

FRENCH MOROCCO



A Street Singer in Morocco.

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FRENCH Morocco is becoming oil conscious. Preliminary borings near the town of Mekinex have shown such promise that modern machinery which will drill to great depths has been ordered.

French Morocco, though streaked with the rugged heights of both the High Atlas and the Anti-Atlas mountains, and dotted with vast dry plains and deserts which give a large part of its area a forbidding aspect, has several large cities of great commercial and political importance in northern Africa.

Casablanca and Rabat are the leading coast towns and handle a large part of the colony's sea trade. Casablanca was founded by the Portuguese about a decade before Columbus discovered America, but the newcomers held it only a short time until the natives routed them and set up a Moslem stronghold. Casablanca was occupied by the French in 1907 and began improvements that have made it the show city of Morocco.

From a city with a population equal to that of Elgin, Ill., Casablanca has grown by leaps and bounds until it now has nearly as many inhabitants as Kansas City, Mo. The pedestrian could easily imagine himself in a European city were it not for the Africans of midnight black, chocolate brown and tan complexions. One-half the inhabitants are Moslems; slightly more than a third are French, Spanish and Italian, and other Europeans, and the rest are Jews.

The price of a room in one of Casablanca's hotels not only affords European comforts but also the equivalent of a ring-side circus seat. An automobile rolls by with a prosperous French business man or a fez-bedecked Turkish merchant; wealthy sheiks stroll along in their flowing white garments and tightly wound turbans, holding each others' hands; dignified French officers in medal-bedecked uniforms are ousted from the paths of little grain-laden donkeys with barefoot Moors astride, and now and then, plodding along in awkward fashion, three or four moth-eaten, cud-chewing camels pass by, often followed closely by a small future "ship of the desert."

Thickly sprinkled among this seething mass of humanity of various breeds and blends, are the ever-present noisy street hawkers, darting here and there with their home-made rugs, sweetmeats, hammered brassware, and "whatnots."

Bad Harbor Was Made Safe.

Why France poured a fortune into Casablanca was a mystery to Europe. It had one of the worst natural harbors on the coast. The low, rocky shore lay open to the strong west winds and the lashing waves of the Atlantic. No river runs through the city to the ocean. But the appropriation was partly used for the construction of breakwaters and harbor improvements that have been dominant factors in the city's development to the second largest city in the protectorate. Ocean-going vessels that anchored perilously off the coast can enter Casablanca's port today.

Casablanca also has electric lights and power and modern water works. Railroads now connect the city with Morocco, (Marrakesh) the capital of the protectorate and North African points. Daily air service is maintained between Casablanca and Toulouse, France, and planes fly every two weeks to Oran.

Rabat was built almost 800 years ago by the labor of 40,000 Christian slaves. The city is located on the

northwestern coast adjacent to the old city of Sale, a former lair of corsairs.

There are two present-day Rabats, French Rabat and the native town. French Rabat is like a bit of transplanted Europe. It has wide streets and smart little villas like those of the Riviera. In its streets are women wearing Parisian clothes, business men in sack suits and smartly uniformed French officers. There are telephones and electric lights and motor cars.

Native Rabat is another story. Squat houses line the narrow streets. From the mosque tower the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer. Turbaned Arabs of the Beni Hassan tribe, Berbers from the hills and negroes file through the bazaars. Heavily veiled women travel silently through the crooked streets. The plaintive, barbaric wailing, which the Moroccans call music, may be heard at all times during the day.

Native Rabat Is Picturesque.

The souks or bazaars of Rabat are as famous as their wares, red and yellow leather boots, pottery, and the rugs which the Rabati women weave in their homes and color with vegetable dyes. These rugs, when new, are a little too brilliant for Western taste but they fade into a pale, harmonious blending of colors with wear.

There is slight demand for chairs or knives and forks in the souks. Chairs are used only by the stiff-legged Christian tourists who visit the city and knives and forks are not necessary to eat couscous, the staple viand of the Moroccan meal. Couscous is made with flour and meat and vegetables, and tastes not unlike the American dish of dumplings cooked with meat. It is served in a big pot and everyone sticks in his hand and brings forth his portion in three fingers. To use four fingers or two fingers is extremely bad manners. Moroccan etiquette demands three.

Because of its mild climate, Rabat is a favorite residence of the present Sultan of Morocco, Sidi Mohammed, who has other palaces in Fez, Mekinez and Marrakesh.

Marrakesh and Fez are the outstanding inland cities. Marrakesh is one of the busiest marts in French Morocco. An almost constant stream of camel and donkey caravans passes through the city gates where traders meet each other and also the local wool and leather merchants, tanners, silk weavers, armorers and manufacturers of agricultural implements.

In the Marrakesh Bazaars.

The bazaars in the narrow, dusty streets of the city are thronged from dawn to dusk. In one street deeply sunburned Berber men in flowing, white robes and turban-wound heads stand in groups while others bicker with sullen, bewhiskered shopkeepers over the price of inexpensive merchandise. Silent, heavily-veiled Moslem women peer into yarn and silk shops where red, yellow, green and blue strands form colorful displays.

Fierce looking tribesmen from the near-by Atlas mountains with fire-arms protruding from their belts appear hypnotized by half-naked silk spinners and dyers plying their trades in congested stalls. Frightened black slave men, stooped under back-breaking loads, sink before the piercing glances of their turbaned masters. Robust slave girls, with cumbersome jars balanced on their hips, cautiously come and go without jostling other pedestrians of high caste. Vivacious Berber women, with homemade blankets accost dusty camel men fresh from the outlying desert regions.

