

HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 106

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MAURETANIA

LONDON:

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1920



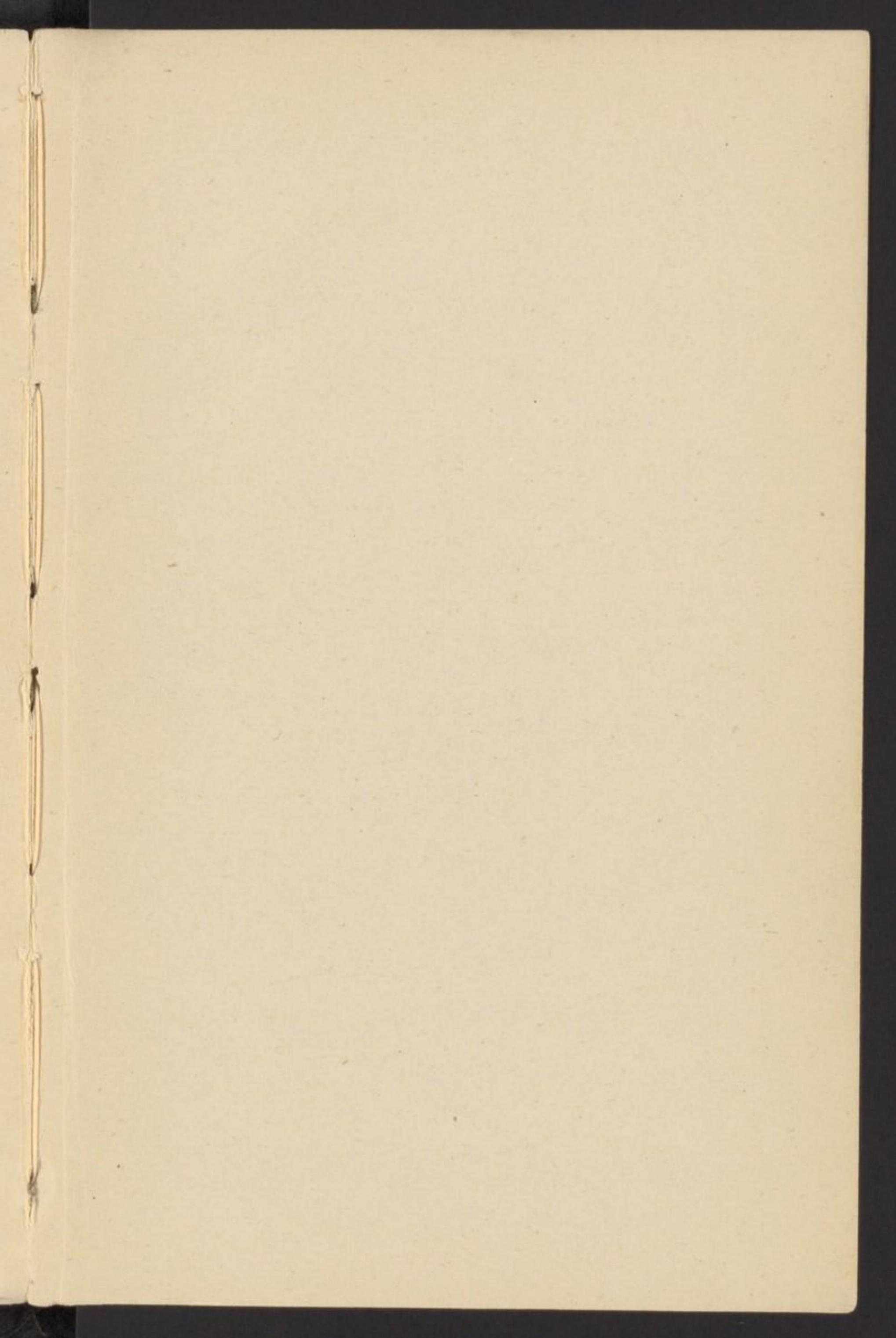


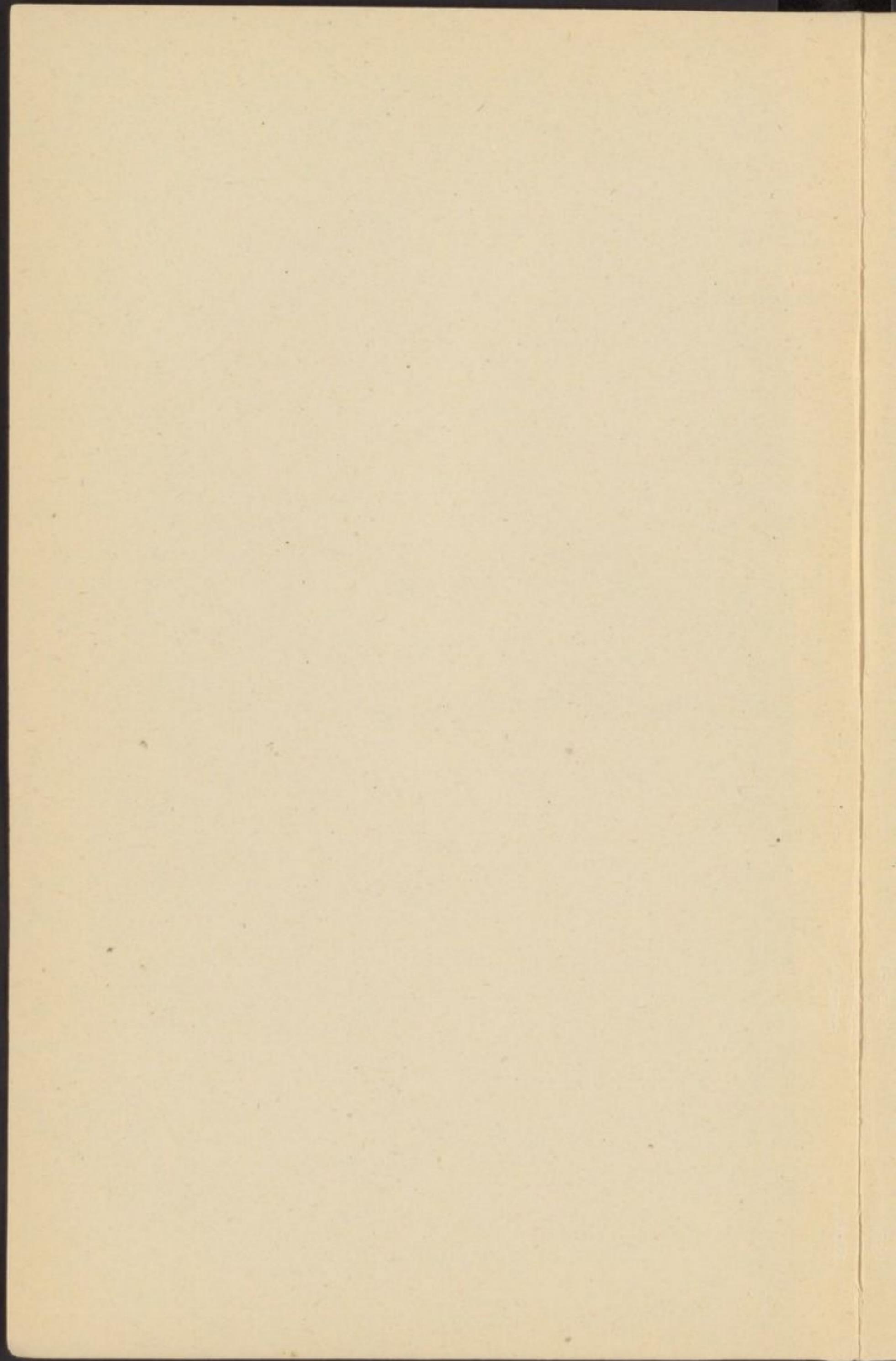
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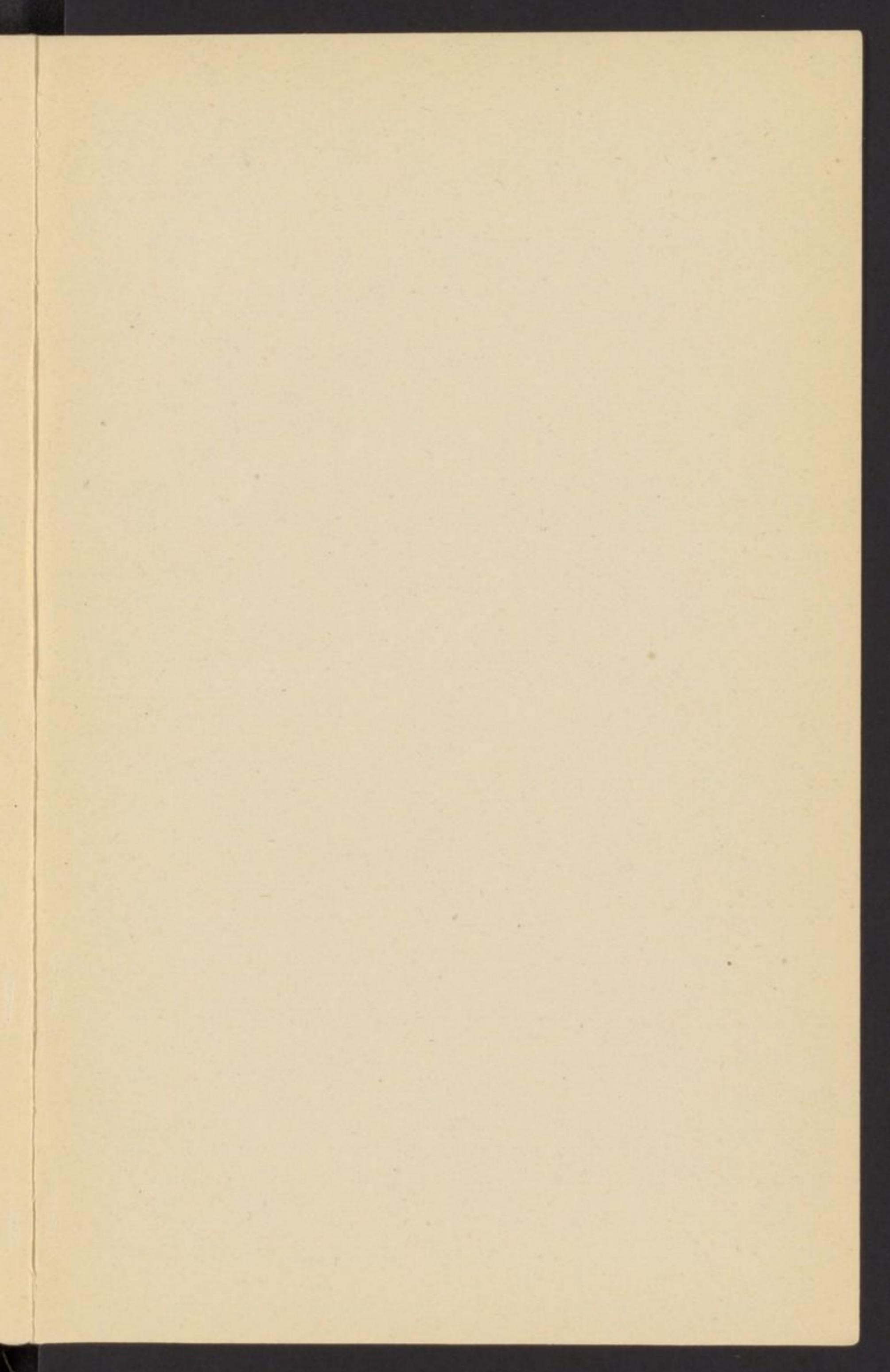
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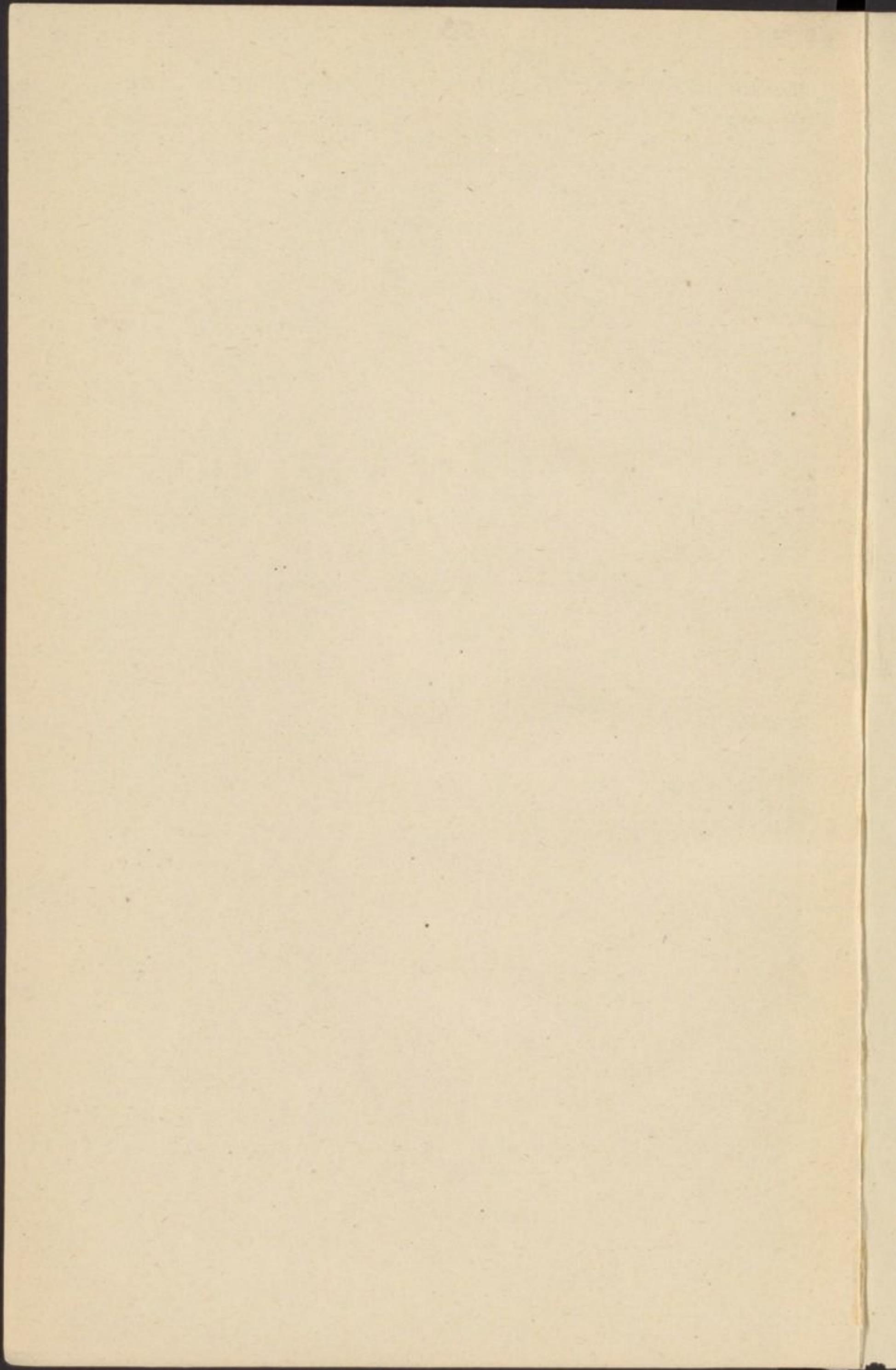
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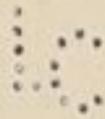
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HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE ^{2d. set.} FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 106

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MAURETANIA



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Editorial Note.

IN the spring of 1917 the Foreign Office, in connection with the preparation which they were making for the work of the Peace Conference, established a special section whose duty it should be to provide the British Delegates to the Peace Conference with information in the most convenient form—geographical, economic, historical, social, religious and political—respecting the different countries, districts, islands, &c., with which they might have to deal. In addition, volumes were prepared on certain general subjects, mostly of an historical nature, concerning which it appeared that a special study would be useful.

The historical information was compiled by trained writers on historical subjects, who (in most cases) gave their services without any remuneration. For the geographical sections valuable assistance was given by the Intelligence Division (Naval Staff) of the Admiralty; and for the economic sections, by the War Trade Intelligence Department, which had been established by the Foreign Office. Of the maps accompanying the series, some were prepared by the above-mentioned department of the Admiralty, but the bulk of them were the work of the Geographical Section of the General Staff (Military Intelligence Division) of the War Office.

Now that the Conference has nearly completed its task, the Foreign Office, in response to numerous enquiries and requests, has decided to issue the books for public use, believing that they will be useful to students of history, politics, economics and foreign affairs, to publicists generally and to business men and travellers. It is hardly necessary to say that some of the subjects dealt with in the series have not in fact come under discussion at the Peace Conference; but, as the books treating of them contain valuable information, it has been thought advisable to include them.

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

MAURETANIA is a region of French West Africa lying between the Spanish possession of Rio de Oro on the north and the River Senegal on the south, and extending inland to an indeterminate line in the neighbourhood of the meridian 7° west.

