

essential
notions about
★ **ALGERIA**





General view of Algiers.
The housing estate of Diar es Saâda
in the foreground.

The main facts about Algeria

1 **ALGERIA**, situated on the Mediterranean, is bounded on the west by Morocco, on the East by Tunisia and Libya and on the south by French West Africa.

2 Of great **strategic importance** owing to her 680 miles of coastline. Starting point of the liberation of Europe after the Allied landings in 1942 on North African shores. Free French Government headquarters until the liberation of France (1944).

3 **Area** : 851,299 square miles which is divided into two regions: Northern Algeria (12 departments, 80,938 square miles) and the Southern Territories (770,361 square miles), the Algerian part of the Sahara desert.

4 **Northern Algeria.** Consists of a mountainous mass, the Atlas ranges, which divide the country into three zones roughly parallel to the coast: the Tell Atlas, the High Plateaux and The Saharan Atlas. Divided into twelve departments: Algiers, Orleansville, Tizi-Ouzou, Medea, Oran, Tlemcen, Mostaganem, Tiaret, Constantine, Setif, Batna, Bone. Belongs to the temperate zone. The average altitude is high: about 3,000 feet.

5 **Southern Algeria.** Forms part of the Sahara desert. Three main sections: the fringe of the Saharan Atlas, the central Sahara and the Targui ranges. Belongs to the tropical zone of tradewinds and deserts. Divided into four territories: Touggour, Ain-Sefra, Ghardaia, Oasis.

6 A mild and regular **climate** along the coast. Great contrasts of temperature in the high regions of the Atlas and in the high plateaux. Beyond the Saharan Atlas, marked temperature variations and extremes of temperature (26,6 F to 122 F.).

7 **The irregular and scanty rainfall**, unevenly distributed throughout the year and varying from place to place, determines the character of the Algerian countryside and is one of the major difficulties in agriculture. The distinctive feature of the Sahara desert is the rarity of rainfall.

8 **The vegetation** is determined by the climate. Mediterranean zone: a large number of crops and cork forests. The steppes: semi-arid stretches (esparto grass), crops in the artificially



At the Algiers Fair.

irrigated areas and those flooded by the wadis. Desert zone, no cultivation except in the cases: palm groves, orchards, vegetable gardens.

9

The population is composed of Berbers (Kabyles, Tuaregs, Mozabites, Aurasiens), Arabs descended from those who settled in the 7th century (today much intermingled with the Berbers), and Europeans (mainly from metropolitan France but also from the countries of the Mediterranean basin and who have become naturalized).

10

9,800,000 inhabitants approximately (1,050,000 of European origin, 8,750,000 natives). The number of births exceeded deaths by about 280,000 in 1955. The problem of Algeria is primarily demographic. Population of the main towns: Algiers: 365,000 inhabitants; suburbs: 590,000 inhabitants; Oran: 300,000 inhabitants; Constantine: 150,000 inhabitants; Bone: 115,000 inhabitants; Sidi-bel-Abbès: 80,000 inhabitants; Tlemcen: 75,000 inhabitants; Philippeville: 70,000 inhabitants. Urban population: 2,220,000. Rural population: 7,600,000 approximately.

11

The history of Algeria is an eventful one. The Phoenicians founded trading settlements along the coast. Carthage extended her rule over the Eastern region. The Romans conquered it and peace then reigned. The Berbers embraced Christianity. 5th century: the Vandal invasion. 6th century: the Byzantine reconquest. 7th century: the Arabs incorporated the country into the Moslem world and converted the inhabitants to Islam. Under its oriental masters Algeria enjoyed comparative prosperity which came to an end with the invasion of the nomad Hilals (who came from Egypt) from the 11th century onwards. The Hilals disrupted life in the Berber kingdoms which were created in the 12th century.

At the close of the 16th century Algiers was occupied by the Turks and became the capital of a vassal state ruled by Stambul. It was never able to establish its authority over the interior of the country which fell into a state of anarchy and was torn by intertribal warfare. The deys of Algiers, frequently deposed by their janissaries, drew most of their revenue from piracy. The European powers, Spain, England, Holland and France, tried to put an end to the nefarious activities of the corsairs. France succeeded in doing so by taking possession of Algiers in 1830.

12

1830: The intervention of the French who from now on guide the destiny of Algeria. A military organization which gives place by degrees to a civil administration.

13

Algeria, an integral part of French territory, comprises a group of **twelve French departments**, and has full legal status, financial autonomy and its own administrative organization as defined by the law of the 20th September 1947.

14

In view of her geographical situation and the special characteristics of the country, Algeria enjoys a regime of administrative decentralization in relation to the rest of French territory.



The Aurès mountains :
the road from Khenchela to Khanga-Sidi
Nadji.

The Minister Resident and Governor General represents the French Republic throughout Algeria; he is the representative of Algeria in all official matters. All branches of the civil service in Algeria come under his jurisdiction (except Justice and certain branches of Education). He prepares the Algerian budget and ensures that its provisions are carried out.

