,840
Transport	6,800	10,320	8,280	3,560
Material	12,840	18,200	11,130	2,760

Of the four colonies, the Chad territory is in the most favourable financial position. Not only does it require no subvention from the General Budget, but it makes an annual contribution, which in 1913 amounted to £3,000, to the budget of Ubanghi-Shari.

The Home Government, in addition to its contributions to the General Budget, bears all the military expenditure, which in 1912 amounted to over £330,000.

The native poll-tax is 5 fr. per head per annum, usually paid in rubber, except in the Chad territory, where payment has to be made in French money. The tax has been increased in Gabun, first to 7 fr. 50 c. and again in 1915 to 10 fr.

Licences are required for carrying on almost every kind of trade or business ; the revenue included under this head in the Chad Budget consisted chiefly of dues paid by travelling merchants.

The estimates for 1917 were as follows :

	£
General Budget	147,000
Loan Service	50,000
Gabun	84,000
Middle Congo	72,000
Ubanghi-Shari	80,000
Chad	77,000

(2) *Currency*

The official coinage is that of France, but it is hardly current except in the European settlements. Trading

with the natives is carried on by means of barter, cloth being given to them in exchange for ivory and rubber. Among themselves, the natives use native money, consisting chiefly of wire or small metal objects. In the Chad territory and the Sultanates the Maria Theresa dollar is in common use, and its value was fixed at 3 francs by a decree of January 31, 1903. The French Government is anxious to secure a more general adoption of its own currency, and with that object decreed in 1911 that native labourers should be paid in cash by their private employers, and in 1916 that the poll-tax in the Chad territory should be paid in French money.

(3) *Banking*

The Banque de l'Afrique Occidentale has the right to carry on business in Gabun, where it is represented by the Société du Haut-Ogooué, and Messrs. Hatton & Cookson have a banking establishment at Brazzaville, but the only bank of real importance in the colony is the Banque de l'Afrique Équatoriale Française. This was founded in 1904 and has now a capital of £200,000 (£125,650 paid). Its head office is in Paris, and the local branches are at Brazzaville, Port Gentil, and Bangi. The bank has no State privileges and does not issue notes, but is a sound and fairly prosperous concern, the directorate being composed of men of wealth and good standing. The profits in 1913, when trade suffered from the slump in rubber, amounted to over £17,000, and were about £13,000 in each of the two following years; later figures are not available, but it is believed that conditions are satisfactory.

(E) GENERAL REMARKS

French writers have often called Equatorial Africa the Cinderella of their colonial empire, and its development has certainly failed to keep pace with that of its neighbours. The causes are varied, but some of the more important are not difficult to distinguish.

In the first place, the country itself has been less favoured by nature than certain other West African colonies. It has neither so complete a system of waterways nor so dense a population as the Belgian Congo, and its inhabitants are on the whole far lower in the scale of civilization, less industrious, and less intelligent, than the natives of Senegal and the Gold Coast. Further, its only natural harbour is remote from the great rivers which give access to the interior.

In the second place, very little attempt has been made by the French to develop the colony. Whereas Cochin China has been lent more than £21,000,000, French West Africa more than £7,000,000, and even Madagascar more than £4,000,000, Equatorial Africa has received only about £920,000. Consequently the means of communication remain defective: the ports are neglected, few roads and no railways have been built, and little or nothing has been done to improve the navigation of the rivers. Fiscal policy has also had its share in retarding progress. The division of the coast into two tariff districts is unfortunate; and the French might have been well advised to add their Gabun territory to the conventional basin of the Congo, and abandon the system of protective tariffs. Moreover, the attitude adopted towards foreign traders has hindered development, the authorities seeming to prefer that the country should remain undeveloped rather than that it should owe its progress to any but Frenchmen.

In respect of its policy of developing the country by means of concessionaire colonies, the administration has been strongly criticized. It must be admitted, however, that there is something to be said on the other side. Not only have the original mistakes, due to an excessive reliance on that policy, been to a large extent rectified (see p. 25), but there are certain very tangible gains resulting from it which are not to be disregarded. It is only fair to remember that between 1899, the year in which the concessionaire regime was inaugurated,

and 1912, the annual value of the commerce of the colony rose from about £540,000 to about £1,720,000; that the companies brought into the country a considerable amount of capital (nearly £2,400,000) which but for them would probably not have been forthcoming until much later; and that a large proportion of the colony's revenue has been derived from taxes paid by them. It is uncertain whether any other system would have had equally favourable results.