The boundary between Mauretania and Rio de Oro, which has never been delimited, was established by the Treaty of Paris of June 27, 1900. The line starts from the coast at a point midway between the south point of Cape Blanco and West Bay. It bisects the Cape Blanco Peninsula, running north-north-east till it reaches the parallel of $21^{\circ} 20'$ north latitude. Thence it follows eastwards as far as the meridian of 13° west longitude. Thence it runs somewhat west of north so as to include the *sebka* (p. 25) of Ijil in French territory, and then in a north-easterly direction to the intersection of the 12th meridian west longitude with the tropic of Cancer (about $23^{\circ} 3'$ N.). It then follows the tropic eastward to about 7° west, near Bir el-Kseb. This meridian approximately marks the eastern frontier, which is, however, quite undefined from Bir el-Kseb to the well of Aratan east of Tishit; in fact, both the northern and eastern boundaries fluctuate according to the vigour and success of the military expeditions of the French. From Aratan the frontier runs across the Hodh to Aiun Latrus, thence in a south-westerly direction to Umu, and from there almost due west to Kankossa (about $16^{\circ} 10'$ N., $11^{\circ} 25'$ W.) on the Karakoro *marigot*, which constitutes the boundary as far as its junction with the Senegal at Khabu. The southern boundary, which is the only natural frontier

of the colony, is formed by the course of the Senegal from Khabu to St. Louis.

(2) SURFACE, COAST, AND RIVER SYSTEM

Surface and Natural Divisions

A large part of the surface is still unexplored, but its general characteristics are known. It consists of a central massif—the steep-sided plateau of the Adrar, Tagant, and Regeiba, surrounded by a series of plains and low plateaux more or less cloaked by parallel rows of sand dunes, running north-east and south-west. In the north-west the plateau of the Tasiast forms a southerly extension of the Tiris (see *Spanish Sahara*, No. 124 of this series). The greater part of Mauretania is desert and steppe-desert. The only regions repaying cultivation are the alluvial belt on the north bank of the Senegal, which is fertilized by the winter floods, and the oases of the Adrar and Tagant.

The Central Massif.—The Adrar Tmar (Rock of Dates) is a group of detached sandstone plateaux from 500 to 600 ft. above sea-level, running north-east and south-west from about $21^{\circ} 40'$ to $19^{\circ} 25'$ north latitude. The north-east part is little known. An offshoot of the principal chain, running due north, is connected by a few isolated crags with the *kedja* of Ijil (23° N.), a group of quartzite peaks about 800 ft. high, lying in the desert east of the Ijil salt deposits. To west and south the Adrar is bounded by sheer cliffs (*dahr*) falling steeply to the plain, and impossible to ascend except by a few narrow and difficult defiles. It is watered by many streams, springs, and *oglat* (rock reservoirs), and contains over forty large and fertile oases, which make it the most valuable region of the West Sahara. The most important oases are Atar, Shingeti, and Wadan. They contain thickly populated *ksur* (villages) and large plantations of date palms, beneath which cereals and vegetables are grown, and form centres of supply for the Mauretanian tribes. This combination of fertility and security has long

made the Adrar the natural fortress and place of refuge of the West Sahara.

To the south, the sand ravine of Khat, broad in the west, but deep and narrow in the east, separates the Adrar from the Tagant, a sandstone plateau of similar construction, 300 ft. in height, surrounded to west, south, and south-east by a steep escarpment, the top of which is only accessible to caravans by a few difficult passes where the dunes have piled up against the cliff. To the east this escarpment is continuous with the Dahr Tishit, extending for 150 miles east of Tijikja, and to the south it joins the ridge of the Assaba Mountains, which run south to the Gorgol. The Tagant is furrowed by wadis containing pasture and a few palm groves, and has several important oases, the chief being Tijikja (Fort Coppolani) with 40,000 date palms and 1,000 wells. South and south-east of the Tagant, the massif is continued by the Regeiba, a high savannah thinly covered with sand.

The Dunes and Aftut.—On the north, east, and west, the Adrar and Tagant are surrounded by plains, extending to the coast on the west, and continuous with the Juf Desert to the east. Though these plains include large, stony tracts (*reg*), the greater part is covered by long parallel rows of dunes, generally blown in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction by the prevailing winds. Some of these are "live" or mobile, some "dead" and covered with vegetation. In the west the dunes are separated by long narrow plains or shallow valleys (*aftut*), often stony, and generally deficient in water, but frequently providing winter pasture. Thus, in the north-west, the great Azefal and Akshar dunes are separated by the Tijirit, a hard plain with occasional moist depressions (*grara*). South-east of the Akshar, the wide depression known in its upper part as the Baten and Amsaga (Amseyga), in its lower as the Inshiri, runs south-west from the Adrar to the neighbourhood of Nuakshott—a post on the coast (at lat. $18^{\circ} 07'$, long. $18^{\circ} 21' 30''$) established in 1903. South of the Inshiri are a series of narrow

parallel bands of dune and *aftut*, the dunes here forming a confused mass, mostly mobile and difficult to cross. To the north and east the Adrar and Tagant are encircled by the great dunes of Maktir and Waran, which are visited by the nomads in the winter for their fine pasture.

The Trarza, Brakna, and Gorgol.—The southern part of the colony is divided from west to east into the administrative circles of Trarza, Brakna, and Gorgol. The Trarza and Western Brakna form for the most part a region of dunes, generally covered with acacia scrub, and containing many wells but few water-courses. The district immediately north of the Senegal, however, consists of good arable land. The Eastern Brakna, to the valley of the Gorgol, is a hard clay plain, often covered with pebbles, and furrowed by wadis which flow during the winter only and empty themselves into interior lakes. There is good pasture near the lakes and swamps, which form extensive marshes in the winter, but the rest of the country has little vegetation. The region east of the Gorgol basin, and extending north from the Senegal to the Assaba Mountains, is watered by numerous wadis and *marigots* (backwaters), and is the most cultivated district of the colony. A strip of rich alluvial land, the Shamama, 10 to 15 miles wide, and covered with tropical vegetation, follows the north bank of the Senegal from the Karakoro to the sea. Between August and November the inundations of the Senegal turn the Shamama into an immense marsh.

The Coastal Plain.—The low plains of soft marine sandstone which border the coast of Rio de Oro extend south into Mauretania and in some parts penetrate upwards of 50 miles inland. The surface is sandy, and is broken by small dunes and depressions, with occasional *sebkas*, sometimes containing deposits of gypsum and salt. The greater part of the coast plain is poor and arid, but east of Lévrier Bay it is interrupted by the broken sandstone plateaux of the Suhel el-Abiob, about 120 ft. high, and the Krakesh, fine

pastoral country with excellent grazing and deep and good wells. East and south-east of the Suhel el-Abiob, the tableland of the Tasiast lies between the Azefal dune and the shore. This is really a spur of the Tiris, and has a hard, pebbly surface, broken by ridges of brackish rock, and fairly rich seasonal vegetation of the *aftut* type.

Coast

The coast, from Cape Blanco to the mouth of the Senegal, has a length of about 320 miles. The only promontory of importance between these two points is Cape Timiris (Mirik), south of St. John's Bay ($19^{\circ} 22' 14''$ N., $16^{\circ} 28'$ W.). At the far end is a lagoon, with an extreme length of 750 ft., closed from the sea by a narrow line of dunes, but filling at spring tides.

The coast line is generally low and sandy, nowhere rising more than 20 or 30 ft. above the sea. In many parts it consists of mobile dunes, bare of vegetation, and is fringed by sandbanks, making access from the sea difficult, if not impossible. There are three important inlets, Lévrier Bay, Arguin Bay, and St. John's Bay, which are described below (p. 17).

River System

The only river system is that of the Senegal. The river is subject to great seasonal variations; but the natural reservoirs formed by its reaches maintain a considerable volume of water at all times of the year. Between July and October its floods inundate the land to the north. In exceptional years, the waters spread over a zone 15 to 20 miles wide, and even extend as far north as Ijer, about 12 miles south of Nuakshott. The Senegal receives on its north bank several tributaries, besides *marigots*, which only contain surface water in the winter months. The most important tributary is the Gorgol, which enters the Senegal at Kaedi. Below Dagana, in the Trarza, the Garak, Sokhan, and Gedayo channels connect the Senegal

with the Cayar Lake, a large depression which fills during the floods and acts as a reservoir, gradually discharging its waters during the dry months. The Cayar can be reached in autumn by small craft drawing 2 ft. and under; but from December to June it is a mere swamp, completely separated from the main stream.

(3) CLIMATE

Mauretania has two distinct climatic regimes. South of Cape Timiris it shares the Sudan climate of Senegal, with heavy and regular autumn rains, which gradually decrease from south to north; while to the north of Cape Timiris, the climate is Saharan, with slight and irregular winter rains, always insufficient in the neighbourhood of Port Étienne, and sometimes failing for several successive years.