15

The Algerian Assembly in concordance with the Governor General manages all Algerian affairs. It votes on the Algerian budget which is then submitted to the central government. It is composed of 120 members, elected for six years: 60 members from the first electoral college and sixty from the second. The President of the Assembly is elected each year from the first and second colleges alternately. The Assembly was dissolved by the decree of the 12th April 1956.

16

The political rights of the inhabitants of Algeria, all of whom have been French citizens since 1946, are fully recognized. The electors of the first college comprise all the inhabitants of European origin and citizens of local standing (Moslems belonging to certain categories defined by the law). All other Moslems are electors of the second college.

17

The "communes" (local administrative divisions) in Algeria are of two different kinds:

The "communes mixtes" (mixed "communes"), which are very extensive, are controlled by an administrator nominated by the central government. He is assisted by elected representatives. A decree of the 28th June 1956 has provided for their transformation into "communes" governed by the metropolitan law of the 5th April 1884.

Special committees are now elaborating the conditions in which that reform will be carried out.

The "communes de plein exercice" (full-status "communes") are administered by a municipal council composed of representatives elected by both colleges and headed by a mayor elected from the municipal council.

The "douar", the basic Moslem administrative unit has been retained and is to be found in both types of communes. Its assembly, the "djemâa", is elected by members of the second college. The French government have undertaken to convert the "douars" into "communes de plein exercice". A new kind of local administrative unit has therefore been created: **the municipal centre**. Its president is elected and his powers are similar to those of a mayor, but he remains under the tutelage of the administrator. The purpose of these municipal centres is evolutionary, their aim being the transformation of the "douars" into "communes de plein exercice". The municipal organization of Algeria when it is completed will be exactly like that of France.

18

Northern Algeria is divided into **twelve departments** with a Prefect at the head of each. He is assisted by an elected assembly: the general council. The law of the 11th September 1954 granted parity of representation between the two colleges



The railway bridge and road
in the gorges of Beni Amran.

in the general councils. The president is elected annually from representatives of the two colleges alternately.

19

Algeria is represented by 30 delegates in the **National Assembly**, 14 in the **Council of the Republic** and 18 in the **Assembly of the French Union**. These seats are divided equally between the two electoral colleges.

20

Roads: 49,710 miles (15,534 miles of main highways; 29,576 miles of other roads and tracks; 4,598 miles under construction.)

21

Ports: 21 ports of varying importance. Total traffic in 1955: 29,474 ships entered and cleared. Gross tonnage 45 million. 13,382,883 metric tons of goods exported and imported. 908,278 passengers.

Three ports with a big tonnage: Algiers: 9,820 ships entered and cleared, (20,531,308 gross tonnage, 4,377,549 metric tons of cargo, 483,944 passengers). Oran: 6,247 ships (10,235,892 gross tonnage, 2,214,796 metric tons of cargo, 271,837 passengers). Bone: 3,550 ships (5,6 million gross tonnage, 4,080,421 metric tons of cargo, 77,471 passengers).

22

Railways: 2,718 miles of tracks (528 million passenger miles, 935 million goods miles per ton in 1955).

23

Aerodromes for commercial traffic: 4 aerodromes of international class: Algiers, Oran, Bone, Aoulef. 14 regional aerodromes of secondary importance. 20 other airfields. Traffic: 21,380 planes, 600,000 passengers, 12,500 tons of freight in 1955.

24

Mines: Production in 1955: Iron ore: 3,600,000 tons; phosphates: 765,000 tons; coal: 300,000 tons. The collieries of Kenadza (the only coalmines in Algeria) satisfy only 1/3 of the country's needs. A project is under way for utilizing the bulk of the production from these distant mines on the spot. The first step is the construction of a thermo-electric power station of 100,000 kW, the foundation stone of which was laid by Mr. Robert Lacoste, Minister, on the 9th July 1956.

Petroleum: At Aumale (70,000 tons extracted in 1955) crude petroleum of good quality is found. Exclusive permits have been granted to certain companies which are prospecting over an area of 244,402 square miles in the Sahara, using 17 drills and an estimated capital outlay of 10,000 million francs in 1956.

26

Livestock (1955). Sheep: 6,300,000; goats: 3,350,000; pigs: 80,000; horses: 207,000; donkeys: 365,000; mules: 230,000; cattle: 913,000; camels: 221,000.

27

Algeria is trying to increase her yields and improve her crops and products by a general modernization of the methods and means employed.

Cultivated area: of the 494,000 acres of the Southern Territories, 370,665 acres are under cultivation. Of the 51,893,000 acres of Northern Algeria (1/10 of the



Petroleum prospecting :
sinking a well in the south.

total area of Algeria) 31,877,000 acres are used for farming. In the whole of Algeria the area farmed by Europeans is 6,736,200 acres compared to 18,162,600 acres by Moslem farmers.

Arable land: 15,568,000 acres (of which 6,177,750 acres are fallow).

