

HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 33

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TRENTINO  
AND  
ALTO ADIGE

LONDON:  
PUBLISHED BY H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

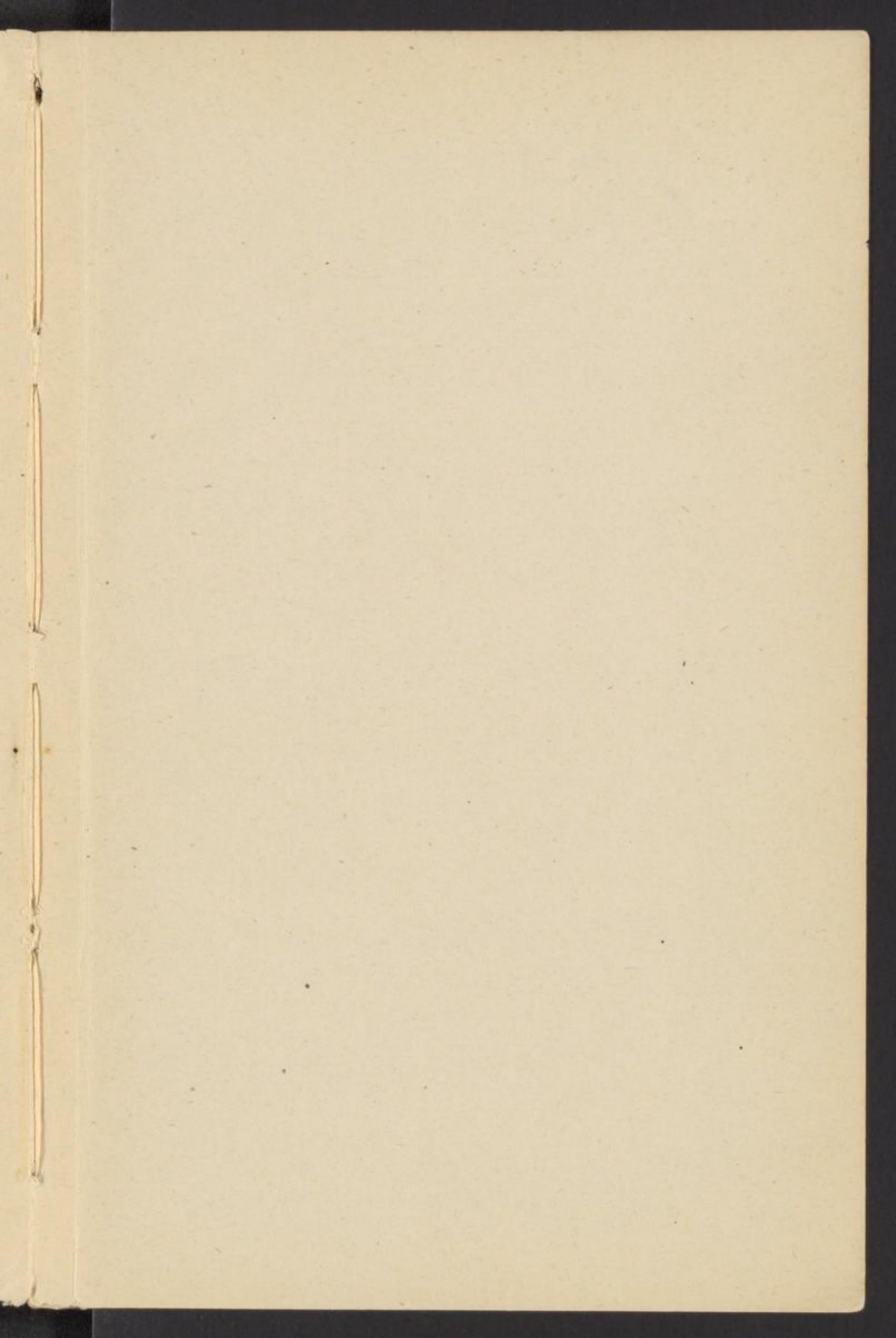


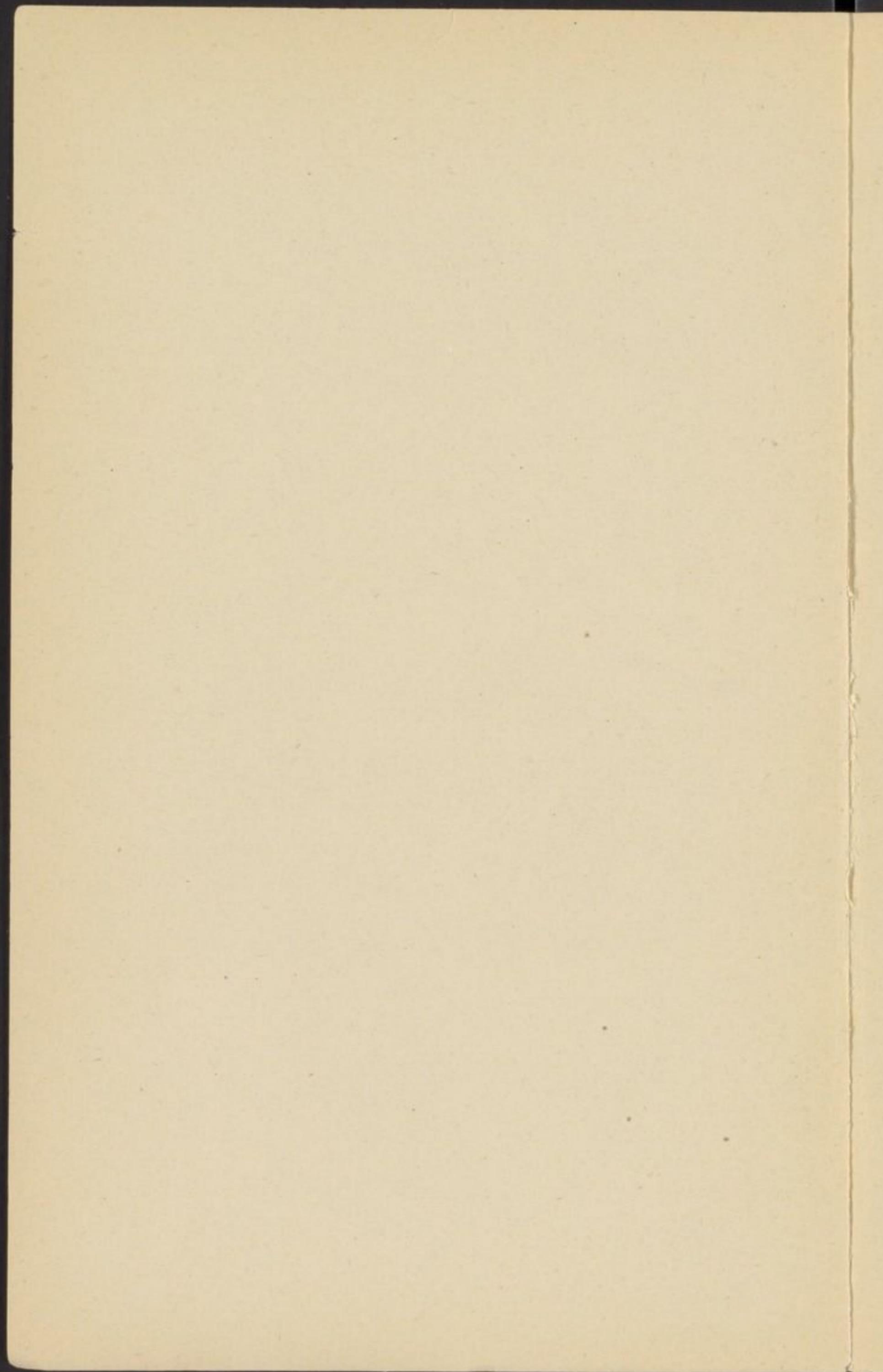
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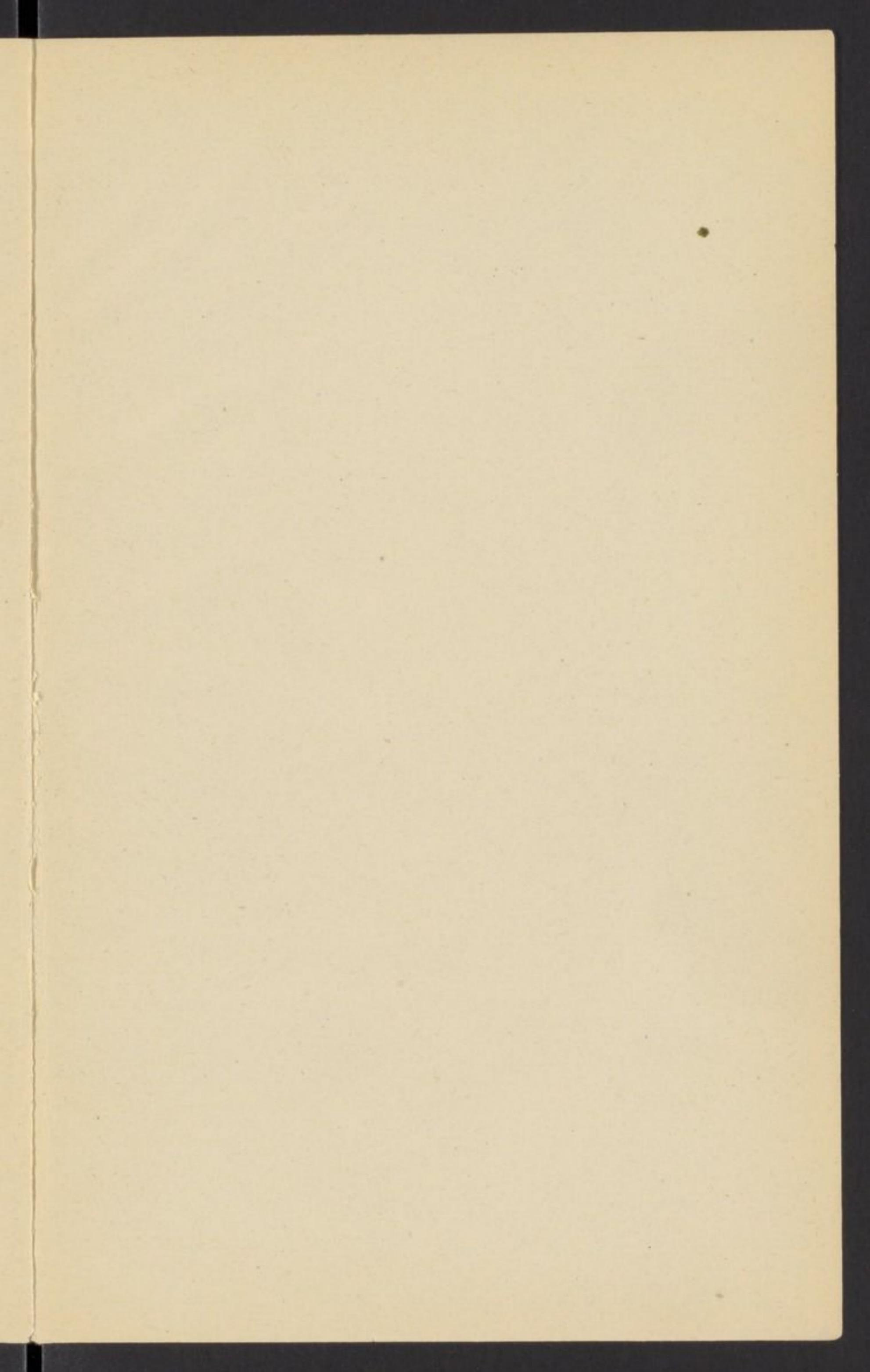