The scanty records available indicate that south of Nuakshott the conditions are approximately those of St. Louis, with a mean maximum temperature (September) of 89° F. (32° C.), and a mean minimum (January) of 53° F. (12° C.). Intense damp heat is experienced from July to September in the Shamama belt. In the south diurnal variations are slight, but rapidly increase towards the north. At Nuakshott, in February, day readings of 90° to 100° F. (32° to 38° C.) and night readings of 45° to 54° F. (7° to 12° C.) are recorded. At Port Étienne the average daily variation is said to be 18° to 27° F. (10° to 15° C.), with a mean maximum temperature (September) of 82° F. (28° C.) and a mean minimum (January) of 48° F. (9° C.). Inland, both heat and variation are much greater. At Tijikja, in May 1908, the mean maximum was 106° F. (41° C.); and day temperatures of 104° F. (40° C.) frequently fall at night to 44° - 46° F. (7° - 8° C.).

The rainfall varies from about 100 mm. (4 in.) at the mouth of the Senegal, where there are frequent autumn storms, to 1 mm. (0.03937 of an inch) at Port Étienne. Inland, the Saharan rainfall is small and extremely

irregular, and may fail for several successive years. The wholesale destruction of brushwood by the Moors is believed to have increased the aridity of the country. On the coast, though the rains are insufficient and variable, they are supplemented by heavy dews, which drench the vegetation and keep the pasture upon the dunes green even after a year's drought. Port Étienne is obliged to distil its drinking water, but it experiences occasional storms, one of which may yield as much as 400 tons of water to its reservoirs.

The prevalent wind on the coast is north-east. In the south, westerly and even south-westerly winds are common in autumn. The east wind (*harmattan*) often blows with violence in the hot weather, raising dangerous sandstorms in the Saharan region, and creating excessively trying conditions on shore.

(4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

At Port Étienne the conditions are endurable by Europeans, provided exposure to the sun, undue exertion, and risk of night chill are avoided. The sudden drop of temperature between 3 and 5 P.M. is trying. Malaria is unknown in this district. Among the native population the most prevalent disease is a form of scurvy. In the Saharan regions, the great variations of temperature are dangerous to Europeans, and produce much tuberculosis and bronchitis among the natives, while ophthalmia and conjunctivitis, caused by the pervading sand, are common to all races. Syphilis is the principal scourge of the Moorish nomads. On the banks of the Senegal malaria is endemic, but is vigorously fought by the authorities. The damp heat of the Shamama belt makes it extremely unhealthy to Europeans.

(5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

Race

The great majority of the inhabitants of Mauretania are nomadic Moors, i.e., Arabs and Arabized Berbers

belonging to the same ethnic group and often to the same tribes as the nomads of Rio de Oro. The Moors have gradually pressed south in search of better pasture and more tolerable conditions, expelling the aboriginal negroid population from the right bank of the Senegal; but recently, especially since the French occupation, a return movement of the aborigines has taken place. Negroid groups have crossed the river, and established village settlements in the Shamama and South Gorgol. The principal races involved are the Wolofs, Tukulers, Sarakoles, and Peuls.¹

It follows that Mauretania forms an intermediate ethnic zone between the white populations of North Africa and the negro belt. By constant association with the black races, the Moors, especially in the south, have, to a great extent, lost their racial purity. It is calculated by Lasnet that one-third of the Moors of the Senegal basin are now negroid, one-tenth pure Hamites, and the rest Berbers and Arabs more or less crossed with black blood. The negro and Moor half-castes, called Porognes, are also an important element of the population.

The Moors are essentially nomadic. Only the inhabitants of the Adrar and Tagant oases, and the Imragen, or Porognes, of the coast, lead a semi-sedentary life, while the rest wander perpetually between Rio de Oro and Mauretania, their migrations being governed partly by the state of wells and pastures and partly by political considerations. The political events of 1910-1917 have greatly affected the migrations of the tribes.

The attitude of the Moors to Europeans is one of suspicion and dislike, and they regard the black races with utter contempt.

Language

Arabic is the current language of the Moors, though a few *marabut* divisions of the Trarza still speak the

¹ For these races see *Senegal*, No. 102, and *Upper Senegal and Niger Territories*, No. 107 of this series.

Zenaga, or Berber, dialect. The Wolofs, Tukulers, Sarakoles, and Peuls of the Senegal basin have each their own tongue; but those in regular contact with the Moors frequently understand Arabic.

(6) POPULATION

The nomadic character of the people and their frequent oscillations between Mauretania and Rio de Oro make an accurate estimate of their numbers impossible. The *Annuaire du Gouvernement général de l'Afrique Occidentale Française* for 1913 gives the round figure of 600,000: the *Statistiques de la Population dans les Colonies françaises*, 1914, makes the number 250,000, which is probably nearer the mark, as it has been found that careful investigation invariably reduces the supposed numbers of nomad tribes. This figure, which represents a density of 1.4 to the square mile, is made up of 214,000 Moors, 36,000 negroes and negroids, and 144 Europeans.

The population is densest in the south, and is estimated at 112,500 in the Trarza province, 51,000 in the Brakna, and upwards of 30,000 in the Gorgol. The Tagant is said to have 34,000 inhabitants, and the Adrar 20,000. The settlement at Port Étienne numbers 800, of whom 17 are Europeans. The four big *ksurs* of the Adrar—Atar, Shingeti, Wadan, and Ujeft—are said to be densely populated; Atar, the trading centre, being a considerable town with several thousand inhabitants. Tijikja and Rashid, in the Tagant, are credited with 2,000 or 3,000 inhabitants between them. With these exceptions, the population of Mauretania is dispersed in small groups of huts or tents. The dune and *aftut* region north of 18° north latitude is practically uninhabited, save for occasional nomad camps.

II. POLITICAL HISTORY

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- 1900 Boundary treaty with Spain.
 1904 Mauretania made part of the Government-General of French West Africa.
 1909 Reduction of Adrar territory.

HISTORY

THE French advance on the Upper Senegal in 1880-90 rendered possible the occupation of the little known and thinly peopled territory to the north of the river, and brought the claims of France into contact with those of Spain, which, since 1884, had established a protectorate over the coast from Cape Bojador to Cape Blanco and the adjacent hinterland. Various efforts to settle the extent of the respective claims from 1886 onwards resulted in the Convention of June 27, 1900, under which the boundary of the Spanish sphere was defined in the manner already described.¹ The delimitation of the Spanish boundary north of 26° north was provided for in Article V of the Franco-Spanish Convention of October 3, 1904, which also fixed the boundary of Morocco at the Draa, and ascribed to Spain liberty of action in the region between 26° and 27° 40' north latitude west of 8° 40' west longitude.² The subsequent Convention of November 27, 1912, fixes the boundary between the French and Spanish spheres at the *thalweg* of the Draa from the sea to its intersection with 8° 40' west longitude, along which meridian it then runs south to 27° 40' north latitude.

¹ See above, p. 1. France was conceded a right of pre-emption over the Spanish territory.

² Cd. 6010, pp. 3, 4.

In the territory thus left open for French action little trouble was experienced in obtaining (1903) the submission of the non-Moorish tribes (Wolofs, Peuls, Tukulers, and Sarakoles) inhabiting the right bank of the Senegal; but the vast body of the population of more or less nomad Moors has proved less tractable. Raids on the occupied territory gave rise in 1908 to the despatch of an expedition under Colonel Gouraud, which, on January 9, 1909, captured Atar, the chief centre of Adrar, and drove the Moors northward into Spanish territory. An energetic campaign (1910-13) followed, which resulted in the submission of those who were still resisting, and brought Adrar under effective control. French rule, however, does not as yet obtain completely throughout the rest of the territory.

III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

By the Decree of October 18, 1904, the territory of Mauretania was placed under the administration of a Commissioner of the Government-General of French West Africa, acting in subordination to the Governor-General; and, as the local revenue is not large, the budget of the territory forms an annexe to that of the Government-General, from which it receives subventions. The actual administration is naturally largely confined to political control. The problem of government is complicated by the difference of race, as, besides the negro tribes, there are warrior and *marabut* Moorish tribes with different customs. To meet this difficulty elaborate modifications have been made in the rules of native jurisdiction, which are applied in their normal form only to the negro tribes. In the case of the Moors, the *kadi* of the tribe takes the place of the chief as the head of the village tribunal; the tribunal of the subdivision consists of the French Resident, assisted by the *kadi*, and a notable, if the case affects members of one tribe only. If it affects a negro and a Moor, the Resident is assisted by the *kadi* and the chief of the negro tribe; if it affects Moors of different tribes, by the two *kadis*. In the case of the nomad Moors the normal village and subdivisional tribunals are displaced in favour of their own institutions; if a dispute arises between a Moor of a sedentary tribe and a nomad, the Resident presides over the court, assisted by the *kadi* and the magistrate of the nomad tribe. The courts of the divisions are presided over by the Commandants, assisted by assessors, and in any case affecting persons of different legal categories one assessor of each category must be present.¹

¹ *Arrêté* of October 5, 1913.

IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

(A) MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

(1) INTERNAL

It was not till 1903 that the Civil Protectorate of Mauretania came into being, and it was only after prolonged military efforts that that title was made more than an administrative fiction. Even to-day, the Protectorate remains sensitive to disturbances in Morocco, its record is not entirely bloodless, and works of peace flourish only under military protection. The figures of the Budget for 1913 give some idea of the relative position of civil and military necessities. The salaries and equipment of administrative officials in that year amounted to £14,814, whereas similar charges for military police and native guards totalled £24,478. Posts, telegraphs, and wireless installations cost £6,080, public works £2,127, public instruction £426, and agriculture £198. The fact is that Mauretania is only now emerging from what one of its well-wishers calls its "larval stage," and that there has not been time to do much more than give the security which is a preliminary of economic development. It is something that trade has begun to flow more freely and widely. Extensive improvements of routes and public works are not as yet to be expected.

(a) *Caravan Routes and Tracks*

Caravan traffic is large and increasing. The existing routes fall into two groups; one connecting trading stations on the river with the chief administrative

centres, the other serving the villages and oases of the Tagant and Adrar plateaux.

The most notable route in the first group runs northward from St. Louis by Nuakshott, keeping parallel with the coast until it turns inland to avoid the Suhel el-Abiob. A route branches from this at Nuakshott, and runs north-eastward to the Adrar by way of the Inshiri depression. At Iaghref it is joined by a track from N'Dumeri. Water is to be had on these three routes at intervals of not more than 18 miles.

Seven other tracks are included in this group. The most westerly of these runs from Dagana on the south bank of the river to Kruffa in the gum country. A second, starting from Podor, higher up stream, runs to Butilimit and then north to Tuisikt in the Inshiri district. From Aleg, the administrative centre of the Brakna circle, tracks run north-west to Butilimit and north-east by way of Shogar, Gimi and the Tagant towards the frontier of Upper Senegal and Niger. From Kaedi, at the confluence of the Senegal and Gorgol Rivers, one track goes north by Muit and Mal to Gimi, while another runs first east to M'But, then north to the Tagant by the pass of Fum-Bafu, and so to Tijikja, renamed Fort Coppolani after the first Commissioner for Mauretania, who was killed there in 1905. The most easterly of these tracks connects Bakel, on the south bank of the river, with Selibaly, and then goes on to Kiffa and Tishit, which in 1913 were transferred to Mauretania from Upper Senegal and Niger.

In the second group there are three important main routes through the Adrar. The western runs from Talorza to Tizegui. The eastern, starting at the same point, goes by way of Ujeft to Aghmagu in the north-east. The central route leaves the eastern at Ujeft, passes through the important oases of Atar, and then makes north by Ksar-Teurshane to the *sebka* of Ijil on the eastern borders of Rio de Oro. Wadan and Shingeti, the other two chief oases of the Adrar, are connected by tracks with Tijikja to the south, and R'asseremt to the west.

A condition of the effective utilization of these routes is the provision of an adequate water supply. The Government has shown energy in making new wells and in keeping those already in existence clean and in good repair. The work, however, is attended by considerable difficulties. Often the shaft has to go very deep before water is reached; the Moors are careless, and allow the supply to be fouled with sand and refuse; while local rebellions sometimes interrupt progress. In 1913, for example, in the Brakna district, a well was sunk to a depth of 195 ft. without reaching water, and its construction was suspended twice in twelve months on account of armed attacks. In the Trarza, on the other hand, where peaceful conditions prevailed, six wells were made in the same period, with a total depth of over 900 ft.

The animals used for transport are camels, humped oxen, horses and donkeys. The first are invaluable in the desert parts, and the breed most commonly employed is strong, though small, each animal taking a load of 5 cwt. In the damp ground near the river, however, they are subject to disease, and can therefore only be employed during the dry season. Their place is supplied by oxen, whose pace is almost as good. These oxen are docile and strong, each carrying a load of 200 lb., and they are impervious to the attacks of the tsetse fly. Horses have only a limited use in Mauretania, for near the river they are ruined by the tsetse, and, in most other parts, there is not enough water for them. However, the warrior tribes possess some of the sturdy Tekna breed, and Barbary horses, which are in great request among the Moors, are bred in small numbers in the Adrar and Tagant. The most pathetic animal is the little local donkey, "méprisé, mal soigné, mal nourri et bon à tout." Though small and lean, it is willing and strong, and can carry a load of 100 to 130 lb. It is looked upon with contempt, however, except by the Zenagas and the Imragen fishermen.

(b) Rivers

The only navigable river of any size or permanence is the Senegal. The chief trading stations are on the south bank. Details of the navigation are given in *Senegal* (No. 102 of this series).

The Kundi backwater, 75 miles in length, stretches from Boghe on the east to Babakar Numbe on the west, with a port at Regba, about midway. It is entirely in Mauretania territory and is navigable for part of the year by vessels of light draught.

Of the tributaries of the Senegal, the most considerable is the White Gorgol, which can be ascended by canoes between August and October as far as Bel Tadi, 40 miles above Kaedi. Most of the other tributaries, the Garak, Sokan and Gedayo in the west, and the Karakoro in the east, have sufficient water in the rains for craft drawing 2 ft. or less. In the dry season only surface water remains.

(c) Railways

There are no regular railways, but at Kaedi and Port Étienne Decauville lines have been laid to facilitate the handling of goods.

(d) Posts and Telegraphs

There are fourteen post offices, from six of which telegrams can be sent. A telegraph line, connected with Aere in Senegal, runs north-eastward from Boghe on the river by Aleg and Gimi to Mujeria on the Tagant plateau. A branch from Aleg connects with Butilimit. A line has been constructed recently between Tijikja and the river.

There are wireless stations for inland service only at Atar and Shingeti.

(2) EXTERNAL*(a) Ports*

Accommodation.—The coast of Mauretania is difficult of access, bleak, and scantily supplied with

water. There are three important inlets: St. John's Bay, Arguin Bay, and Lévrier Bay.

St. John's Bay is a long, narrow inlet, running north-east for 22 miles between the mainland and the Thela Dune, north of Cape Timiris. It is shoal, and the upper part dries at low water, so that it has little importance for navigation.

Arguin Bay lies east of St. Anne's Point. Small craft can anchor in $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms of water, and obtain complete shelter from prevailing winds.

Lévrier Bay lies east of the southward-projecting peninsula which ends in Cape Blanco. It has an extreme length north and south of 28 miles, and is 25 miles wide from east to west at its southern extremity. It thus forms a magnificent natural harbour. Within it are small interior bays, Archimedes Bay, Star Bay and Cansado Bay, which give even greater protection. On the last, which is the most westerly, the Government in 1906 founded a settlement, named Port Étienne, which they hope to make of some commercial importance.

The harbour at Port Étienne is safe, though sometimes choppy. Ships drawing 16 to 22 ft. can anchor in the open roadstead, with a depth of 26 to 29 ft. at low tide, while those drawing 14 ft. only can shelter behind Point Rey, which closes the bay to the north-east. There is a wharf, with a depth alongside of 11 ft. at the lowest tides; and a steam-launch of 15 tons, towing a large lighter, plies between the wharf and vessels lying in the roadstead. Decauville lines, a small travelling crane, and winches and tackle have been installed. A second wharf, T-shaped, and big enough to enable two large ships to come alongside at the same time, is under construction.

The harbour can be entered by night as well as by day. A lighthouse, with a revolving light, visible to a distance of 18 nautical miles, has been built on Cape Blanco. Fixed lights, with ranges of 13 and 6 miles respectively, have been placed on Cansado Point and at Port Étienne.

Nature and Volume of Trade.—The activity of Port Étienne is at present almost entirely confined to the fishing industry (see p. 22), though there are one or two factories which supply goods to the neighbouring tribes.

Adequacy to Economic Needs.—If Port Étienne is ever to be a first-class harbour, the present equipment will have to be largely supplemented. Not only will the wharves and cargo-handling appliances have to be improved, but extensive works will have to be undertaken in order to secure that life may be tolerable for traders settling there. Nature has provided none of the amenities and scarcely the necessities of existence. The land is utterly desolate and waterless. Two large reservoirs have been made, but the rain to fill them is very uncertain, and, for ordinary needs, water is got from a distilling apparatus, capable of producing 1 metric ton per hour. In the early days, when the distilling apparatus was not working satisfactorily, there were some anxious moments in which the supply seemed likely to fail altogether, and though a second apparatus is now installed in case of accident to the first, the water question must still be regarded as very serious. It is believed, however, that a large subterranean sheet of water exists, and if the port develops it will be necessary to undertake works on a large scale so as to make this available.