Vineyards: 988,440 acres.

Orchards: 568,350 acres.

Tractors: 20,500.

Natural pasture lands: 76,600 acres.

Harvester threshers: 3,700.

Nomadic grazing grounds: 13,838,000 acres.

Fertilizers: 45,000 tons.

Since the war there has been a noticeable increase of imported equipment for use in Algerian agriculture.

28

The "**Paysanat**" is the collective name given to all the services working towards improving conditions of living and work among the rural population. It comprises 124 schools and 14 rural training centres. The methods of the "Paysanat" are put into practice by the S.A.R. (Secteurs d'Amelioration Rurale — rural improvement sectors) or organizations responsible for giving the peasants technical aid in all branches of agriculture, loans of machinery and equipment, grants of fertilizer and selected seed. Numbering only 12 in 1947, covering an area of 1,799,000 acres and serving 7,100 families, the S.A.R. numbered over 220 in 1956, covering over 44,000,000 acres (about 7 million of which belonged to the S.A.R. grain and arboriculture sections, the rest being made up of pasture lands) and serving 340,000 families. 500 tractors (a quarter of which are equipped with bulldozers) with their various agricultural attachments are used by the S.A.R.

29

Because of Algeria's rainfall conditions, large **reserves of water** must be stored. Considerable work has already been accomplished and a major programme of projects has been planned. The total capacity, which is now 717 million cubic metres stored in 11 reservoir-dams, will be increased to 1,000 million cubic metres by raising the height of some works. These reserves are intended for both electrification and irrigation.

The problems of water supply are of vital importance so every effort is being made to use the existing sources to the utmost: water catchments, small distribution dams and tapping of underground springs. The area irrigated at present: 494,000 acres.

31

Algeria is **poor in power resources** and is increasing her efforts to develop her potential energy to the maximum. There are 40 main power stations, of which 8 are thermal and 32 hydro-electric. 15 additional power stations are run by Diesel motors (in the South). Capital invested: 75,000 million francs. The production of electricity will shortly reach 1,000,000,000 kWh annually with the construction of new power stations. The total electric power produced in 1955 was 880 million kWh, of which 290 were hydroelectric and 590 thermal.



The dam at Sarno.

32

The lessons learnt from the cessation of commercial relations with France in 1942 and the necessity to launch fresh industries in Algeria which would raise the standard of living as much as possible, led the authorities to pass legislation in 1945 with a view to encouraging the **industrialization** of the country. Since then, under the impetus of this plan, 120 factories have been founded or extended to deal with many diverse industries: metallurgical, engineering, electric, chemical, pharmaceutical, oil extraction, food, building materials, textiles, paper, plastics etc. The manufacturing industries in Algeria, with an annual business turnover of about 140,000 million francs, pay out about 25,000 million francs in salaries and expenses (not taking into account the extractive industries, public works and buildings).

Algeria belongs to a customs union with metropolitan France and the exchange of agricultural products and raw minerals for manufactured goods and food products forms the basis of their trade.

The external trade of Algeria in 1955 (imports + exports) reached 405,000 million francs (11,133,300 tons of goods). Imports: 244,000 million francs; exports: 161,000 million. The trade deficit of 83,000 million francs is not alarming: it is due on the one hand to the great effort being made in Algeria to provide and modernize machinery and equipment, and on the other hand to the increased import of consumer goods which reflect the improved standard of living.

34

The financial aid which metropolitan France gives to the Algerian extraordinary **budget** becomes increasingly higher year by year. Her share in financing the industrial equipment plan was more than 42,000 million francs in 1955 and 57,000 million in 1956; it will be increased annually by 15,000 million until 1960. The French budget is still bearing the major portion of the expenses for the reconstruction of the Orleansville region devastated by the earthquake in 1954 and the cost of repairing damage caused by terrorism; finally, the general budget has, since 1955, made a direct subsidy in order to balance the Algerian ordinary budget.

35

All civil servants in Algeria (60,000) and other state employees (50,000) as well as non-agricultural salaried workers (430,000) receive **family allowances**. In 1954 the total paid out was more than 20,000 million francs, in which was included the sum of 5,000 million paid to families resident in Algeria of Algerian workmen in metropolitan France.

36

There are two distinct types of **social insurance**. In the non-agricultural section which comprises about 540,000 salaried workers or civil servants, the system is comparable to that which is in force in metropolitan France. In the agricultural section a system adapted to the living conditions of agricultural labourers has been instituted: it covers over 120,000 permanent workers. Social security in Algeria therefore extends to over 660,000 salaried workers and their families, representing nearly a quarter of the population.



An irrigation canal near Orleansville.

37

Labour legislation: legally recognized unions, the right to strike, conciliation boards, joint wage agreements, paid leave.

38

One-sixth of the ordinary Algerian budget is set aside for **education** (20,500 million francs estimated for 1956) and 13.5% of the extraordinary budget for building and equipping schools (9,300 million francs in 1956).