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HANDBOOKS PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
*1st. Part*  
HISTORICAL SECTION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—No. 33.

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TRENTINO  
AND  
ALTO ADIGE

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LONDON:  
PUBLISHED BY H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

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1917, 1927

## EDITORIAL NOTE

IN the spring of 1917 the Foreign Office, in connexion 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 inquiries 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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## GEOGRAPHY PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL

### (1) POSITION AND FRONTIERS

THE districts of the Trentino and Alto Adige constitute together the mountainous region, known in Austria as Süd-Tirol, which extends north of Lake Garda from the Italian frontier up to the Alpine watershed. It lies between  $45^{\circ} 40'$  and  $47^{\circ} 10'$  north latitude and  $10^{\circ} 20'$  and  $12^{\circ} 20'$  east longitude, and is bounded on the north by northern Tirol, on the east by the watershed between the basins of the Rienz and Drave (crossing the Pustertal in the neighbourhood of Toblach),<sup>1</sup> on the south-east by Venetia, on the west by Lombardy and Switzerland. The distinction between the Trentino and Alto Adige corresponds to no official division, but the districts may conveniently be taken as separated by certain administrative boundaries, which correspond pretty closely with the linguistic division, and follow in general the watershed between the upper Adige and its tributary the Noce in the west, and that of the Dolomites in the east (see p. 6). If Italy is regarded as a geographical unit and the frontier carried along the main divide of the Alps, both the Trentino and Alto Adige fall naturally within its limits. Such a frontier, however, does not correspond to the ethnographical boundary.

<sup>1</sup> This excludes the *Bezirk* of Lienz, consisting of the eastern Pustertal or upper Drave valley, which, though part of Tirol and south of the Alpine divide, clearly falls outside the Italian system.

## (2) SURFACE AND RIVER SYSTEM

*Surface*

The area of the Trentino is 2,454 sq. miles (6,356 sq. km.), that of the Alto Adige (including Ampezzo), 2,953 sq. miles (7,548 sq. km.). Geographically these regions cannot be separated, since they virtually form the basin of the Adige (Etsch) from its sources under the Reschen (Raseno) Pass in the north-west to Borghetto in the south, where the river enters Italian territory.

The Alto Adige consists of a rugged mass of mountains draining to the Adige, which affords practically the only outlet to the south. The Trentino is hardly less mountainous; less than a third (700 square miles) is under 3,280 ft., while 1,754 square miles are above that height. Only three passes give access to the north and east: the narrow valley of the Brenner Pass (4,490 ft.) in the centre, and the open doors of the Reschen Pass (4,955 ft.) in the west and of the Toblach Pass (3,975 ft.) in the east.

The foot-hills of the Alps begin south of the Sarca gorge, and comprise the following groups: the Ledro Alps between the Sarca (flowing into Garda) and the Chiese (flowing into the Lago d'Idro), with their wooded valleys; the Bondone Alps, between the Sarca and the Adige, with their upland pastures and numerous lakes; and Monte Baldo towering above the eastern shore of Garda. A considerable portion of these groups of foot-hills lies across the Italian border. As a whole they afford good pasture for numerous cattle.

North of Trent begins the Dolomite region. The Brenta group on the right bank of the Adige, facing the Adamello Alps, is already of dolomite formation. Its high, terraced walls are broken by several valleys, and among them lie the broad upland pastures of the

Campo di Carlomagno. But the real Dolomites lie to the east of the Adige, between the Val Sugana and the Pustertal.

The country consists almost entirely of limestone formations; and the soil affords good pasture, but poor arable land. The most fertile ground is the alluvial soil in the river valleys and round the lakes, more especially round Garda. Being of limestone, the surface and subsoil are so pervious that moisture does not collect, and streams often vanish into the ground, to reappear at a lower level.

#### *River System*

The rivers are all mountain torrents with numerous falls, generally bringing down large quantities of gravel in their courses. The regulation of these streams for the production of electric power would be an economical and effective way of checking the floods, which at present are a source of considerable danger.

The region belongs mainly to the basin of the Adige; the only exceptions of importance being the following. In the north-east the Boite, from the Val d'Ampezzo, flows into the Piave just below Pieve, and the Cordevole, which joins the same river at Mel, also has its source in the Alto Adige. The Piave reaches the Adriatic some way north of the Venetian lagoon. Farther south the Brenta, in the Val Sugana, and its northern tributary the Cison, both have considerable Tridentine basins on the south-western slopes of the Dolomites. The Brenta flows into the Venetian lagoon. Much less important is the Astico, whose head-waters lie just within the boundary of the Trentino, east of Rovereto, and find their way through the Bacchiglione to the sea. The most important river of the Trentino, after the Adige, is the Sarca, which rises in the Pre-sanella group on the western frontier, and, after

draining a considerable area, flows into Lake Garda, whose waters escape through the Mincio into the Po. Lastly, in the south-west the Chiese, from Monte Adamello, flows through the Lago d'Idro and likewise reaches the Po.