Every Kind of Soil Benefits by Manure

University Bulletin Tells How to Apply It.

The popular notion that it is not a good practice to manure dark-colored soils is false; it is a good practice, although relatively light doses suffice.

Although most soils profit from generous manuring, light doses excel heavy applications in crop returns per ton of manure, says a bulletin issued by Ohio State university, "Management of Manure in Barn and Field." In an Ohio test 100 tons used at a four-ton rate on a potato-wheat-clover-rotation returned \$83 more net profit than when spread at double this rate.

Frequent small doses are more efficient than a single large application, particularly on sandy soils. This plan, says the bulletin, avoids waste by leaching.

Even muck soils, which consist largely of vegetable substances, benefit from manuring, because such soils are lacking in mineral nutrients and decay organisms which are contained in manure.

The bulletin may be secured free as long as the supply lasts. The bulletin takes up all phases of the management of this farm by-product, half of whose wealth never reaches the field, owing to improper handling.

Germes of Wilt Disease

Spread by Cultivation

Wilt is a bacterial root disease that first appears in spots throughout the alfalfa field after the stand is two or three years old. It is seldom noticed in year-old fields, though, of course, it must be present if it appears later on. The more rapid spread of the disease after cultivation is because the roots of the crop are more or less injured by the cultivator, which gives the bacteria, the cause of the wilt, a chance to infect the root tissues. The germs are also carried over the field by the harrow, thus helping its spread.

When no wilt is present in an alfalfa field, cultivation, of course, cannot scatter any disease germs, and, therefore, no damage can result from cultivation. When wilt is present, however, it is probably better to omit cultivation altogether, for any reasonable number of weeds will do less harm than a general infection of wilt disease germs.—Wallace's Farmer.

Uses of Roughages

Feed Commissioner P. R. Schmidt of the Missouri state board of agriculture quotes Henry and Morrison, defining roughage as "The coarser feeding stuffs which are higher in fiber and supply a lower percentage of digestible matter than the concentrates."

A certain few feeding stuffs, such as screenings, are usually called roughages, but some of them are actually concentrates. Roughages have different uses—to carry livestock through winter, to feed idle animals, also those not expected to produce or put on fat, to supply carbohydrates in a ration, and to lighten or add bulk to a feed when mixed.

Spray Results

In 52 counties of Pennsylvania, 3,578 fruit growers last year received information on methods of protecting their apples from the ravages of diseases. In 430 orchards where spray recommendations were followed completely, there was only 2.46 per cent disease; in 370 improperly sprayed orchards there was 16.8 per cent diseased fruit, and in 110 unsprayed orchards visited, 80.2 per cent of the apples were scabby. In the improperly sprayed orchards, omission of sprays caused 16.2 per cent disease, use of substitute materials caused 11 per cent disease and poor timing resulted in 28.5 per cent disease.

Plant Food Needed

Plants must have food and plenty of it if they are to grow well and fast, and while commercial fertilizers do not add humus to the soil, they are of great value because of their readily available plant food content, which makes them particularly useful for the garden. The typical garden soil reasonably well supplied with humus but for which no manure may be available, will be much benefited by the application of a 5-10-5 fertilizer, a ton to the acre being the generally recommended quantity for garden soil, or a pound to each 20 feet of garden area.

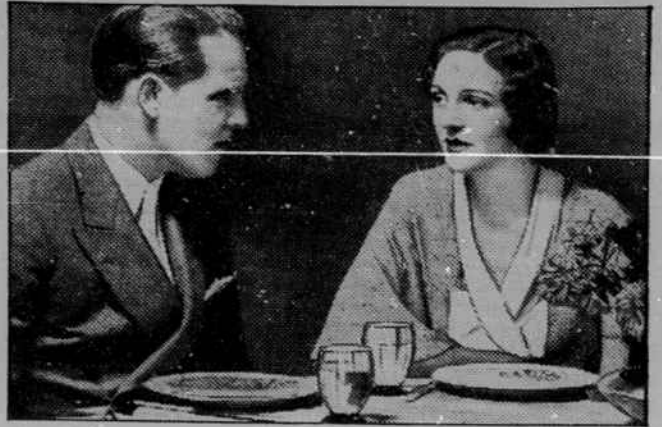
Agricultural Squibs

Corn fodder can be put into the silo at any time of the year.

Small fruits like cherries, strawberries and raspberries are being grown successfully on the high-altitude farm.

Great numbers of potato flea beetles may be killed by piling potato vines at harvest time and burning them.

Get Rid of a Bad Headache in Few Minutes



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To identify the genuine, see that any box or bottle of aspirin you buy is clearly marked "Genuine Bayer Aspirin." And that any tablet you take is stamped clearly with the name "Bayer" in the form of a cross. Remember—Genuine Bayer Aspirin cannot harm the heart.



Errors

The little I have seen of the world teaches me to look upon the errors of others in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptations it has passed through, the brief pulsation of joy, the feverish inquietude of hope and fear, the pressure of want, the desertion of friends, I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow man with him from whose hand it came.—Longfellow.

Bacillus of Tetanus

During the World war the well cultivated fields in the north of France were found to teem with the bacillus of tetanus, whose ravages among the wounded would have been appallingly heavy but for the timely use of that antoxin which was available, thanks to the researches of Baron Shibasaburo Kitasato many years earlier. The story of Kitasato, a pioneer of medicine and a microbe hunter, is told by Dr. Claude Lillingston in Hygeia Magazine.

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