39

As a result of these efforts, there were 2,500 **schools** in 1954-55, comprising 11,000 classes in which 500,000 children, 320,000 of them Moslems, were taught. This compared with 240,000 pupils, of whom 110,000 were Moslems, in 1944. In 1955-56, on account of the disturbances and the closing of some schools, the figure was reduced to 470,000 pupils, just under 300,000 of them Moslems.

During the current year 1,500 new classes are to be opened. The **teachers** for these schools are trained in six normal schools and three special centres to adapt personnel to local conditions. Two new normal schools have been planned for the department of Bone.

In spite of all this, there is still no accommodation for a large number of children. In order to provide education for everybody nearly 100,000 million francs would be needed, that is, an amount equal to practically the entire ordinary budget.

40

Secondary education is given in 49 lycées, high schools and many private institutions. There are nearly 40,000 pupils of whom 7,500 are Moslems. (5,083 candidates for the "baccalauréat"—matriculation standard—in 1955).

41

By a decree of the 10th July 1951 the "medersas" of Algiers, Tlemcen and Constantine (Franco-Moslem education) were converted into **Franco-Moslem "lycées"** so that their students were then equally qualified to continue higher Islamic studies or to enter a French university. A girls' lycée for Franco-Moslem instruction has been opened in Algiers.

42

517 classes in **higher elementary education** cater to 15,000 pupils, of whom an appreciable number pursue further studies in the secondary grade or in normal schools.

The University of Algiers ranks third among French universities, with 5,200 students and 92 chairs. Apart from the different faculties it comprises a large number of specialized institutions such as:

the Institute for higher Islamic studies;

the Institute for political training;

and will shortly have a centre for nuclear studies.

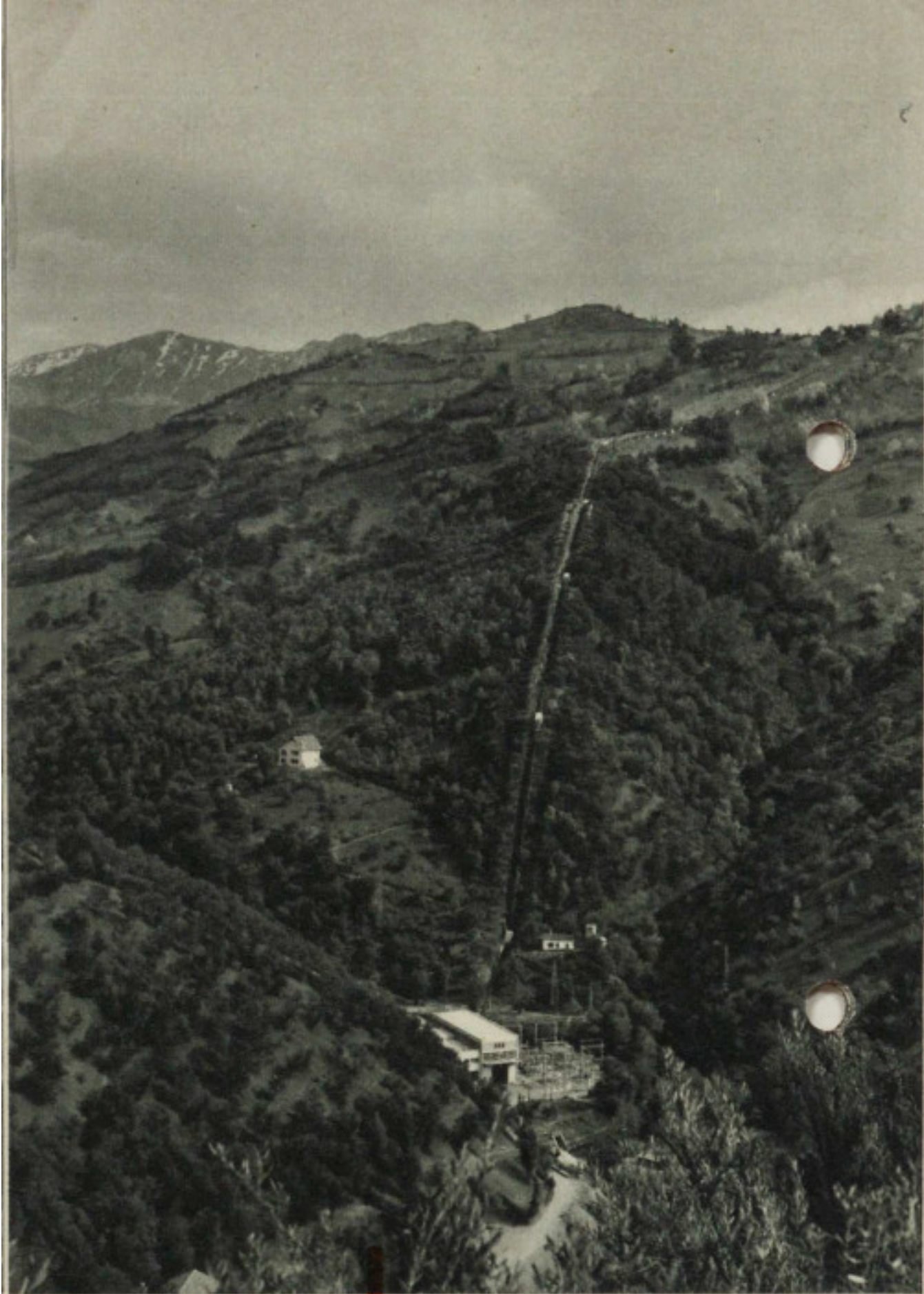
Also on this plane are two national institutes for agricultural and technical education which confer an engineering diploma. There is also a commercial college.