The Adige (Etsch) itself, which, with its tributaries, has for its upper basin the whole remaining area of the Trentino and Alto Adige, rises in the Reschen district in the north-west, and runs first south and then east through the Vintschgau (Val Venosta) to Meran. Thence it flows in a generally southern direction, receiving near Bozen the Eisak or Eisack (Isargo or Isarco), which brings down the waters of the Talferbach from the Sarntal (Val Sarentina), and those of the Rienz from the Pustertal. The bed of the Adige is rarely over 100 yds. wide in the Trentino, where it is crossed by fourteen bridges. It does not freeze. Four important towns mark the junctions of lateral valleys :

(1) *Meran* lies at the confluence of the Adige and the Passeier (Passer, Passiero). Meran was formerly the key to the south, the great highway from the north over the Brenner Pass running through Sterzing (Sterven) and then crossing the Jaufren Pass to the Passeiertal.

(2) *Bozen (Bolzano)*, at the point where the Talferbach joins the Eisak, three miles above the confluence of the latter with the Adige, has superseded Meran now that the railway from the Brenner has diverted the main route to the Eisak valley. Bozen is also the starting-point of the great eastern line of communication through Franzensfeste and the Pustertal.

(3) *Trent (Trento, Trient)*, at the mouth of the Fersina, owed its early importance to its position on the main road from Venice to the Brenner. The Avisio from the east and the Noce from the west flow into the Adige a little higher up.

(4) *Rovereto* stands where the Adige is joined by the Leno from the Val Arsa and the Val Terragnolo, and where the Brenner route is crossed by the road from Vicenza to Riva at the head of Garda.

### (3) CLIMATE

The great variety of climate, in a region which includes the semi-tropical shores of Lake Garda in the south and the glacier-covered Alps in the north, makes it very difficult to generalize about the weather conditions of Süd-Tirol.

Round Riva and Arco and in adjacent parts of the Sarca and Adige valleys the temperature rarely falls below 41° F. (5° C.), with an average of 53.5° F. (12° C.). The mountains above Bozen effectually shelter the lower Adige valley. The average temperature is very little lower than on Lake Garda, but the cold is more intense in winter, and there is usually frost throughout January. In the other river valleys also there is generally frost all through January. On the uplands over 2,000 ft. the frost lasts for two or three months, but the summer temperature is as a rule over 50° F. (10° C.). The Pustertal is characterized by intense cold in winter, the frost lasting from three to five months. The weather, however, is generally fine. The central Alpine valleys are often warmer than the Dolomite region.

Precipitation is usually sudden and violent. The autumn is the wettest season, then the spring. February is the driest month.

### (4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

The excellence of the climate of Süd-Tirol is well known. Pellagra, however, is a serious endemic scourge, and is not disappearing as rapidly as in the Veneto. As there are no marshes, malaria is very rare. The

statistics for scrofula, rickets, and other congenital diseases are much the same as in Italy. In some regions, e. g. Rovereto, Borgo, and Cles, there are annual outbreaks of enteric ; but they are diminishing as the water-supply improves, and better hygienic conditions are favourably affecting the statistics for croup and diphtheria. Tuberculosis is the most fatal disease. Between 1901 and 1910 the average number of deaths from tuberculosis in the Trentino was 2.44 per 1,000, as compared with 2.57 for the whole Tirol. The annual death-rate from all causes is estimated at 26 per 1,000.

#### (5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

The racial question is comparatively simple in these regions, Italians and Ladins on the one hand and Germans on the other being, as a rule, separated from one another by definite geographical boundaries. With minor variations and occasional disputed claims the linguistic line is that taken as dividing the Trentino from the Alto Adige, which coincides with the boundaries of certain administrative districts (*politische Bezirke, capitanate*). This line follows the watershed between the upper Adige on the north and east and the Noce on the south and west, from Monte Cevedale (Zufall-Spitze) in the Ortler group to the Corno di Tres crosses the Adige above Mezzocorona (Deutsch-Metz), circles round Salorno (Salurn), and follows the watershed of the Dolomite range to Monte Corno, turns north round Truden (Tródena), regains the watershed and follows it to Cima Boè, whence it strikes south-east to the Italian frontier. To the north of this line the population is for the most part solidly German. To the south, however, the purely Italian district only touches the line in the extreme west, between Monte Cevedale and Cima Rossa, and again in the Adige valley. Elsewhere a Ladin-speaking zone intervenes.

This, in the extreme north-east, is pure Ladin, but south of Predazzo and the Val Travignolo (east of Cavalese) contains everywhere an Italian admixture.

Thus the Trentino may be regarded as wholly Italian, or at least Romance. The Austrian census, which does not distinguish between Italians and Ladins, gave in 1910 a total of 360,847 Italians, 13,450 Germans, and 2,620 persons of other nationality. Many of the Germans are soldiers and officials, but there are a number of German-speaking 'islands' or 'promontories' of various sizes. Thus the German element has overflowed two gaps in the mountains west of Bozen into the head of the Val di Non, and lies there solid at Provès (Proveis), Lauregno (Laurein), San Felice (St. Felix), and Senale (Unser Frau im Walde), and the same thing has happened on the Avisio at Anterivo (Altrei), west of Cavalese. There is a German island round Lucerna close to the Italian frontier immediately west of the Sette Comuni, and another to the north, including Frassilongo (Gereut), Fierozzo (Floruz), and Palù (Palai), the villages of the primitive, semi-nomad Mocheni of the Val Fersina. These Mocheni are descendants of German miners who were settled in the Trentino long ago by the Prince-Bishops. The census gives their numbers as 5,000, but the great increase over earlier computations suggests that the figures may have been exaggerated for political reasons.

The Alto Adige, on the other hand, is with certain exceptions almost solidly German. The Austrian census of 1910 shows the population of this region as consisting of 215,796 Germans, 22,500 Italians and Ladins, and 1,643 persons of other nationality. This gives a proportion of Italians of under 8 per cent., or, if we except the Enneberg district, where Ladins are in an overwhelming majority, only 5 per cent. This is certainly an under-estimate, though the Italian

estimate of 25 per cent. is also an exaggeration. Thus, according to the census, there were 1,316 Italians in the town of Bozen; but an inquiry based on the directory proved that it contained over 1,400 professional men and tradesmen alone who were known to be Italian in origin, language, and sympathy. Again, the Italians claim to have overrun the Adige valley almost as far as Bozen, that the town itself is virtually bilingual, and that there are many Italians between Bozen and Meran, as well as in Meran itself and in Brixen. This claim is certainly at variance with the census, the figures of which are given in the table printed below. German sources show a large island of Italians in the Adige valley stretching from just north of Neumarkt (Egna) to just south of Bozen, and surrounding Branzoll (Bronzollo), though that town itself is claimed as German. It also shows small islands in the same valley surrounding Salurn (Salorno) and Pochi; lying north, south, and east of Kurtinig (Cortina); in the Brantental north-east of Branzoll; just south of St. Jacob, half-way between Branzoll and Bozen; and near Terlan and Burgstall, between Bozen and Meran. Last, and most important of all, is the area of solid Ladin population stretching in the north-east from the Italian frontier up to within 5 km. of Bruneck in the Pustertal, as far as Sant' Olderico (St. Ulrich) in the Val di Gardena (Grödnertal) on the west and Monte Cristallo on the east, and centring round Enneberg. This Ladin district is claimed as virtually Italian, though the sympathies of the important hotel-proprietor element are said to be Austrian.

It should be added that beyond the Italian frontiers are the Sette Comuni of the Asiago (Schlege) plateau and the Tredici Comuni in the extreme south, which are German villages, while in north Tirol, of the 50,000 inhabitants of Innsbruck, about 1,000 are Italians.