(b) *Shipping Lines*

Monthly communication is maintained with Dakar by a steamer of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes Africaines. This is the only line calling regularly, but the port has been visited by boats belonging to the Chargeurs Réunis, Maurel and Prom, Devès and Chaumet, and J. Holt and Co.

(c) *Wireless Communication*

In 1910 a wireless station was opened at Port Étienne. This has a normal range of 540 nautical miles by day and 1,600 nautical miles by night.

(B) INDUSTRY

(1) LABOUR

Labour in Mauretania is mainly supplied by the black population, Wolofs, Tukulers, and Sarakoles, who fled before the Moors to the south of the Senegal, and have now returned in large numbers to the north bank. They normally employ themselves in agriculture, though in bad seasons they will take paid work in Senegal as labourers on the railway or elsewhere. They are docile and fairly intelligent workers, when under European direction. The Tukulers in particular are said to be energetic and full of initiative, keenly alive to their own advantage and willing to undergo considerable hardship for assured gain. In the Adrar, the palm groves are worked by negroid dependents of the Moors.

The Moors themselves, as a general rule, despise manual labour, and only extreme necessity will induce them to abandon their nomadic life or accept service under Europeans. The Imragen of the coast, however, are skilled and industrious fishermen, and their help will be valuable when the fisheries are fully exploited.

(2) AGRICULTURE

(a) Products of Commercial Value

(i) *Vegetable Products.*—In the Senegal valley the conditions of vegetation are those of the Sudan (see *Senegal*, No. 102 of this series). The river banks are covered with dense jungle, the characteristic trees being the baobab, dwarf palm and gonake. Coco-nut palms have been introduced, and flourish north of St. Louis. Between the Senegal valley and the latitude of Cape Timiris the vegetation is of the Sahel type. The principal shrub is the acacia (*A. tortilis* and *A. vereck*), which forms dense forests in the Trarza and North Brakna and Gorgol. The dwarf palm and other Sudan species extend north to the oases of the Tagant, but elsewhere plant life is confined to grasses, mimosa-

scrub, salsolaceous and similar forms. Tamarisk and *afernán* (*Euphorbia balsamifera*) grow abundantly on the coastal dunes. North of Cape Timiris, Saharan conditions are general. Tamarisk and euphorbias cease, and the *talha* (*Acacia tortilis*) is the only tree. Salt-steppe plants are in the majority near the coast, where species having roots near the surface benefit by the heavy dews, and keep green during the greater part of the year. Throughout the Saharan zone the herbage grows in tufts, and as a rule more luxuriantly on the dunes than on the *aftut*. The most widely distributed species are the *askaf* (*Traganum nudatum*), *getaf* (*Atriplex habimus*), *damran* (*Chenolea canariensis*) and *had* (*Cornulaca manacantha*). *Calotroois procera* and *titarek* (*Leptadenia pyrotechnica*) are common throughout Sahara and Sahel. In the Adrar, thorny scrub, mimosa and desert grasses predominate, growing chiefly in the ravines and moist depressions.

Economically, the most important wild plant is the gum-acacia (*A. verek*). Next in value are the plants used for camel fodder, especially the *askaf* (*Traganum nudatum*), which covers vast surfaces of the Akshar and Azefal dunes. The *talha* (*Acacia tortilis*), growing in the same situations, is also eaten by camels. Nineteen species of grass have been identified, the best for pasture being the *nsid* (*Koeleria phlacoides*), *sbat* (*Aristida pungens*), *initi* (*Cenchrus echinatus*), and *tirishit* (*Andropogon faveolatus*). The fibres of *titarek* are used by the Imragen for making nets and cords.

Cultivated plants are practically confined to the Adrar, Tagant, Brakna and Gorgol regions. In the oases of the Adrar and Tagant, dates of excellent quality are grown on a large scale, and wheat, barley, millet, maize, onions, tobacco, &c., flourish under the trees. Henna is cultivated at Tijikja. The *grara* or moist depressions are also sown, usually with large millet, but the yield is very variable. Vines have done well at Atar. On the north bank of the Senegal, millet and ground-nuts, especially the former, are cultivated

on a large scale. These crops extend for some distance north of the river in the Gorgol, which is irrigated by numerous *marigots*, but in the Brakna the millet fields occur only in the immediate vicinity of the villages. The introduction of cotton in the Shamama has been suggested, and would probably be successful. Plantations of fruit trees have done well at Aleg, Kaedi, Boghe and Selibaly. Experiments are being made with Sudan rice at Boghe and Kaedi.

(ii) *Animal Products*.—Cultivated land forms but a small fraction of the Protectorate. The natural wealth of the remainder consists entirely of animals, and it is the need of finding water and fresh pasturage for their flocks and herds which accounts for the constant wanderings of the Moorish tribes. Camels are bred in the great plains of Auker in the south-east and in the Tiris and Tasiast in the north-west. They vary in price from £2 8s. to £8, the finest coming from the hills of Adrar Sottof on the borders of Rio de Oro. Horses bred locally are small but strong, and fetch good prices. In 1913 a horse could be bought in the Tagant or the Gorgol for about £15, while near the river a mare cost as much as £40-£60. Two sorts of cattle are bred, the humped oxen for transport and a humpless variety for meat. The latter are grazed in the Trarza and Tasiast, and in winter in the Inshiri. The herds contain from 300 to 500 head. An ox in the interior costs £2 8s., a cow £4 or more, whereas in the Brakna an ox is only worth about £1 4s. There are large flocks of sheep. The majority, bred on the coast, are hair-coated and valued for the leather made from their skins. Fleecy varieties are bred in the Adrar and the Tiris in the north, and Hodh in the south. The average price of a sheep in the interior is 4s. Donkeys are numerous. A he-ass rarely fetches more than £1 4s. to £1 8s., but a female can be sold for double that amount.

The ostrich is found in the dunes of Maktir north of the Adrar, and is said to come down at certain seasons to the coastal plains, where the eggs are occasionally found among the sand dunes.

(b) Methods of Cultivation

There is scope for a good deal of improvement both in cultural methods and in irrigation. Most of the Brakna province might be brought under the plough, if a regular system of irrigation were introduced, and the output of the Adrar could be much increased.

(c) Forestry

The forest of Iguidi begins about 50 miles north of the Senegal River, and stretches northward to a distance of about 125 miles. The chief trees are palms, acacias and other gum-yielding shrubs, the baobab and the gonake. This last, which occurs mainly in the Gorgol and Guidimaka, furnishes a hard wood suitable for cabinet-making, with a fruit which can be used for tanning.

Unless the forest is protected it will rapidly disappear, for the natives cut down shrubs to feed their animals on the young shoots, while canoemen on the Senegal, who wish to sell wood and charcoal at St. Louis, take what they want from the north bank. Forest agents have now been appointed, and the cutting down of gum trees has been forbidden.

(3) FISHERIES

Fish are abundant all along the coast, on account of the warm current from the Gulf Stream. Writers and travellers from the fifteenth century onwards gave exaggerated accounts of the riches of the Arguin sandbank, which stretches parallel with Mauretania for almost a degree of longitude and a degree and a half of latitude. Other parts of the Mauretania coast, however, are quite as well supplied, and a French commission, sent out to inspect in 1905, advised the Government to make a fishing centre near Cape Blanco. This was the origin of Port Étienne.

Fish, both migratory and other, frequent these waters, and with the trawl, the seine and surface lines

numerous varieties can be obtained, suitable for salting or drying, as well as for immediate consumption. Soles are common, but the Moors despise flat fish, and throw them away if they catch them accidentally. There are large shoals of sardines and anchovies. One characteristic feature is the large number of fish which closely resemble the cod, with which, however, they are not zoologically connected. Among these are the *cherne* (*Serranus caninus*) and the *cherne ley* (*Serranus æneus*), which may weigh 22 lb. or more, and attain a great size, especially near Nuakshott; the *Serranus gigas*, which is an even more magnificent fish, and the *curbina* (*Sciæna aquila*), which sometimes exceeds 4 ft. in length. These last follow the mullets into Lévrier Bay, and can be caught with them in a strong seine. Spiny lobsters (*langoustes*) are found in large numbers. One variety, *Panulirus vulgaris*, red in colour, and varying in weight from 4 to as much as 13 lb., is found all along the coast, but is not much valued. A smaller variety, *Panulirus regius*, olive-green with yellow bands on the claws, weighing from 3 to 4 lb., is equally abundant, and of a finer flavour.

Until quite recent times, the only fishing in these waters was done by Canary Islanders and the Imragen tribes of the coast. The former came in schooners, with smaller boats carried on board, which were launched when the fishing-ground was reached. The Imragen had no boats, and simply waded into the sea. Neither employed modern methods, or secured more than a mere fraction of the possible catch.