44

A special effort is being made to train **technicians** and **skilled workmen** for whom there is a great demand in Algeria and metropolitan France.

50 supplementary courses for boys (3,343 pupils),

50 supplementary courses for girls (3,538 pupils).



The head of water from the Acif el Hamman
(Kabylia, department of Algiers).

21 apprenticeship centres (plus two at present being completed) and 4 technical institutes provide technical and vocational training for 13,200 students of whom 6,000 are Moslems.

To this number must be added the 400 pupils in the commercial training sections attached to secondary schools and 9,300 students training in 132 private establishments.

45

Vocational training for adults is progressing satisfactorily under the direction of the Labour Department and Social Security. By the 31st December 1955 there were 8 training centres and 26 auxiliary branches for building trades, 3 centres for metallurgy, 4 general training centres and 12 privately sponsored centres. There were altogether 134 groups of 18 pupils each studying building trades, 49 groups of 15 pupils studying metallurgy and agricultural engineering and 543 pupils in the privately sponsored institutes.

The number of pupils was 3,690.

46

In spite of the economic expansion which has taken place in all sectors, the Algerian labour market cannot absorb the additional manpower which the increasing population puts into circulation every year. In addition, **emigration to metropolitan France** where 350,000 Algerians are at present employed, is indispensable.

47

Housing is one of the biggest problems in Algeria. In spite of the difficulties arising from the war, more than 40,000 lodgings have been completed, due largely to the various methods of financing building which have been made available to both companies and private persons. Private building continues to be active in Algeria, the trend being more and more towards the construction of inexpensive housing. The "Cité Universitaire" in Algiers provides accommodation with every comfort for 500 students.

48

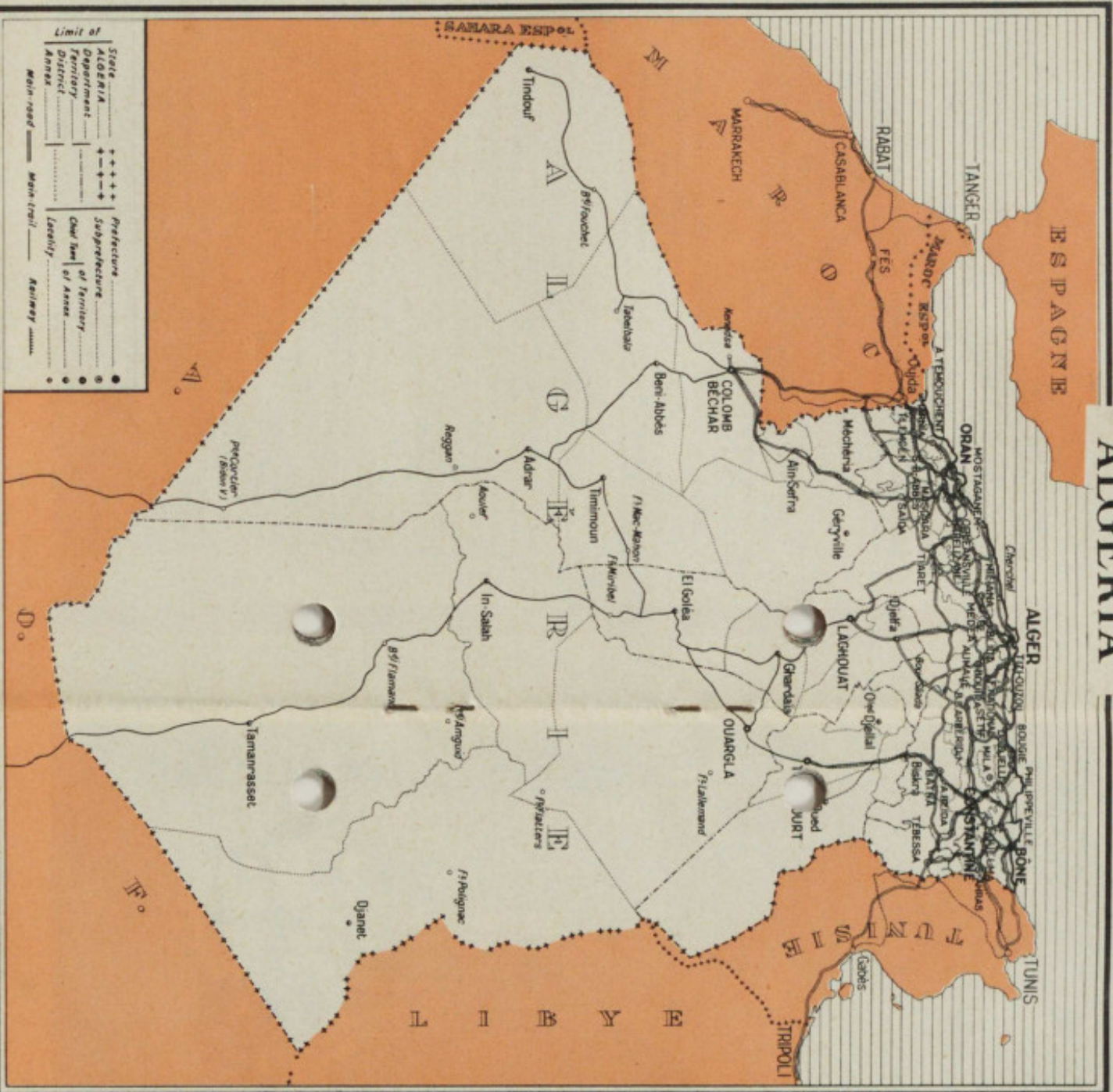
There are 1,945 doctors in Algeria (1,900 in the North, 175 of whom belong to the **Public Health Department**). The 67 health centres, 183 consulting rooms and 70 mobile units which dispense medico-social assistance have given more than 1,900,000 consultations amongst the poorer classes of the population in the Northern departments.