The following table is based on the Austrian census of 1910 :

TRENTINO				
<i>District.</i>	<i>Italians and Ladins.</i>	<i>Germans.</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Borgo . . . . .	42,989	1,617	189	44,795
Cavalese . . . . .	22,517	1,782	261	24,560
Cles . . . . .	45,798	1,887	38	47,723
Mezzolombardo . . . . .	20,849	301	21	21,171
Primiero . . . . .	10,663	245	18	10,926
Riva . . . . .	26,296	1,643	217	28,156
Rovereto, urban . . . . .	9,509	811	85	10,405
Rovereto, rural . . . . .	55,357	294	51	55,702
Tione . . . . .	35,955	264	216	36,435
Trent, urban . . . . .	24,169	2,819	1,381 <sup>1</sup>	28,369
Trent, rural . . . . .	66,745	1,787	143	68,675
Totals for Trentino . . . . .	360,847	13,450	2,620	376,917

ALTO ADIGE				
<i>District.<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Italians and Ladins.</i>	<i>Germans.</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ampezzo . . . . .	5,990	443	46	6,479
Bozen, urban . . . . .	1,316	21,129	88	22,533
Bozen, rural . . . . .	7,474	64,924	77	72,475
Brixen . . . . .	413	28,751	390	29,554
Bruneck . . . . .	5,594	29,481	873	35,948
Meran . . . . .	1,669	49,168	162	50,999
Schlanders . . . . .	44	21,900	7	21,951
Totals for Alto Adige . . . . .	22,500	215,796	1,643	239,939
Totals for Trentino and Alto Adige . . . . .	383,347	229,246	4,263	616,856

<sup>1</sup> Including 1,233 Czecho-Slovaks.

<sup>2</sup> Brixen includes a small portion of the head of the Zillertal north of the Alpine watershed. Schlanders does not extend quite up to the watershed on the Reschen Scheideck, but on the other hand includes a small district at the head of the Venter Tal, north of the watershed. None of these areas have any appreciable population.

Of the Italians of the Trentino those to the east of the lower Adige speak a dialect predominantly Venetian, while the western dialect is essentially Lombardic. In the neighbourhood of Trent the dialects combine into something which may be called a Trentino dialect.

The centre of the Ladin element is the Sella group, from which descend the Val Fassa, the Val di Gardena, Val Gadera (including Val Corvara and Val Badia or Abteital with Enneberg), and Val Cordevole (or upper

Agordo valley). The purest Ladin is spoken in the remote Gadera and Gardena regions. It is akin to the Romansh of Switzerland and the Friulian of northern Venetia, being a primitive Latin dialect which did not develop like French or Italian. It is hardly a literary language, though a few popular productions are printed in it; and it loses its purity beyond the remote mountain valleys. Thus, south of Predazzo it is rapidly disappearing, as it is even in the lower Gardena valley. The Ladin elements predominate in the dialect of the Cordevole valley, but that of the Val d'Ampezzo is now becoming merged in Venetian. In the Trentino, except in the Val Fassa, the Ladins will soon be indistinguishable from the rest of the population; in the Noce basin they have already almost lost their individuality. But in the Alto Adige they are still an important element. Though their sympathies are said to be overwhelmingly Italian, in some respects they rather resemble the Germans. Their houses, for instance, stand in their own gardens and paddocks, like those of the German Tirolese. No figures are available for the number of Ladins as distinct from Italians.

## (6) POPULATION

### *Distribution*

240  
377  
617

In 1910 the population of the Alto Adige was 239,939, or 81 to the sq. mile; that of the Trentino, 376,917, or 154 to the sq. mile. The population is most dense in the fertile river valleys, especially along the Adige; it decreases in the remoter valleys. Above 4,300 ft. the country is virtually uninhabited. The South Tirolese are almost entirely agricultural; barely 13 per cent. of the people of the Trentino live in towns, and the proportion is nearly the same in the Alto Adige. The towns have increased in size, but not to the same extent as elsewhere.

*Towns*

The towns are all situated at important points along the river courses. The capital of the Trentino is Trent (population 33,000) on the Adige. Other important towns are Rovereto (12,000), a prosperous commercial town on the Adige; Riva (9,224) at the head of Lake Garda; Levico (6,882) on the Brenta, with valuable mineral springs; and Cavalese (3,025), a rising trading centre on the Avisio in the Val di Fiemme. Bozen (population, inclusive of that of the suburbs, 25,000) is the capital of the Alto Adige. Meran (20,000) also on the Adige, and Brixen (Bressanone, 6,150) at the confluence of the Rienz, the river of the Pustertal, with the Eisak, are important.

*Movement*

In the Trentino the births are 28 per 1,000, the deaths 26; the average life is 36.7 years. Infant mortality is high; a quarter of the children die before they are a year old, half before they are 20. The marriage rate is 5-6 per 1,000, much higher than in the Alto Adige. Between 1900 and 1910 the natural increase in the population was over 9 per cent., but the actual increase under  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., owing to a considerable emigration. In the Alto Adige, on the other hand, where the natural increase during the same period was under 8 per cent., the actual increase was almost  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., owing to immigration. The census figures for the decennium 1900-10 are as follows:

	<i>Natural</i>		<i>Actual</i>
	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Migration.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>
Trentino . . . . .	32,591	- 6,333	26,258
Alto Adige . . . . .	16,604	+ 11,869	28,473

## II. POLITICAL HISTORY

### CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1027. Temporal rights over the County of Trent conferred on the Bishop of Trent by Conrad II.
- 1130-1363. Counties of Vintschgau (Upper Adige) and of Brixen held by Counts of Tirol.
- 1363-1796. These Counties held by Austria as part of Habsburg inheritance.
1517. Venice loses Riva and Rovereto to the Bishop of Trent.
1796. Napoleon brings the rule of the Prince-Bishops to an end.
1803. Bishopric secularized and territory assigned to Austria.
1805. Treaty of Pressburg: Trentino passes with Tirol to Bavaria.
1809. At Peace of Schönbrunn the County of Trent included in Napoleonic Kingdom of Northern Italy under the name of Alto Adige.
1814. Austria regains the Trentino, which is formally annexed to Tirol.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

Historically included in the Augustan *Regio Italica*, the county of Trent in 774 formed part of the Frankish kingdom of Italy and, subsequently incorporated in the German Empire by Conrad II, was in 1027 conferred, with temporal rights, on the Bishop of Trent together with the counties of Bozen and Vintschgau. From 1130 to 1363 the counties of Vintschgau and of Brixen, ceded by their respective bishops, were held by the Counts of Tirol. In 1363 these two counties passed to the Dukes of Austria, and from that date to 1796 they formed part of the Habsburg inheritance. Over the counties of Bozen and Trent the bishops continued to exercise temporal rights; their territories were

States of the Empire, but were also, as part of Tirol, under the suzerainty of Austria.

In the course of the mainland conquests made by the Venetians during the fourteenth and the early fifteenth centuries, their armies, having occupied the Sette Comuni (1404), advanced to the acquisition of Rovereto and its dependencies (1416). In 1442 the Republic had pushed its territories as far west as Riva. Hard pressed by the Imperialists during the wars of the League of Cambrai, it was forced in 1509 to cede Riva to the Bishop of Trent for surrender to the Emperor. Later in the same year Rovereto was lost.

At the descent of Napoleon Bonaparte into Italy, in 1796, the last of the long line of Prince-Bishops was dispossessed; in 1803 the bishopric was secularized and given to Austria; the Treaty of Pressburg brought it under the dominion of Bavaria until the Peace of Schönbrunn in 1809 included the territory in the Napoleonic kingdom of northern Italy under the title of the Alto Adige.<sup>1</sup> At the fall of Napoleon it was occupied by Austria and formally annexed to Tirol in 1814; it was included in the German Confederation until after Sadowa (1866).

<sup>1</sup> Article 3 of the 'Traité de Confédération', February 28, 1810, ceded to Napoleon as King of Italy 'des parties du Tyrol Italien au choix de S.M.I., lesquelles cependant devront être contiguës, situées à la proximité et d'après la convenance du royaume d'Italie'. The exact boundaries were fixed by a French and Bavarian Commission at Bozen (*Histoire abrégée des Traités de Paix*, 1838, ii, p. 508).

### III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

#### (1) RELIGIOUS

The ecclesiastical diocese of Trentino embraces a considerable area of the Alto Adige, and includes the deaneries of Bozen, Egna, Lana, Meran, Schlanders, Chiusa, and Kastelruth. Trent, which has been the seat of a bishop since the fourth century, is now a suffragan see of the Archbishop of Salzburg. Roman Catholicism is the religion of both German and Italian inhabitants of the district.