Every effort is now being made to establish at Port Étienne a fishing industry on a really large scale. Companies, such as the Compagnie Grésilonne, the Compagnie Sud-Africaine, and the Compagnie Coopérative Bretonne Mauritanienne, employ Breton fishermen, who come out annually to catch the fish, while on shore the companies have large drying stations for its preparation. The season generally begins in November and ends in May. At present, however, its length

varies, the output is uncertain, and the totals cannot be accurately computed, because some boats leave without declaring the amount of their catch. The *Rapport d'Ensemble* for 1913, issued by the Government of French West Africa, gives the following figures:—

—	Salt Fish.	Dried Fish.	Lobsters.
	Metric Tons.	Metric Tons.	
1912	574	10	139,300
1913	197	34	300,000

It is certain, however, that these totals fail to represent the actual amount of fish taken.

The trade is concerned both with dried fish and fresh fish. There is an almost unlimited African market for the former, for the native relishes dried fish more than any other food, even when prepared according to his own execrable methods. It is interesting to notice that in 1913, when Spain put on a prohibitive tariff which practically closed the Las Palmas market, two Breton companies withdrew from Port Étienne before the end of the season, but a third, which kept its boats out, was able to dispose of the whole of its catch at excellent prices to coast merchants. It is important that the firms preparing salted or dried fish should utilize the secondary products and make guano, fish-oil, fish-glue, &c.

The fresh fish export trade is as yet in its infancy, and its development would require the provision of frequent boats with refrigerating chambers, or, in the case of lobsters, with wells in which the fish could be transported alive. Already the Breton fishermen manage to take back quantities of lobsters alive in their boats, and, in 1911, one commercial house secured in two voyages 200 tons of fish which reached Boulogne in good condition. If fishponds could be established at

Dakar and Port Étienne, and boats for the conveyance of live fish serve both ports, there would be a saving of expense.

Seals are found in small numbers near Port Étienne, but so far have been hunted by the Moors only, and without much success.

(4) MINERALS

So far as is known at present, salt is the only mineral which is found abundantly in Mauretania. It is obtained principally from the *sebkas*, low basins impregnated with salt, which are flooded periodically by the sea, rivers, or rainwater. The salt is deposited either as crystals on the black saline slime which covers the *sebka* bed, or as bar salt, alternatively with dried mud.

The most notable of these *sebkas* is at Ijil, on the eastern borders of Rio de Oro, 170 miles north of Atar. It is about 18 miles in length by 7 in breadth, and contains four layers of salt of varying quality, the finest being at the top. The salt is cut by the Moors into blocks about a yard in length and 15 in. in width, two of which form the load of one camel. Caravans then distribute it to the Adrar, Rio de Oro, and the Nioro and Gumbu districts of Upper Senegal and Niger. The unrest following the French occupation caused a decline in the output at Ijil, which dropped from 21,000 bars in 1905 to 2,500 bars in 1910. Temporarily the trade seems to have declined in favour of salt imported from Europe *via* Senegal, but it may revive with increased security.

Sebkas exist all along the coastal plain, though they differ very much in size, character, and value. Those in the north, round Lévrier Bay, are of no economic importance. In the centre, however, in the Agnetir and Tafonelli districts, and in the south, in the Trarza, the salt is already extensively exploited by the Moors, and the possibilities of developing the industry by European enterprise have been carefully considered.

In 1908 MM. Gruvel and Chudeau, who traversed the entire coastline, reported that, in their opinion, at least seven of the Trarza *sebkas* might repay European exploitation. These, named in order of importance, were N'Terert, Tuidermi, Mujeran, Tin-Jemaran, El Bukharia, Mesil-Lebhar and Tamzagt. N'Terert, which is believed to contain upwards of 150,000 tons of fine, compact bar salt, is only second in importance to Ijil. At present the Moors take from it annually about 10,000 metric tons, which they send by oxen to Rosso and Bedieck on the Garak, for Senegal. The output might be doubled or tripled if modern methods were used.

Serious difficulties, however, stand in the way of an experiment. Transport must be cheap, if the export of salt is to pay, and there are not enough animals available. A narrow-gauge railway would be almost essential, and conditions as yet do not warrant so expensive an undertaking. Moreover, the labour problem would be serious. Negroes imported from Senegal would certainly not stay unless they could be assured of absolute protection from Moorish attack, and, even so, would find the climate and surroundings very uncongenial.

Iron ore is said to exist in the Tagant and Ijil, and to show traces of native workings. This is not now exploited, but the mines might perhaps be reopened and the metal used locally. Traces of copper are reported from Akjusht in the Inshiri district. Gypsum is found in some of the *sebkas* of the Trarza. Good brick-earth is obtained on the banks of the Aly Lake and of the Gorgol River, and also in the Brakna district.

(5) MANUFACTURES

The only industries under this head are metal and leather work. The smiths, who form a despised group among the Zenaga tribes, make bridles, saddles, daggers, gunlocks, &c., while their wives prepare leather, decorate it, often very artistically, and make

scabbards, bags, coverlets and so on. These articles are usually intended, not for sale, but for the use of the tribe.

(C) COMMERCE

(1) DOMESTIC

Very little information can be obtained as to commerce in Mauretania. Much of the country is undeveloped, and trade in the interior is carried on by barter. It is clear, however, that the Moors are turning more and more to commercial pursuits. The warrior tribes, finding their opportunities of brigandage much reduced under French rule, are now obliged to add to their incomes by condescending to military service, the transport and gum trades and the breeding of camels for sale. A steady exchange of products goes on between the Senegal and adjacent places, such as Mederdra, Butilimit, Aleg and M'But. In December, when the floods are over, the Trarza, Brakna and Duaish tribes approach the river, bringing gum for sale. Dagana is the trading centre for the Trarza, Podor for the Brakna, and Kaedi for the Duaish tribes. They remain near the river for the dry season, employing their camels in the transport of ground-nuts, but by July, when the damp heat becomes dangerous to camels, retire to the dunes. Certain *marabut* tribes move between the Adrar and the coast, bartering millet, cattle, and other goods with the Imragen for dried fish, which they sell in the interior. There is also a growing trade between the Adrar and the south. In 1913 more than 2,000 camels were used in this traffic, and 150 metric tons of dates and 100 metric tons of salt were carried to Butilimit and Mujeria.

(2) FOREIGN

(a) *Exports*

Fish, gum, salt, dates, ostrich feathers, worked leather, sheep, goats, cattle and camels are exported.

The first has already been dealt with (see p. 24). The rest, whose total value may be about £480,000, find their chief market in Senegal.

(b) Imports

The total value of the imports is about £320,000. They include arms and ammunition, coffee, spice, sugar, paper and parchment from Morocco and Guinea; cloth, tea, rice, millet, maize, ivory and kola nuts from Senegal and Upper Senegal and Niger.

(c) Customs and Tariffs

The only Custom House is at Port Étienne, and as at present every effort is made to encourage traders to come there by privileged treatment, its operations are negligible. The salt used for the fishing industry is imported from the Canaries, but no duty is charged upon it.

(D) FINANCE

(a) Public Finance

The financial position of Mauretania becomes increasingly satisfactory as the pacification of the country proceeds. The local revenue has to be supplemented from the General Budget for French West Africa, but the subvention is not now as large as it used to be, and it is hoped that in the end the Protectorate will dispense with it altogether. It was inevitable that, during the first years of occupation, expenses should be heavy and receipts uncertain. In the estimates for 1913 a sum of £68,568 was allowed for receipts, and the same for expenses. In actual fact, the revenue collected amounted to £34,706, which with the Government subvention of £36,840, made a total of £71,546. The expenses, on the other hand, totalled only £66,163, so that there was a balance of £5,383.

The chief local sources of income are taxes paid by the Moors and the negroid population. The latter pay 4 fr. per head on every person over the age of ten. The Moors resident in the Protectorate pay the *zekkat*, one-fortieth of their flocks and herds, and the *ashur*, one-tenth of their crops. Moors from outside who drive their beasts into the Protectorate for pasture pay the *ussuru*, which is equivalent to the *zekkat*. In 1913 the receipts from the *zekkat* and *ashur* amounted to £21,805, or 62 per cent. of the whole local revenue.

The principal heads of revenue for 1913 were as follows:—¹

	£
<i>Zekkat</i> and <i>ashur</i>	21,805
Head tax	6,371
Permits, licences, &c.	654
Fines and confiscations	2,306
Payment from the Emir of Trarza for the exploitation of salt	100
Market dues, &c.	453
Miscellaneous	3,017
Total	34,706
Government subvention	36,840
Grand total	71,546

(b) Currency

Notes of the Banque de l'Afrique Occidentale, and silver coins of the Latin Union, were in circulation in Mauretania during 1913. No other coins were in use.