The mobile health units (which combat epidemics, malaria, eye diseases, ringworm and tuberculosis) are equipped with 13 heavy vehicles, 81 vans and 11 light cars. **In the South:** 45 doctors (11 civilians, under contract or covenanted, 34 military), 142 rural consulting rooms or small infirmaries, 8 mobile consulting units. The itinerant team of Dr. Antoine (ophtalmology) possesses 2 trucks. (Campaign against trachoma in particular).

There are 150 **hospitals in Northern Algeria** with a total of 28,500 beds. **In the South:** 2 military hospitals (general hospitals) and 27 infirmaries (social welfare) with a total of 1,500 beds.

A vigorous campaign has been conducted against **the major**

ALGERIA



"Although the disturbing propaganda of Communism and the conquering passion of Islam may be discerned behind events taking place elsewhere, the same does not hold true here; our adversaries of today, the terrorists, the rebels, have only one motivating idea and that is the eviction of the French from Algeria. In this "internal" conflict which they are seeking to turn into an "external" issue, they have neither political dogma nor genuine reasons. They are attempting to replace this lack of doctrine by racialism (which, unfortunately, has been sometimes aggravated by the unthinking actions of certain Frenchmen). They are trying to justify indomitable foreign interference on the grounds of religious unity.

Our answer to this absence of political ideology does not lie in any one political theory; we offer instead a "national" creed, a common love for France which the present emergency may well reinvigorate. Algeria has as yet hardly tapped the immense cultural resources and the generosity of our country. A new Algeria can only be built by giving to the Franco-Muslim population, many of whom are simple, unsophisticated people, equal rights and equal duties with the people of metropolitan France, so that their dignity, their pride and their self-respect may be satisfied.

We must adopt these three words "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity", born of the French Revolution, to signify our presence here. No one can claim that we could give anything better to Algeria."

Robert LACOSTE
Minister for Algeria



Laghouat :
the electrification of towns in the south.

epidemics. Typhus has disappeared. Only a few cases of malaria are reported. Tuberculosis is being actively combatted. Since 1949: 3,698,326 persons have been tested and among the 2,520,649 cases who underwent examination 1,434,987 were vaccinated.

An equally great effort is being made to eradicate eye diseases in the Northern departments: more than 406,700 cases were seen in the permanent centres and the mobile units examined over 66,700 persons during the year 1956, giving more than 720,000 treatments and performing 437 operations.

49

The second 4-year equipment plan for Algeria (1954-57) called for substantial public and private capital, reaching 305,000 million francs for the four years. In 1954, however, it was already apparent that this rate of investment was insufficient. It is therefore proposed that, in accordance with the MASPETIOL Commission's recommendations, this be raised to 3,000,000 million francs for 10 years, with a view to increasing the national revenue by 6% per annum through the economic, administrative and social development of the country.

50

The attraction of Algeria for tourists lies in its infinite variety of scenery, a clear blue sky, brilliant sunshine and a sparkling sea. Roman ruins, Moslem monuments, steep cliffs or sandy beaches, high mountain slopes where winter sports may be enjoyed, gorges and defiles celebrated for their rugged grandeur, luxuriant cases in the midst of desert sands, the Sahara desert where French enterprise has wrought miracles and French achievements which are daily modernizing the country are additional inducements and are the basis of a profitable tourist industry.