#### (2) POLITICAL

The present constitution of the Trentino, which with the Alto Adige forms the Austrian Contea Principesca del Tirolo e Vorarlberg, dates from 1861. Administered by the Imperial Lieutenancy of Tirol, the Trentino sends about one-third of the elected members to the Diet of Tirol held at Innsbruck, a composite body on which sit by right of their office the Rector of the University of Innsbruck, the Archbishop of Salzburg, and the Bishops of Trent and Brixen.

During the vicissitudes of its history the Trentino has steadfastly maintained its Italian speech and character against invading Germanism. Always the outpost of Italian culture and all that Italianism implies, the Trentino has been an impenetrable barrier in the north against Teutonic aggression—military, economic, and literary. Politically, however, owing to the aggregation of the Trentino and the Alto Adige, the Italian element is subjected to the German. To the Parliament at Vienna it sends nine members.

## (3) EDUCATIONAL

The educational system of the Trentino is that prevailing in other parts of the Austrian State, every local community being bound to erect and maintain public elementary schools—i. e. *Volkschulen* for primary and *Bürgerschulen* for higher elementary instruction. 54,706 Italian-speaking pupils attended these schools in the Tirol (according to the Austrian census, 1911), and in 482 of them the language of instruction was Italian, alternatively with Ladin and German. There are also 1,108 Italian pupils in *Mittelschulen* (*Gymnasia* and *Realgymnasia*) and 161 in *Realschulen*. Provision is made for teachers in three training colleges, in which Italian is the language of instruction. In regard to the schools, therefore, the common source of trouble in districts of mixed population, the language question, has not arisen. Much discontent, however, has been felt by the Italians at the refusal of the Government to allow the establishment of an Italian University. The reason for this refusal appears to be the fear that it would form a centre for 'irredentist' agitation. As a compromise, an Italian Law Faculty was provided at Innsbruck after 1905, but this did not allay discontent; and before the war there were hostile demonstrations by both Italian and German students.

The Italians of the Trentino district have profited by their educational facilities. They can point to a satisfactorily low percentage of illiterates, less than 10 per cent. for men and about 15 per cent. for women, while in certain districts, as for example round Cles and Cavalese, the illiterates form only 3 per cent. of the population. There has been also a corresponding decrease shown in the criminal statistics, especially as regards crimes of violence.

The Trentino can claim a high rank intellectually and

morally, and it has contributed many names illustrious in literature, science, and art to the Italian nation.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

### (a) *Popular Opinion and National Sentiment*

Of the desire of the Trentini to be included in the kingdom of United Italy there can be no doubt. From the days of March 1848, when the citizens of Trent raised the tricolor and demanded union with Lombardy and Venetia, to the public rejoicing in the occupation of Rome they never faltered in their purpose. In 1856 their leaders petitioned Cavour in this sense; they purchased and sent a cannon inscribed 'Trento' to the Crimea; in 1859 they sent a deputation to Victor Emanuel at head-quarters, asking for a liberator and a king; in July of the same year the Town Councils of Trent, Rovereto, and other cities of the province, bearing the signatures of 749 business houses, prayed to be incorporated in Venetia; in 1860 a secret plebiscite declared the general desire to be annexed to the constitutional kingdom of Italy; they sent eighteen members to the Thousand, and 500 volunteers from the Trentino took part in the subsequent campaign. In 1860, at Cavour's request, General Govone drew up a memorandum for the use of the British Government on the strategical aspect of the Venetian question, wherein he laid especial stress on the importance of the Trentino and the Alto Adige territories, which in Austrian hands (he urged) would be a great and ever-present danger to the young kingdom of Italy and destroy any equilibrium of power between Austria and Italy in the event of war, even if Venetia should be included in Italy.<sup>1</sup> In the battles of 1866 the Trentini numbered 500 men, some families having given as many

<sup>1</sup> C. Battisti, *Il Trentino*, Turin, 1915, p. 17.

as four sons to the Italian army. Politically the Trentini have asserted their separatist aims either by abstentions *en masse* from the elections to the Diet at Innsbruck, or by returning representatives who then resigned in a body to emphasize their intransigency.

(b) *Strategical Aspect of the Trentino Question*

The only countries directly involved in a Trentino settlement are Italy and Austria, and it is obvious that the military and strategic importance of this district far outweighs any other considerations.

The strategical aspect of the Trentino is that of a great wedge thrust down into the north of Italy, a perpetual menace impending over the rich plains of Lombardy and Venetia. By its possession Austria can strike at the most wealthy, the most vital, parts of Italy; she has them at her mercy. The Trentino is not so much a territory as a vast impregnable fortress, a formidable strategic position supplemented by all the resources of military science, and furnished with railways, roads, arsenals, and forts of prodigious strength. On the north, therefore, it may be said the Italian kingdom has no strategic frontier; and the door of her house cannot be closed against a northern invader. It is estimated by the Italian staff that a rectified frontier drawn north of Trent would reduce the present line by about two-thirds, but that the danger would be wholly eliminated only if Italy's political boundaries included the Alto Adige and if the so-called geographical became the political frontier.

## IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

### (A) MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

#### (a) Roads, &c.

THE main highway of the district is the road from north to south, following, probably, the route of the Roman *Via Claudia*. It runs from Innsbruck over the Brenner, and down the Passeier and Adige valleys to Verona.

The principal Alpine roads in the Trentino are as follows :

*West of the Adige valley.*—(i) The Chiese road, which runs from Trent through Tione to the lake of Idro after joining, near Storo, the highway which goes from Rovereto through Riva. (ii) The Tonale road, which runs west from Bozen through Male and across the western frontier at the Tonale Pass. This road is also connected with the Adige valley by a highway from Cles to Mezzolombardo, and with the Chiese road by a road from a point near Male to Tione.

*East of the Adige valley.*—In the eastern part of the Trentino there are three great roads leading to the Venetian and Lombard plains. (i) The Val Sugana road, a magnificent highway, with few gradients, from Trent eastward down the Brenta valley, crossing the frontier just beyond Tezze. (ii) The Cimon road, leading from the Adige valley at Egna (Neumarkt) along the Avisio valley through Cavalese, turning southwards at Mt. Cimon near the eastern frontier, and continuing through Primiero to Fonzaso in Italy. (iii) The road diverging north-east from the Cimon road

at Predazzo and crossing the frontier at Pordoi in the north-east corner of the Trentino.

The main Alpine roads in the Alto Adige are: (i) The road leading west from Bozen through Meran up the Vintschgau (Val Venosta) over the Reschen Pass to Nauders in North Tirol. (ii) The road leading east from Franzensfeste to Toblach in the Pustertal.

All these are excellently built roads and normally in good condition, except when the snow is melting.

The secondary roads, paths, and tracks are reported to be as a rule well kept; but it is alleged by Italian authorities that the region is insufficiently provided with the minor means of communication, and that the development of industries is thereby impeded. On the whole, this charge appears to be justified, and it may be surmised that, in their attention to means of communication in Süd-Tirol, the Austrians have considered possible military necessities rather than the economic needs of the country.

Before the war a certain number of automobile services were already established. Some are continued through the winter, but for the greater part they run in summer only. Some are maintained, others largely assisted, by the State.

#### (b) *Rivers*

The main river is the Adige, running from north to south into the Italian plains. It cannot be regarded as navigable, though it has been used for floating timber. The only other river of any size is the Brenta, rising near Trent and flowing into the Venetian lagoon near Chioggia; this again is not navigable. There are many minor streams of varying size, which have great industrial importance as potential sources of water-power.

*(c) Railways*

The main railway of the district is the Brenner line, which goes from Innsbruck over the Brenner, through the Eisak (Isargo) valley to Brixen and Bozen, and down the Adige valley to Verona. There is a double track as far south as Trent.<sup>1</sup> From the Brenner to Ala, just north of the Italian frontier, the distance is about 117 miles, and the time taken by the quick trains is rather less than four hours. Two express trains were run daily over this line during the winter months, the Berlin-Naples express and the Nord-Süd express. The line is the property of the Österreichische Südbahn-Gesellschaft.

Secondary lines are as follows :

1. From Trent a single line runs east to the southern frontier just beyond Tezze, connecting through Bassano and Castelfranco with the north Italian line from Milan to Venice. The distance from Trent to Tezze is about 48 miles, and the time taken is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. This line, which should deal with the traffic to Venice, must be regarded as inadequate for the purpose ; it is, in fact, little more than a small mountain line with constant curves and gradients. It is the property of the Austrian State railways.

