

BUT ONE IS ALWAYS HEARING OF MOROCCO

being opened up; one is always reading that; at long last the crumbling fabric, the sick man, is falling to pieces; but the end has not come yet. Whether it will be accelerated by the rebellion now ending in the interior, a rebellion that threatened the throne, the personality of the Sultan, and all European interests, remains to be seen. The very lethargy of Morocco often pulls her through such crises, which in Europe would overturn dynasties. And when Morocco is eventually thrown open to the West, what will be the result? One hears continually of her vast mineral wealth and her capability of growing enough grain to supply the United Kingdom. Yet the vast mineral wealth has never been discovered; and where the grain is to be grown, except in the rich plains that do not form more than a very small proportion of the whole country, it is impossible to surmise. That minerals exist in some parts of Morocco is well known, but it has never been proved that they exist in such quantities as would render their working profitable. The geological system is much the same as, in fact, a continuation of, Algeria; and yet with every

wealth. The climate, delightful in winter, spring and autumn for the resident, is too hot in summer to allow of European agricultural labour. Even the Spaniards of Andalusia could not fail to suffer from the stifling heat of the plains in harvesting time, though to the European, who is able to remain within doors for the heat of the day, and to engage in no actual manual labour, even the summer is quite supportable.

MOROCCO POSSESSES TWO CAPITALS.

Fez, the northern, and Marakesh, the southern. Both are picturesque Oriental towns, each with a resident population of some 60,000 souls, largely swelled by the enormous retinue and following of the Sultan when in residence at one or the other. Fez, with its aristocratic population, its university, and its conservatism, is no doubt the religious and political city of the empire. Marakesh is more African, more ruinous—a poor place withal, crumbling away into piles of ruined masonry, boasting only one thing of beauty, the great mosque tower of the Kutubia, almost the solitary building of stone in the whole city. Raised by the same Sultan as built the Giralda at Seville, and probably by the same architect, it remains a fine example of the work of the Moors in the days before their decadence.

Fez is less African and more Oriental. In some of its narrow streets, often apparently tunnelled under the houses, one can imagine oneself in the native quarters of Cairo, though in the capital of Morocco.

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THE SULTAN'S PALACE AT FEZ.



THE CITY OF MEKINEZ.

WHAT WE SHOULD ALL KNOW ABOUT MOROCCO.



A MOROCCAN CAVALRY SOLDIER.

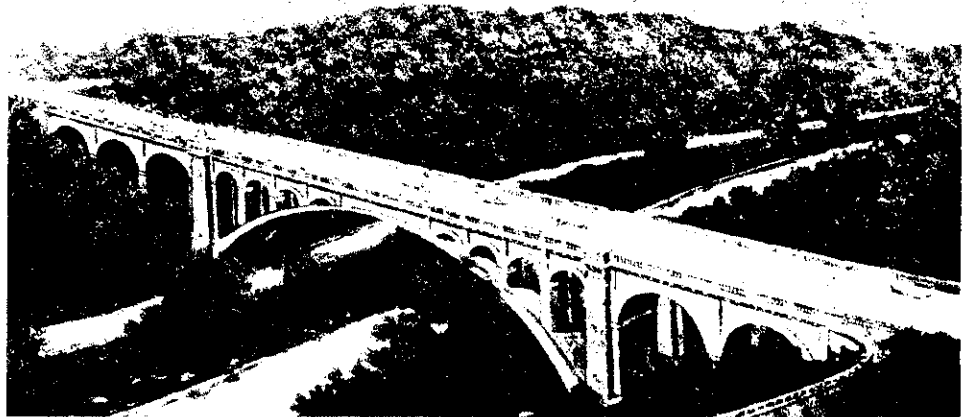
facility offered by the French Government for the opening and working of mines, West Algeria has never become a mining country. With regard to grain, it is true that many of the portions of the country which are cultivatable are very rich, yet the shipment of grain, that is to say, the surplus above what is required for the sustenance of the population, is neither large nor remunerative. No doubt considerably more land could be ploughed than is the case at present, and roads and railways would facilitate enormously the carriage of grain to the coast ports; but even in that case it may be doubted whether the export of wheat would ever be such as could compete with that of America or the Danube not in quantity, but in price. It may not generally be known that Tangier, the surrounding country of which is so often described by the casual observer as rich hills and undulating plains, imports flour from Marseilles, and at times even foreign wheat! The agricultural land in Morocco is held in two distinct ways, either freehold or on a military tenure; that is to say, the absolute land is Government property, in the second case held by the cultivators on certain terms, such as the supplying of men and horses for the Sultan's army. In neither case are Europeans permitted to purchase, though in the near vicinity of Tangier gardens and building land can be bought; and this holds good, but to a less extent, in some of the coast towns. The

AGRICULTURAL LAND IS ALL HELD IN VERY SMALL LOTS,

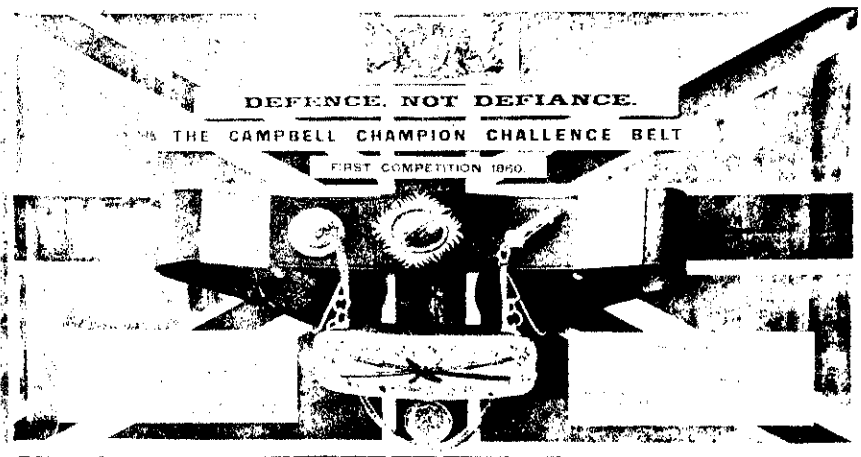
and there are not more than a few dozen large landed proprietors amongst all the Moors. It is my belief, after years of residence and travel in Morocco, that

ITS FUTURE MAY BE PROSPEROUS, BUT NEVER RICH.

It is a country that might always be able to support in sufficiency its population, and allow of considerable trade, but I consider as wholly exaggerated the reports of its fabulous mineral



AN INTERESTING COMPARISON WITH THE AUCKLAND CEMETERY GULLY BRIDGE NOW IN CONSTRUCTION. Walnut Lane Bridge, Philadelphia. The longest span in concrete in the world. The design of the Auckland bridge is very similar.



THE CAMPBELL CHALLENGE BELT.