The main problems by which the colony is faced at present are three in number, viz. defective transport, scarcity of labour, and the fall in value of the staple products, ivory, rubber, and wood. The first of these will be dealt with satisfactorily as soon as it is possible to raise and apply the loan of £6,840,000 authorized in 1914. This should also help to solve the labour problem, for the provision of transport facilities will make it possible to reduce the heavy demands made on the natives for portage. It may be hoped, further, that science will be able to check the spread of sleeping-sickness, and that the native population will increase as the area of effective French rule is extended and public safety is more effectively secured. It seems unfortunately certain that the production of ivory will diminish in importance, and that it will become more and more difficult for wild rubber to compete with the plantation product, but there is every reason to expect that compensation for these losses will be found in the development of the exports of cocoa, palm-nuts, and palm oil. The supply of wood is practically inexhaustible, but there is some danger of a heavy fall in the demand, unless the German market can be replaced. This possibility, however, has been recognized, and a scheme for organizing the industry is under consideration. It is probable that the mother country, which before the war imported foreign woods to an annual value of no less than £10,000,000, will be able to take the greater part of the export.

APPENDIX

EXTRACTS FROM TREATIES, ETC.

I

CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND PORTUGAL, MAY 12, 1886

Art. III.—In the region of the Congo, the frontier of the Portuguese and French possessions will follow, in accordance with the tracing on Map II, annexed to the present Convention, a line which, starting from the Chamba Point, situated at the confluence of the Loema or Louisa Loango and the Lubinda, will keep, as far as the nature of the land permits, at an equal distance from the two rivers, and from the northernmost source of the River Luali will follow the crest line which separates the basins of the Loema or Louisa Loango and the Chiloango as far as $10^{\circ} 30'$ of longitude east of Paris, when it is merged in this meridian as far as its meeting with the Chiloango, which at this point serves as the frontier between the Portuguese possessions and the Congo Free State.

Each of the High Contracting Parties binds itself not to raise at Chamba Point any works of a nature to impede navigation. In the estuary comprised between Chamba Point and the sea the thalweg will serve as political line of demarcation between the possessions of the High Contracting Parties.

II

BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE CONGO FREE STATE, AUGUST 14, 1894

Art. I.—The frontier between the Congo Free State and the colony of French Congo, after following the thalweg of the Oubanghi up to the confluence of the Mbomou and the Ouelle [Welle], shall be constituted as follows:—(1) The thalweg of the Mbomou up to its source. (2) A straight line joining the watershed between the Congo and Nile basins. From this point the frontier of the Free State is constituted by the said watershed up to its intersection with longitude 30° east of Greenwich ($27^{\circ} 40'$ E., Paris).

Art. IV.—The Free State binds herself to renounce all

occupation, and to exercise in the future no political influence west or north of a line thus determined :—Longitude 30° E. of Greenwich ($27^{\circ} 40'$ E., Paris), starting from its intersection of the watershed of the Congo and Nile basins, up to the point where it meets the parallel $5^{\circ} 30'$, and then along that parallel to the Nile.

III

DECLARATION OF MARCH 21, 1899, WITH ART. IX OF THE CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE OF JUNE 14, 1898 (SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND SUDAN)

The undersigned, duly authorized by their Governments, have signed the following Declaration :

The IVth Article of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, shall be completed by the following provisions, which shall be considered as forming an integral part of it—

1. Her Britannic Majesty's Government engages not to acquire either territory or political influence to the west of the line of frontier defined in the following paragraph, and the Government of the French Republic engages not to acquire either territory or political influence to the east of the same line.

2. The line of frontier shall start from the point where the boundary between the Congo Free State and French territory meets the water-parting between the watershed of the Nile and that of the Congo and its affluents. It shall follow in principle that water-parting up to its intersection with the 11th parallel of north latitude. From this point it shall be drawn as far as the 15th parallel in such manner as to separate, in principle, the Kingdom of Wadai from what constituted in 1882 the Province of Darfur ; but it shall in no case be so drawn as to pass to the west beyond the 21st degree of longitude east of Greenwich ($18^{\circ} 40'$ east of Paris), or to the east beyond the 23rd degree of longitude east of Greenwich ($20^{\circ} 40'$ east of Paris).

3. It is understood, in principle, that to the north of the 15th parallel the French zone shall be limited to the north-east and east by a line which shall start from the point of intersection of the Tropic of Cancer with the 16th degree of longitude east of Greenwich ($13^{\circ} 40'$ east of Paris), shall run thence to the south-east until it meets the 24th degree of longitude east of Greenwich ($21^{\circ} 40'$ east of Paris), and shall then follow the 24th degree until it meets, to the north of the 15th parallel of latitude, the frontier of Darfur as it shall eventually be fixed.