2. From Bozen a single line goes through Meran and up the Vintschgau, and thence north to Landeck, where it connects with the Innsbruck-Vorarlberg line. This line also belongs to the Austrian State railways.

3. From Franzensfeste there is a single line running east through Toblach, Lienz, and Villach, and con-

<sup>1</sup> The connexions of this line north of the Alto Adige are as follows. From Innsbruck the line goes on to Munich, connecting at Wörgl and Rosenheim with the main Austrian system leading to Salzburg and Vienna. From Innsbruck there is a single line going west to the Vorarlberg for Switzerland and Germany, and another single line runs north through Partenkirchen to Augsburg.

necting with the Carinthian railway system. This line belongs to the *Österreichische Südbahn-Gesellschaft*.

Less important lines are the following :

1. From Mori on the main Brenner line, a railway runs westward to Riva at the head of the lake of Garda, a distance of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles ; time taken,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours.

2. From Trent, a mountain line goes over difficult country north-west to Male, a distance of 44 miles ; time taken, 4 hours.

3. From Dermullo on the Male railway, a line goes north-east to Mendelo ; time taken,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

4. From Mendelo there is an extension to Bozen ; time taken,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

Lines 2 and 3 are the property of private companies ; 1 and 4 belong to the *Österreichische Südbahn-Gesellschaft*. With the exception of 1, they are all narrow-gauge electric railways. It should be mentioned that the private lines appear to be controlled and worked by the State, which guarantees the payment of interest on the shares. The system of electric railways along the larger valleys could, of course, be considerably extended ; but it must be borne in mind that the construction of these mountain railways is difficult and very costly, and there must be sound commercial inducements for building them.

The main line connecting the Trentino with the north is really a part of the economic life of Italy, Austria, and Germany, rather than of the Trentino province. This line may be regarded as adequate to present requirements. It carries about one-fifth to one-seventh of the overland exports of Italy. The connexions of the Trentino with the north and Italy are not really good, owing to the frequency of single lines ; but this is so common a phenomenon in Central Europe that the Trentino cannot be regarded as especially handicapped by this disability.

## (B) INDUSTRY

The statistics in the following sections are given separately for the Trentino and for the Alto Adige. They are approximate estimates only, made by Italian authorities. No official Austrian figures for the Trentino and the Alto Adige are available.

## (1) Trentino

*(a) Labour*

The population of the Trentino is slightly under 377,000, and is gradually, though very slowly, increasing. The available supply of labour may be regarded as adequate to present needs, notwithstanding the heavy annual emigration which still takes place. This is no new phenomenon; for many years, even centuries, workmen from various parts of the Trentino, e.g. sawyers and brickmakers, have been accustomed to seek work in neighbouring countries. In 1870, after the cession of Lombardy and Venetia to Italy, the disease of the vines and mulberries and the general decay of the local industries caused a considerable increase of emigration, especially to Switzerland and subsequently to the Argentine and Brazil, where railways were then being widely constructed. For some years the permanent drain upon the population was considerable, and it has been estimated that from 1870 to 1877 about 7 per cent. of the population emigrated and did not return. At the present time the emigration from this region is a less serious problem. Only a small proportion go far afield, and in any case they mostly return after a period of years. Moreover, they bring money into the country, as they are accustomed to send remittances home. Of late years the annual emigration figures have amounted to about 20,000.

*(b) Agriculture*

*Products of Commercial Value.*—Since the decay of local industries the main occupation of the population has been agriculture. For a mountainous region the Trentino is, on the whole, fertile and well-developed, 87 per cent. of the area being in some degree productive. The following figures give roughly the proportion of the various forms of cultivation: <sup>1</sup>

	<i>Acres.</i>
Arable land . . . . .	108,433
Meadows . . . . .	109,421
Fruit and orchards . . . . .	3,211
Vines . . . . .	17,290
Pastures . . . . .	89,167
Mountain pastures . . . . .	289,237
Forests . . . . .	742,235

Probably the most important product from a commercial point of view has been wine. The vineyards are chiefly found in the Adige valley, the Val di Non, and the Val Sugana. The vine grows well, and, in the centre of the Trentino, up to an altitude of above 2,000 ft. The annual production of wine amounted of late years to from 13,200,000 to 15,400,000 gallons, a considerable proportion of which was exported.

The industry, however, must at present be regarded as in a state of decadence owing to a variety of circumstances, the chief of which are the great extension of vine-growing in the Austrian Empire and the recovery of the Hungarian vines from the phylloxera, the cultivation of the vine in the Trentino having been unduly extended owing to the temporary failure of the Hungarian vintage. The finer types of wine still find a market, but it is proving difficult to find a sale for the ordinary varieties, and the industry is ceasing to be remunerative, at any rate for exporters.

<sup>1</sup> C. Battisti, *Il Trentino*, Novara, 1917, p. 25.

Cereals are cultivated to some extent, especially maize and rye, but in general they have received scanty attention, and the harvest could be greatly increased.

Potatoes of excellent quality are produced, the area planted being about 15,000 acres.

It is not improbable that, in the future, the most valuable agricultural product may be fruit, for which many parts of the country are famed; apples, pears, peaches, apricots, figs, cherries, plums, and quinces are grown wherever possible, and the fruit plantations in the Val di Non, Val Sugana, Giudicaria, and round Trent are especially noteworthy. On the sheltered shores of Lake Garda, oranges, lemons, and olives do extremely well.

The mulberry-tree is now extensively cultivated. It is grown for 300 ft. above the vines throughout the Trentino, except in the Cavalese and Primiero districts. The amount of leaf produced in 1913 was 66,300,000 lb. Dependent on the cultivation of the mulberry is the breeding of silk-worms, now the most profitable industry of the Trentino. Over 6,000,000 lb. of cocoons (about £400,000 in value) are annually produced—that is, over 90 per cent. of the total production of the Austrian Empire, and the equivalent of one-tenth of the total Italian production. The industry has greatly increased of late years owing to the eradication of the disease which was destroying the worms; and it now employs about 20,000 persons.

Cattle-raising is an industry of considerable importance. There are about 100,000 head of cattle in the Trentino, apart from sheep, goats, &c., and on an average some 4,000 head, about £80,000 in value, are exported annually, mostly to Italy. This export consists chiefly of stock of fine quality for breeding purposes.

The rich pastures are among the chief assets of Süd-Tirol, and are exploited to the fullest extent by the inhabitants. They occur chiefly in the mountainous regions, especially in the east and north-west of the Trentino proper, where they constitute over 40 per cent. of the land.

*Forestry.*—The country is very well wooded, the forest area being thickest in the south round Riva. Nearly half the area of the Trentino is covered by forests. Coniferous trees are the most plentiful, but beeches and oaks are also numerous. The timber is of excellent quality, and is preferred to that of Styria and Carinthia. There is no doubt that the value of the industry could be greatly increased by the extension of local communications.

*Land Tenure.*—The Trentino is a country of smallholders; practically the only large properties are forests and mountain pastures, which belong in most cases to the communes. In 1902 it was estimated that there were about 70,000 taxable properties; of these nearly the entire number were under 5 acres in extent, and a very large proportion were confined to an acre or less. Some years ago most of the land was heavily mortgaged, in many cases for a larger sum than its value; but the temporary prosperity of the wine industry and the remittances sent home by emigrants have relieved the situation to a considerable extent.

### (c) Fisheries

The lakes and rivers of the Trentino abound in fish, notwithstanding the uncontrolled fishing which is practised by individuals at all seasons. Under proper control, a fishing industry of great economic value might be developed.

*(d) Minerals*

The mineral resources of the Trentino are said to be very rich ; it is, however, impossible to obtain any adequate estimate of their extent. They are largely undeveloped, and, even where they are being worked, no statistics of output are available. In 1907 copper mines were being worked at Canale S. Bovo, not far from Fiero di Primiero on the eastern frontier, and in the Val d'Avisio near Mezzavalle, about 20 kilometres farther north ; argentiferous lead is being worked near Trent, iron pyrites at Bosentino in the Val Sugana, barytes at Trent and in the Giudicaria, and magnesite in the Val di Ledro. The existence of large deposits of argentiferous lead near Trent and Primiero and of copper at San Lugano, a few miles north-west of Cavalese, has been established. There are deposits of lead in the west part of the province, not far from Tione, of iron in the north in the Val di Sole, and at Viezzena, slightly north of the Val d'Avisio, not far from the copper mines in this district, and of lignite in the Val Sugana. There are rich deposits of granite, alabaster, marble, and lime in many places. The development of these resources depends on the extension of transport facilities from the alpine valleys to the commercial centres.