THE PRESENT SITUATION

The preceding pages have shown the magnitude of the work accomplished by the French in Algeria, efforts which have been amplified even more in the last ten years. France realises that an immense task still awaits her:

- educating an increasing number of children every year;
- solving the housing problem;
- giving unceasing medical aid, constructing hospitals and health centres to combat disease;
- making more land available at an accelerated rate for the settlement of Moslem farmers;
- extending the industrialization of the country to help reduce unemployment.

The Algerian population appreciated what was being done by the authorities and co-operated in unity and confidence. In this atmosphere of peace and security the material conditions of living improved progressively, and for the economy of Algeria, which was developing and expanding thanks to the help of metropolitan France, the future held bright hopes.

THE REBELLION

The agitators, who had been patiently and secretly planning their action for several years with the help of certain foreign governments, launched the rebellion on the 1st of November 1954, in the most desolate and isolated regions of the country.

Using terrorism as its principal weapon, it had a double purpose: — to demoralize the European population and thus cause them to retire to the towns and finally back to metropolitan France;

— to force the Moslem population into a blind and unconditional support of the armed rebellion which could only succeed with their co-operation.

Assassination, the destruction of schools and hospitals, burning farms and harvests and sabotage of public utilities are the methods employed by the outlaws. In defiance of any humane sentiments they cut the throats of old people, women and children and then fall on the bodies and mutilate them terribly. Should a Moslem village refuse to supply the recruits or the provisions they demand, the entire population is massacred.

Any native suspected of loyalty towards France lives in fear of a horrible death. Since the beginning of the rebellion 343 Europeans (among them 20 women and 24 children) and 2,527 Moslems (including 57 women and 30 children) have fallen victims to the outlaw's knife.

This is the real picture of this so-called "national movement" which certain foreign countries are supporting with their money, their arms and their propaganda.

Under similar circumstances, which government would not consider it its primary duty to put an end to the reign of terror, to re-establish law and order and security for everyone and to safeguard the equipment and property needed for the well-being of the community?

This is the task which France has set herself and which she is carrying out at the cost of such heavy sacrifices.

She does not intend to limit her action to this only but means to introduce a lasting solution to the social and economic conditions which gave rise to the present situation.

THE WORK OF PACIFICATION

The re-establishment of security is the most urgent need.

The rebellion was only made possible by the fact that the French authorities, lulled into confidence by the peace which reigned in Algeria, maintained in this enormous country with its rugged terrain, police and military forces which anywhere else would have been completely insufficient. In metropolitan France there is one **gendarme** for every thousand inhabitants; in 1954 there was only one for every three thousand inhabitants in Algeria. The time which elapsed before sufficiently large forces could be employed, allowed the rebellion to become organized and to spread.



Oran:
the Montesquieu school.

Of course, law and order could be quickly restored if the French authorities resorted to some of the ruthless methods which their adversaries do not scruple to use.

But France does not wish to do so.

The French government has undoubtedly had to invoke special powers in order to cope with the exceptional conditions. But these special powers do not constitute a state of siege; nor do they alter the normal working of the administration of justice. All the human rights guaranteed by the French constitution remain unchanged; the terrorists, even though they may be guilty of the most heinous crimes, still enjoy the same privileges as every other French citizen when they are brought before the courts.

It is not to make war on the Algerians but to bring back peace to Algeria that France is using a large part of her armed forces and has mobilized so many reservists.

Military experts have estimated that it is necessary to have forces ten times bigger than those of the rebels in order to wipe out organized guerilla bands. Even more are needed if the peaceable inhabitants are not to be threatened with reprisals by the agitators and if their lives and property are to be protected.

In Algeria it is not only a question of pursuing and wiping out bands of outlaws; it is also necessary, as a first step, to repulse their incursions into the villages and isolated farms. This has led to the adoption of the "grid system" by the French authorities (sectioning off the country and posting units large enough and mobile enough to counter immediately any attack on the civilian population in a given sector). One can well imagine the forces needed for this.

The second step, when the activities of the terrorists have been curbed and the villagers, without fearing for their own lives and those of their families, can choose freely between the peace which the French government ensures for them and the tyranny the rebels impose on them, will be to arm them so that they can defend themselves. This stage has already been reached in several regions and the vigour with which the Algerian peasants resist the exactions of the bandits is a clear indication of where their sympathies lie.

Pacification continues and it is to be hoped that it will soon be complete so that the French government can apply the political, social and administrative reforms which it is studying and certain of which have already begun to take effect.



Tlemcen : the hospital.

THE REFORMS

Pacification is not everything; it is also necessary to bring every aspect of the administrative structure in Algeria up to date, so that in the future the country will not once again be the victim of subversive attacks such as those now taking place.

Without even waiting for a return to normal conditions the French government has undertaken to effect the reforms in the political, economic, social and administrative spheres which the Algerian problem calls for.