4. The two Governments engage to appoint Commissioners who shall be charged to delimit on the spot a frontier-line in accordance with the indications given in paragraph 2 of this Declaration. The result of their work shall be submitted for the approbation of their respective Governments¹.

It is agreed that the provisions of Art. IX of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, shall apply equally to the territories situated to the south of the 14° 20' parallel of north latitude, and to the north of the 5th parallel of north latitude between the 14° 20' meridian of longitude east of Greenwich (12th degree east of Paris) and the course of the Upper Nile.

Done at London, the 21st March, 1899.

SALISBURY. PAUL CAMBON.

Art. IX of the Convention of June 14, 1898, provides that

Within the limits defined on Map No. 2, which is annexed to the present Protocol, British subjects and British protected persons and French citizens and French protected persons, as far as regards their persons and goods, and the merchandize the produce or the manufacture of Great Britain and France, their respective Colonies, possessions, and Protectorates, shall enjoy for thirty years from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention mentioned in Art. V the same treatment in all matters of river navigation, of commerce, and of tariff and fiscal treatment and taxes of all kinds.

Subject to this condition, each of the two Contracting Powers shall be free to fix, in its own territory, and as may appear to it most convenient, the tariff and fiscal treatment and taxes of all kinds.

In case neither of the two Contracting Powers shall have notified twelve months before the expiration of the above-mentioned term of thirty years its intention to put an end to the effects of the present Article, it shall remain in force until the expiration of one year from the day on which either of the Contracting Powers shall have denounced it.

IV

CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THEIR POSSESSIONS IN WEST AFRICA, JUNE 27, 1900

Art. IV.—La limite entre les possessions Françaises et Espagnoles sur la côte du Golfe de Guinée partira du point

¹ The frontier was delimited by the supplementary convention of September 8, 1919. See *Anglo-Egyptian Sudan*, No. 98 of this series, pp. 4 and 169.

d'intersection du thalweg de la Rivière Mouni avec une ligne droite tirée de la pointe Coco Beach à la pointe Diéké. Elle remontera ensuite le thalweg de la Rivière Mouni et celui de la Rivière Outemboni jusqu'au point où cette dernière rivière est coupée pour la première fois par le 1^{er} degré de latitude nord et se confondra avec ce parallèle jusqu'à son intersection avec le 9^e degré de longitude est de Paris (11° 20' est de Greenwich).

De ce point la ligne de démarcation sera formée par le dit méridien 9 est de Paris jusqu'à sa rencontre avec la frontière méridionale de la Colonie Allemande de Cameroun.

Art. VII.—Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Espagnol voudrait céder, à quelque titre que ce fût, en tout ou en partie, les possessions qui lui sont reconnues par les Arts. I et IV de la présente Convention, ainsi que les Iles Elobey et l'Ile Corisco voisines du littoral du Congo Français, le Gouvernement Français jouira d'un droit de préférence dans des conditions semblables à celles qui seraient proposées au dit Gouvernement Espagnol.

V

CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE,
APRIL 8, 1904

Art. VIII.—To the east of the Niger the following line shall be substituted for the boundary fixed between the French and British possessions by the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, subject to the modifications which may result from the stipulations introduced in the sixth and seventh paragraphs of the present Article.

Starting from the point on the left bank of the Niger laid down in Art. III of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, that is to say, the median line of the Dallul Mauri, the frontier shall be drawn along this median line until it meets the circumference of a circle drawn from the town of Sokoto as a centre, with a radius of 160,932 metres (100 miles). Thence it shall follow the northern arc of this circle to a point situated 5 kilometres south of the point of intersection of the above-mentioned arc of the circle with the route from Dosso to Matankari via Maourédé.

Thence it shall be drawn in a direct line to a point 20 kilometres north of Konni (Birni-N'Kouni), and then in a direct line to a point 15 kilometres south of Maradi, and thence shall be continued in a direct line to the point of intersection of the parallel of 13° 20' north latitude with a meridian passing 70 miles to the east of the second intersection of the 14th

degree of north latitude and the northern arc of the above-mentioned circle.

Thence the frontier shall follow in an easterly direction the parallel of $13^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude until it strikes the left bank of the River Komadugu Waubé (Komadougou Ouobé), the thalweg of which it will then follow to Lake Chad. But, if before meeting this river the frontier attains a distance of 5 kilometres from the caravan route from Zinder to Yo, through Sua Kololua (Soua Kololoua), Adeber, and Kabi, the boundary shall then be traced at a distance of 5 kilometres to the south of this route until it strikes the left bank of the River Komadugu Waubé (Komadougou Ouobé), it being nevertheless understood that, if the boundary thus drawn should happen to pass through a village, this village, with its lands, shall be assigned to the Government to which would fall the larger portion of the village and its lands. The boundary will then, as before, follow the thalweg of the said river to Lake Chad.