The wealth of the Trentino in hygienic mineral springs is remarkable. They are mostly iron springs, and many are already well known and popular.

*(e) Manufactures*

Manufactures in the Trentino are of less account now than fifty years ago. Silk-spinning, an old-established and once flourishing industry, which formerly absorbed a good part of the produce of the Venetian and Lombard plains, has decayed greatly in

late years. The numbers employed have diminished from 10,000 in 1870 to barely 1,500. Other small industries are silk and cotton weaving and the manufacture of woollen goods at Trent and Rovereto. There are tobacco factories at Sacco and Rovereto. Brewing and the manufacture of paper and of artificial manure have also been started; but these industries are at present in an elementary stage. There are a few tanneries and brick factories.

(f) *Power*

The most important potential commercial asset of the Trentino is the electric power which can be generated by the numerous rivers and torrents. The total amount of power available has been very variously estimated, but it may be put at anything between 250,000 and 500,000 horse-power, of which about 60,000 is already utilized; the average per kilometre exceeds that of Switzerland. This reserve of motive power is of immense importance for any industrial development that may take place in the Trentino. The supply of electric power to the Lombard and Venetian plains, which has not hitherto been permitted by the Austrian authorities, should also prove remunerative. There are at present some fifty or more hydro-electric installations, mostly of small capacity, for lighting; there are, however, ten of from 500 to 2,000 horse-power, and six of over 2,000, including one at Pietra Murata of 10,000, and one at Rovereto of 8,000.

(2) *Alto Adige*

The difficulty of obtaining accurate information for the Alto Adige district is even greater than in the case of the Trentino. The figures given must be regarded merely as rough estimates.

*(a) Labour*

The population of the Alto Adige, including the Ampezzo district and Livinallongo, is slightly under 240,000; so that, although its area somewhat exceeds that of the Trentino, it has a much smaller population, the density in the Trentino being nearly double that in this district.

The inhabitants are of an excellent type, industrious and intelligent. Except in the Ampezzo district, they are, for the most part, entirely Teutonic and faithful subjects of the Austrian Empire. They are deeply attached to the land, and regard commercial occupations with contempt.

*(b) Agriculture*

The area under various forms of cultivation may be estimated as follows:<sup>1</sup>

	<i>Acres.</i>
Forests . . . . .	630,000
Pastures, including mountain pastures .	590,000
Meadows . . . . .	100,000
Arable land . . . . .	90,000
Vines . . . . .	16,000
Vegetable gardens . . . . .	1,400

The vine is less cultivated than in the Trentino, but in this district are produced the better known Tirol wines, e. g. Teralano, Caldaro, and Traminò. The agricultural products are much the same as in the Trentino, except that more attention appears to be paid to barley, oats, and buckwheat.

The most important export is timber, nearly all of which is sent to Italy. Next in importance come fruit, nearly all of which is sent to Austria, and cattle,

<sup>1</sup> A. Brunialti, *Trento e Trieste*, p. 247.

which are as highly valued as those of the Trentino, and are exported to both Italy and Austria.

As in the Trentino the pastures are very valuable. An especially large proportion of the Livinallongo-Ampezzo region consists of pasture.

(c) *Minerals*

Very little information is available as to the present extent of the mineral output of the Alto Adige. In the past mining has been an industry of importance; in the Aurina valley, on the Pass of Giovo and in other places, there were corporations of miners, and the mining laws of the Tirol were said to be amongst the most complete in Europe. Silver and copper were the chief products.

(d) *Manufacture*

The silk-spinning industry is still carried on to some extent at Bozen and elsewhere, but the material most commonly woven in the district is that called *loden*, a kind of coarse woollen cloth.

No manufactures on any large scale have been established. In the large towns there are few factories that employ more than one hundred hands or so. A few home industries, such as toy-making in the Val Gardena, have acquired some slight importance.

(e) *Power*

The resources of water-power in the Alto Adige are even richer than in the Trentino, the Isargo, a swift and powerful stream which joins the Adige at Bozen, being of especial importance in this connexion. It is true that several considerable electric stations have been erected in the last few years, but the 40,000 horse-power which has thus been exploited represents a very small proportion of the resources of the district.

## (C) COMMERCE

## (i) DOMESTIC

The internal trade of the Trentino and the Alto Adige calls for no special remark, commerce on a large scale being scarcely known. Under this head, however, may be mentioned the provision of accommodation and facilities for tourists, an occupation which employs large numbers of people, and is the source of considerable profits. Towns like Meran and Bozen are full of first-class hotels and holiday establishments of all kinds.

*(a) Towns and Markets*

*Trent*, the capital of the Süd-Tirol, has considerable industrial activity; weaving, furniture-making, and marble quarrying, are carried on, and the town is the chief centre of the wine industry and of the export of fruit and vegetables. The local budget balanced at about 2,000,000 lire.

*Rovereto* is the chief centre of the silk industry; wool-weaving, paper-making, brewing, and the manufacture of artificial manure are also carried on; and the largest cigar factory of the province is situated in the neighbourhood.

*Riva* is chiefly of importance as one of the centres for commercial navigation on the Lake of Garda; it is also a popular holiday resort.

Little industry is carried on in the chief towns of the Alto Adige, viz. *Bozen*, *Meran*, *Brixen*, and *Bruneck*, though there is a Chamber of Commerce at Bozen. The chief industry is hotel-keeping, and these towns were assiduously advertised by the Austrian authorities to the neglect of the towns in the southern province.

(b) *Organizations to promote Trade and Commerce*

The agricultural industries of the Trentino are now very highly organized on co-operative lines, the credit for this being due to the clerical or popular party. This party is the most influential in the province, and provides seven out of the nine members for the Trentino returned to the Austrian Parliament. It is responsible for the establishment of two banks, the federation of rural banks, insurance arrangements, newspapers, a printing press, &c., but the organization of co-operative agriculture has been its principal achievement. Local organizations have been in existence for some time. No very recent figures are available, but on December 31, 1911, it was calculated that the component associations numbered 245, with 31,220 members, their receipts amounting to £615,000 and their expenditure to slightly less. Some years ago a large co-operative centre was established at Trent in order to deal with goods and make contracts on a large scale. The value of the goods received and disposed of amounted in 1912 to over £640,000. Under the same guidance, successful co-operative establishments have been founded for the production of wine, cheese, electric power, &c.

The popular party has also promoted the organization of small local credit banks. On December 31, 1912, these banks numbered 169, with 22,244 shareholders. In the course of the year they had disbursed over £600,000 in loans, and had, at the end of the year, £1,480,000 on deposit. The interest on deposits was 4-4½ per cent., on loans 4-5 per cent. The lead in the financial schemes of the popular party is taken by the Banca Cattolica Trentina and the Banca Industriale, of Trent.

The effect of the party's work is not merely economic, but has also constituted a powerful defence against the germanization of the province.

These organizations appear to be confined to the Trentino; there is no mention of anything of the kind in the Alto Adige.

## (2) FOREIGN

### (a) *Exports and Imports*

It is not possible to give figures for the external trade of the Trentino, as the Austrian official statistics do not treat it separately, and the customs returns do not distinguish goods in transit from the exports and imports. There is no doubt, however, that Austria occupies the chief place in this trade. Germany, especially Bavaria, comes next, followed by Switzerland and Italy.

The main exports are timber, wine, silk cocoons, spun silk, fruit, cattle, and a certain amount of general agricultural produce.

The following rough estimates of exports from the Trentino to Italy may be given:

Timber: about 30,000 tons.

Silk cocoons: value about £160,000.

Raw silk spun in the Trentino: value about £80,000.

Mineral waters: about 60,000 bottles out of a total production of about 300,000.

Cattle: about 4,000 head.

Imports from Italy are many in kind, but not relatively considerable in quantity or value. They consist mostly of fruit and manufactured articles.

No estimates of the exports or imports of the Alto Adige are available.