¹ These amounts are calculated in round figures from the tables given in the *Rapport d'Ensemble Annuel* of the *Gouvernement général de l'Afrique Occidentale Française* for 1913. The total receipts there given, however, amount to 1,821,303 francs 95 centimes, or £72,852. This exceeds by roughly 32,000 francs the total obtained by adding the separate items. Either an item has been omitted or the addition has been incorrectly made.

(E) GENERAL REMARKS

If Mauretania is not such a land of absolute desolation as was imagined before it was explored at all, it is, nevertheless, not such a desirable acquisition in itself as was suggested at the time when the heavy expenses of its occupation demanded some justification. Though the exploration is still incomplete, enough is known to make it unlikely that any considerable source of natural wealth is still awaiting discovery. Future possibilities, therefore, are confined within obvious limits. Improved agricultural methods and continued peace would enable the maximum return to be obtained from the fertile lands near the river and in the Adrar and Tagant. The fisheries will probably rise steadily in importance. Some day the salt of the south-western *sebkas* may be more fully utilized. For the rest, the land is sterile and scantily populated, and it seems inevitable that its value should continue to be, as it is to-day, military rather than commercial.

APPENDIX

EXTRACTS FROM TREATIES BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN
FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THEIR POSSESSIONS IN
WEST AFRICA.

I.—CONVENTION OF JUNE 27, 1900.

Art. 1.—Sur la côte du Sahara, la limite entre les possessions françaises et Espagnoles suivra une ligne qui, partant du point indiqué par la carte de détail (A) juxtaposée à la carte formant l'Annexe 2 à la présente Convention, sur la côte occidentale de la péninsule du Cap Blanc, entre l'extrémité de ce cap et la baie de l'ouest, gagnera le milieu de la dite péninsule, puis, en divisant celle-ci par moitié autant que le permettra le terrain, remontera au nord jusqu'au point de rencontre avec le parallèle $21^{\circ} 20'$ de latitude nord. La frontière se continuera à l'est sur le $21^{\circ} 20'$ de latitude nord jusqu'à l'intersection de ce parallèle avec le méridien $15^{\circ} 20'$ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich). De ce point, la ligne de démarcation s'élèvera dans la direction du nord-ouest en décrivant, entre les méridiens $15^{\circ} 20'$ et $16^{\circ} 20'$ ouest de Paris (13° et 14° ouest de Greenwich), une courbe qui sera tracée de façon à laisser à la France, avec leurs dépendances, les salines de la région d'Idjil, de la rive extérieure desquelles la frontière se tiendra à une distance d'au moins 20 kilom. Du point de rencontre de la dite courbe avec le méridien $15^{\circ} 20'$ ouest de Paris (13° ouest de Greenwich), la frontière gagnera aussi directement que possible l'intersection du tropique du cancer avec le méridien $14^{\circ} 20'$ ouest de Paris (12° ouest de Greenwich), et se prolongera sur ce dernier méridien dans la direction du nord.

Il est entendu que, dans la région du Cap Blanc, la délimitation qui devra y être effectuée par la Commission Spéciale visée à l'Article VIII de la présente Convention, s'opérera de façon que la partie occidentale de la péninsule, y compris la baie de l'ouest, soit attribuée à l'Espagne, et que le Cap Blanc proprement dit et la partie orientale de la même péninsule demeurent à la France.

II.—CONVENTION OF OCTOBER 3, 1904.

Art. 5.—Pour compléter la délimitation indiquée par l'article 1^{er} de la convention du 27 juin, 1900, il est entendu que la démarcation entre les sphères d'influence française et espagnole partira de l'intersection du méridien $14^{\circ} 20'$ ouest de Paris avec le 26° de

latitude nord, qu'elle suivra vers l'est jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 11° ouest de Paris. Elle remontera ce méridien jusqu'à sa rencontre avec l'Oued Draa, puis le thalweg de l'Oued Draa jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 10° ouest de Paris, enfin le méridien 10° ouest de Paris jusqu'à la ligne de faite entre les bassins de l'Oued Draa et de l'Oued Sous, et suivra, dans la direction de l'ouest, la ligne de faite entre les bassins de l'Oued Draa et de l'Oued Sous, puis entre les bassins côtiers de l'Oued Mesa et de l'Oued Noun jusqu'au point le plus rapproché de la source de l'Oued Tazeroualt.

Cette délimitation est conforme à la délimitation tracée sur la carte No. 2 déjà citée et annexée à la présente convention.

III.—CONVENTION OF NOVEMBER 27, 1912.

Au sud du Maroc, la frontière des zones française et espagnole sera définie par le thalweg de l'Oued Draa, qu'elle remontera depuis la mer jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 11° ouest de Paris; elle suivra ce méridien vers le sud jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le parallèle $27^{\circ} 40'$ de latitude nord. Au sud de ce parallèle, les articles V et VI de la Convention du 3 octobre, 1904, resteront applicables. Les régions marocaines situées au nord et à l'est de la délimitation visée dans le présent paragraphe appartiendront à la zone française.

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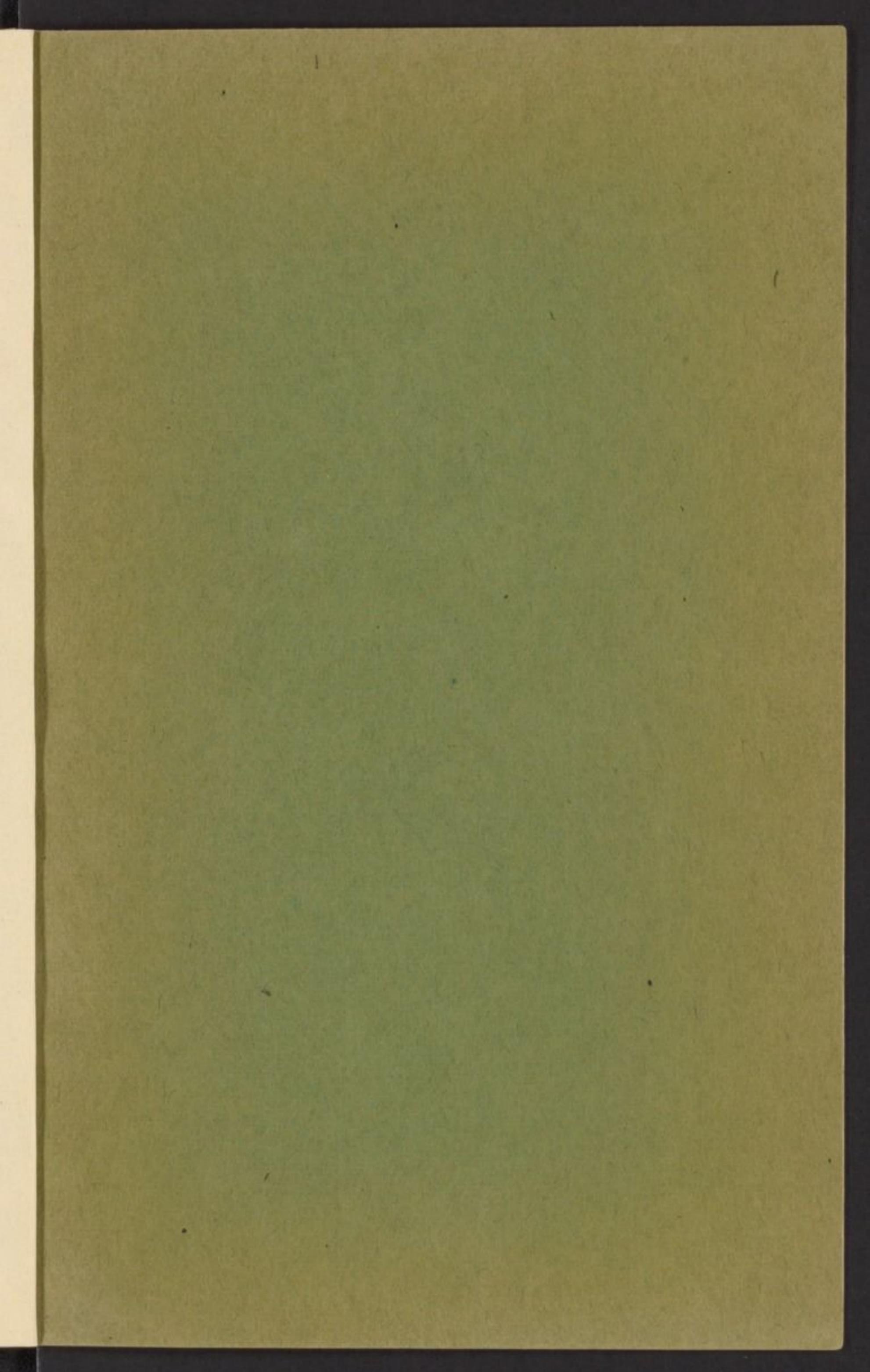
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