Thence it will follow the degree of latitude passing through the thalweg of the mouth of the said river up to its intersection with the meridian running $35'$ east of the centre of the town of Kouka, and will then follow this meridian southwards until it intersects the southern shore of Lake Chad.

It is agreed, however, that, when the Commissioners of the two Governments at present engaged in delimiting the line laid down in Art. IV of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898, return home and can be consulted, the two Governments will be prepared to consider any modifications of the above frontier line which may seem desirable for the purpose of determining the line of demarcation with greater accuracy. In order to avoid the inconvenience to either party which might result from the adoption of a line deviating from recognized and well-established frontiers, it is agreed that in those portions of the projected line where the frontier is not determined by the trade routes, regard shall be had to the present political divisions of the territories so that the tribes belonging to the territories of Tessaoua-Maradi and Zinder shall, as far as possible, be left to France, and those belonging to the territories of the British zone shall, as far as possible, be left to Great Britain.

It is further agreed that, on Lake Chad, the frontier line shall, if necessary, be modified so as to assure to France a communication through open water at all seasons between her possessions on the north-west and those on the south-east of the Lake, and a portion of the surface of the open waters of the Lake at least proportionate to that assigned to her by the map forming Annex 2 of the Convention of the 14th June, 1898.

In that portion of the River Komadugu which is common to both parties, the populations on the banks shall have equal rights of fishing.

VI

CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY RELATING TO
THEIR POSSESSIONS IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA, NOVEMBER 4,
1911

ARTICLE I

France cedes to Germany the territories of which the boundaries are fixed as follows: the frontier will start from the Atlantic coast to a point to be determined upon on the eastern bank of the Bay of Monda towards the mouth of the Massolie; proceeding towards the north-east the frontier will oblique towards the south-east angle of Spanish Guinea; it will cut the Ivondo river at its confluence with the Djoua river, will follow that river as far as Madjingo (which will remain French), and from that point will be directed eastwards to end at the confluence of the N'Goko and of the Sangha to the north of Ouesso; the frontier will then start from the Sangha river to a point situate to the south of Ouesso (which will remain French) to a distance of six kilometres at least and twelve kilometres at the most from this locality according to local geographical conditions; the frontier will oblique towards the south-west to rejoin the valley of the Kandeko until its confluence with the Bokida; it will descend the latter and the Likouala as far as the right bank of the Congo river; it will follow the Congo river to the mouth of the Sangha and in such a way as to occupy on the Congo river the extent of from six to twelve kilometres which will be determined according to geographical conditions; the frontier will ascend the Sangha as far as the *Likouala aux herbes*, which it will then follow to Botungo; it will then proceed from the south to the north in almost a straight line as far as Bera N'Goko; it will then inflect in the direction of the confluence of the Bodingue and of the Lobay and will descend the course of the Lobay as far as the Ubanghi to the north of Mongoumba; on the right bank of the Ubanghi and following the local geographical conditions the German territory will be determined in such a way as to extend over a space of six kilometres at least and twelve kilometres at most; the frontier will then oblique towards the north-west in order to attain the River Pama at a point to be determined on the west of its confluence with the Mbi, will ascend the valley of the Pama and will then rejoin the eastern Logone about the spot where this river meets the eighth

parallel at the elevation of Gore ; the frontier will then follow the course of the Logone towards the north until its confluence with the Shari.

ARTICLE II

Germany cedes to France the territories situate north of the actual frontier of the French possessions in the Chad territories and comprised between the Shari on the east and the Logone on the west.

ARTICLE IX

France and Germany, desiring to confirm their good relations in their possessions in Central Africa, undertake not to erect any fortified work along the rivers which serve for common navigation. This undertaking will not apply to works of mere defence erected to protect the stations against native attacks.

ARTICLE X

The French and German Governments will come to an understanding for the works to be executed in view to facilitate the navigation of boats and craft on the water-courses whose navigation will be common to both.

ARTICLE XI

In the case of stoppage of navigation on the Congo or the Ubanghi, liberty of passage will be assured to France and to Germany on the territories belonging to either nation at the points where the latter touch the rivers.

ARTICLE XII

The Governments of France and Germany renew the declarations contained in the Act of Berlin of 26th February, 1885, and ensure the commercial liberty and freedom of navigation on the Congo and the affluents of that river, as on those of the Niger. In consequence, German goods in transit across French territory situate on the west of the Ubanghi and French goods in transit across the territories ceded to Germany or following the routes indicated in Article VIII will be free of all duty. An accord concluded between the two Governments will determine the conditions of this transit and the points of penetration.