*(b) Customs and Tariffs*

The tariff between the Trentino and Italy is the subject of frequent complaint by the Italian authorities. The institution of the customs tariff at the time of the cession of Lombardy and Venetia to Italy dislocated many of the industries previously existing in the Trentino, though there is no special differentiation as against Italy, the tariff being in the main that existing throughout the Austrian Empire.

## (D) FINANCE

Neither the Trentino nor the Alto Adige is recognized by the Austrian Government as a separate political entity; these districts are, for the purpose of administration, merely part of the province of Tirol, and consequently have no public finance of their own. The currency in use is that of the Austrian Empire.

*Banking*

It is significant that, with two exceptions, the eleven banks established in the Trentino are local institutions. These do practically the entire financial business of the region, and they have successfully resisted attempts at foreign financial penetration. The exceptions are branches at Trent of the *Banca Austro-Ungarica* and the *Banca Commerciale Triestina*, neither of which does much business.

The Trentino banks are not very considerable institutions, but they appear to be amply sufficient for the needs of the district. At the end of 1912, the total deposits and current accounts in the banks and savings banks (*Casse di risparmio*, to be distinguished from the rural banks) amounted to about £7,000,000, and the reserves and share capital to another £400,000.

These figures do not include the deposits and reserves—about £1,240,000—in the rural banks, which number upwards of 150.

The only local bank in the Alto Adige appears to be the *Brixenerbank*, which has branches at various other places in Tirol. There are also branches of large Austrian banks at Meran and Bozen, probably for the convenience of visitors to these towns.

### (E) GENERAL REMARKS

There can be little doubt that during the last fifty years the industries of the Trentino have seriously decayed. At one time the region, considering its size and capacity, was conspicuous for its industrial activity. Mining and iron-works employed thousands of hands in all the valleys up to about 1860. The silk-spinning industry was very flourishing. Rovereto was famous for its numerous spinneries, and consumed not only the produce of the country, but a good part of that of the Venetian and Lombard plains. The small town of Ala had eleven considerable velvet manufactories. About the middle of last century there existed in the valleys of Chiese and Sarca several blast furnaces. Other prosperous industries were tanning and sugar-refining.

All these flourishing industries received a severe blow when, on the inclusion of the Venetian province in the kingdom of Italy, the Trentino was largely shut off from the Italian plain by a customs barrier, and difficulties were placed in the way of importing raw materials from Italy. As has been seen, the silk industry has seriously decayed. The paper factories were compelled to limit their production on account of the taxes on exports to Italy. The iron-works in the Giudicaria, on account of the high duties, could not

import iron from the Val Trompia or export the finished product; and they shut down one after the other. Other causes contributed to the industrial decay, e. g. the silk-worm disease, for which, at the time, there was no remedy.

The Austrian Government undoubtedly decided to regard the Trentino as a military zone, and has displayed indifference and even active hostility to its development. The authorities have consistently opposed the development of communications with Italy, and consented to the maintenance of those that exist with the greatest reluctance. They have stopped the convenient and long-established practice of sending Italian cattle to the Trentino pastures during the summer months; they have refused to consent to the supply of electric power to Italy; and in cases too numerous to specify they have placed obstacles in the way of the development of trade. There can be little doubt that, if the Trentino were freed from the disabilities of the Austrian control, its prosperity would greatly increase.

The economic future of the region must principally depend on the utilization of its water-power. This could be employed for the development of resources already existing, e. g. the timber industry, the manufacture of cellulose and cement, and the quarrying of marble. Moreover, as in Switzerland, the existence of cheap power would probably attract a variety of new industries, provided that transport facilities and communications were commensurately developed.

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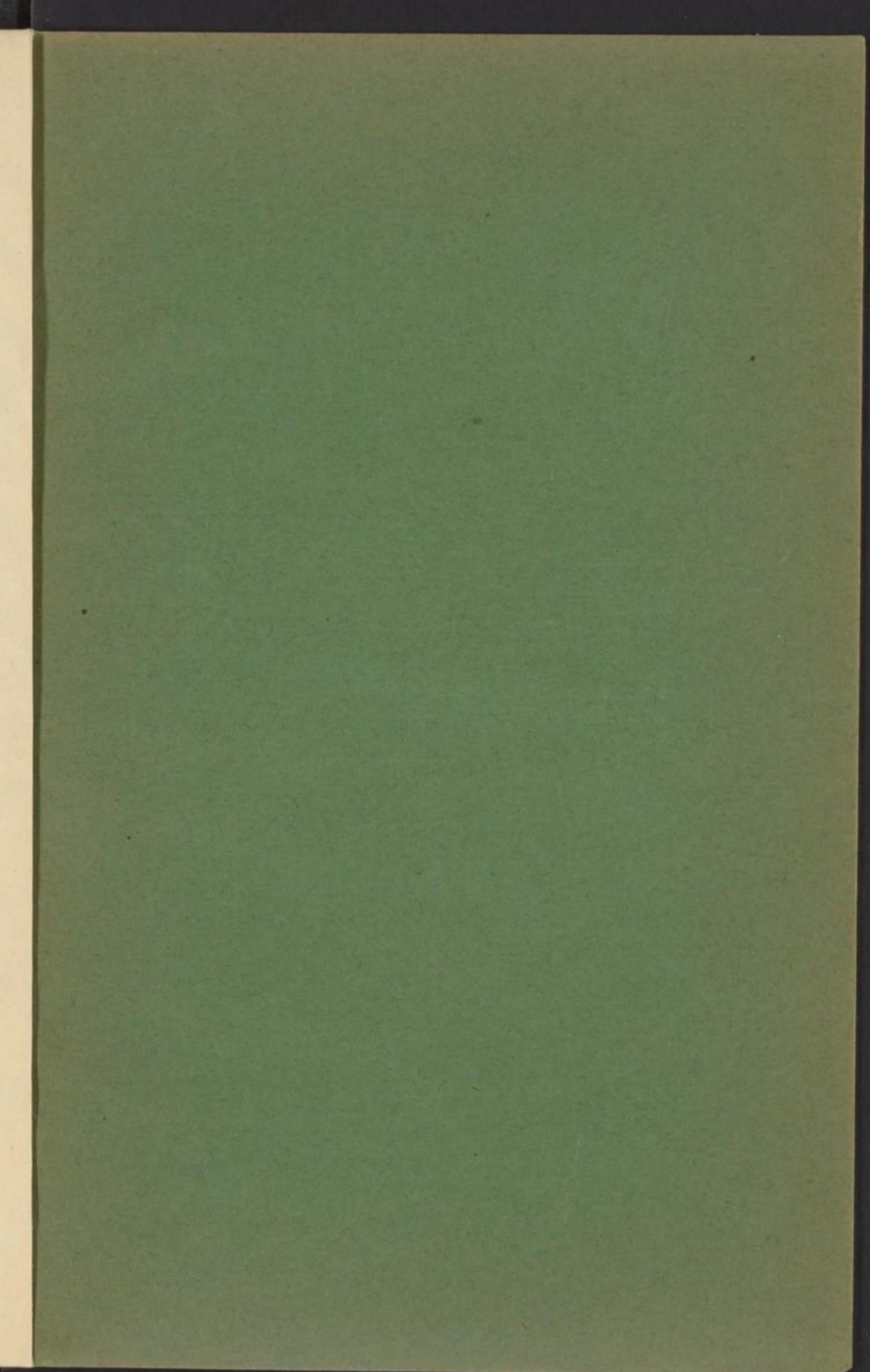
## MAPS

Tirol is covered, on the scale of 1 : 250,000, by sheets 5, 6, and 7 by the Carta d'Italia del Touring Club Italiano, which extends as far north as Meran.

Both the Trentino and Alto Adige are covered by the Milano and Trieste sheets of the War Office 'International' map (G.S.G.S., No. 2758) on the scale of 1 : 1,000,000.

A special map of the 'Austro-Italian Frontier', showing also the frontiers proposed by Austria-Hungary and Italy in 1915, on the scale of 1 : 1,000,000, was issued by the War Office (G.S.G.S. 2882).

A special map (G.S.G.S. 3702) of the 'Trentino and Alto Adige' and the countries to the northward, including Tirol, has been issued by the War Office (Nov. 1918) on the scale of 1 : 350,000.



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