ARTICLE XVI

In the event of the territorial status of the Conventional Basin of the Congo such as it has been described by the Act of Berlin of 26th February, 1885, being modified through one or other of the contracting parties, the latter must confer between them, as also between the other Powers signatory to the Act of Berlin.

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. MAP

The territory is covered by a map 'Afrique Équatoriale Française', by Emmanuel Barralier, printed by Millet, Paris, and published (1913) by Larosé, 11 Rue Victor Cousin, Paris. It is on the scale 1 : 5,000,000.

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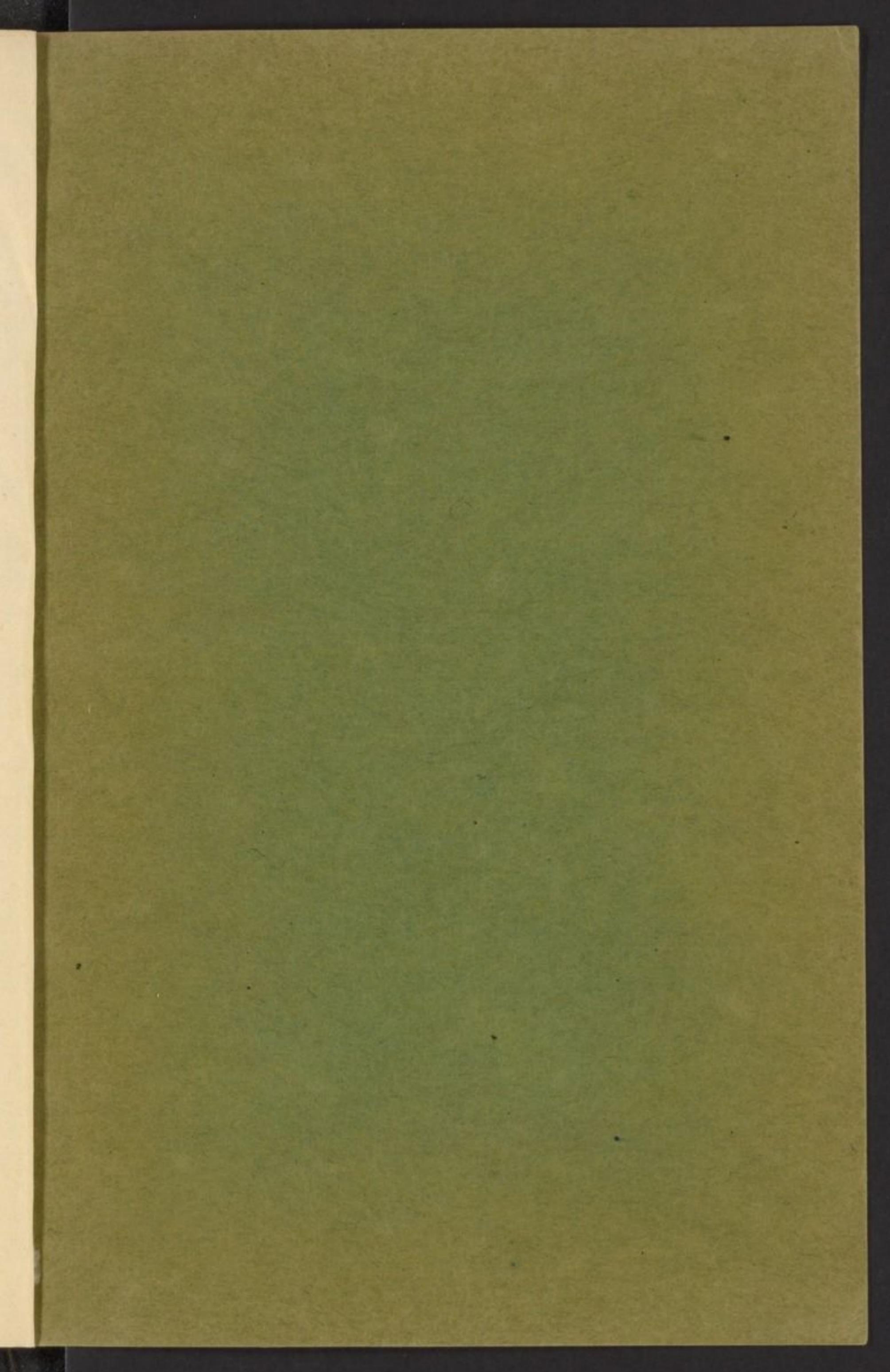
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