POLITICAL REFORMS

The aim of each successive French government since 1830 has been to maintain the Algerian statute in pace with the degree of evolution of the native population. The latest step in this policy was taken by the 1947 statute (see above from 16 onwards). Today this is no longer enough; all Frenchmen realize this. The French Government has therefore undertaken to give Algeria, within the framework of the national institutions, a new political basis recognizing her separate identity and granting her inhabitants equal political representation.

What will the future statute of Algeria be and when will it come into force?

The declared intention of the French Government was, and still is, that every section of the Algerian population should be able to speak their minds, through qualified representatives, on the political reform to be promoted. The French Government wishes to organize a general election in the shortest possible time. Such is indeed the normal process in a democratic country. The persistent terrorism however has been preventing the Government from implementing this plan. What possible value could be attached to elections held under the sway of fear, when threats hold back potential candidates and hinder the electors from voting as they choose?

Despite this situation, the Government is determined not to delay any longer the political solution which the Algerian problem calls for. They have been discussing the whole range of formulas which might secure for the different sections of the Algerian population the full use of equal civic rights.

The Government have not yet made their final decision, but a project is expected to be published shortly; the principles underlying the reforms embodied in this project will be both realistic and bold.



Constantine:
the housing estate of Sidi Mabrouk.

SOCIAL REFORMS

Nearly 10 million live in Algeria and in 1955 births exceeded deaths by 280,000. Such a rate of increase stresses the alarming problem of employment in this large country where resources are limited and industrial potentialities scarce.

To secure jobs for the unemployed or under-employed man-power in Algeria, such is the aim of the economic reform, of the industrialization process (see p. 9 and 11 above for figures), and of the agrarian reform in particular. On the other hand, the social reforms are intended to raise the educational and professional level of the Algerian worker, to secure employment for him, and, generally speaking, to improve his standard of living in every possible way.

Different organizations have been set up with a view to study every problem relating to man-power and to protect the interests of Algerian workers in metropolitan France. They are also responsible for the selection, training and transfer overseas of those who apply for migration.

At the same time all measures calculated to raise the standard of living of the population have been developed. The educational facilities plan which provided for the opening of 1,500 new class-rooms annually has been pursued in spite of the difficulties created by the rebellion. "Instructors" are recruited whenever professional teachers are lacking to give elementary education in the new schools.

A new system of free medical care is being extended to ever growing numbers. A plan of modernization of the traditional rural housing is under way in the two regions of Bone and the Great Kabylie. Thanks to a policy of subsidies, 500 million francs have been allocated for that work of reconstruction and redistributed in the form of materials and services on a basis of 150,000 francs per recipient. Should the results of the experience be satisfactory, the plan will be progressively extended to other regions.

So as to accelerate the evolution of the rural population, social centres of a new type are being established in the rural areas. They are comprehensive organizations for educational and cultural action and for economic and social welfare. The teams of technicians who are in charge of those centres include educators, agronomists, physicians and engineers; they are to work in close contact with the local authorities.

All the steps which have been taken on the social side illustrate the willingness of the Government to promote to the maximum the evolution of the most backward people in the rural areas. They proceed from the action which has been in progress for several years; they have only quickened and reshaped the process.

Furthermore, with a view to create new jobs and also to increase the share of the French Moslems in the management of public affairs, the rules governing administrative recruitment in the Government General services have been modified and made more flexible. 50 per



The isolation hospital for contagious diseases at El Kettar.

cent of the appointments following competitive examination (and even 75 per cent in some grades) are now reserved to Moslems only. The system has been extended to such private organizations, companies and concerns as perform some kind of public service or are employed or helped in their work by the local communities.

Those measures, while paying due regard to the facts, give practical effect to the equal status of the French Moslems with the other French citizens.

THE AGRARIAN REFORM

The agitators responsible for the present disturbances have exploited the economic plight caused by overpopulation in relation to the national resources in a country where 80 per cent of the inhabitants live off the land in some way or other.

On the whole, the rural population of Algeria is composed of 600,000 Moslem landowners, most of them small "fellahs," 140,000 "khames," and more than 1 million farm labourers who too often are under-employed. All of them have been affected by the land reform which has just been introduced.

Agricultural wages have been raised by 20 per cent.

The "khamessat" system—a form of share-cropping traditionally practised in all Arab countries which leaves for the farmer only 1/5 of the land produce as against 4/5 for the landlord—has been forbidden and replaced by the French system of metayage (dividing the yield equally between the landlord and the farmer).

Finally, several reforms relating to the land system and to the limitation of land property will ensure a better output of the land owned by the small fellahs; those steps will moreover enable quite a large section of the rural population to become in their turn small landowners.

The development of agriculture has always been hampered by the intricacies of the land system in the Moslem community.

Such impediments as the parcelling out of the land still aggravated by co-parcenary; the uncertain rights of a large section of those who hold the land; the collective character of many holdings, have stood in the way of all practical measures suited to the needs of an ever increasing population.

Therefore, with a view to ensure the rational development of many estates, it has been decided to take action, wherever it may be necessary to do so, to introduce changes in landownership by means of amicable exchanges of properties, replotting, etc...

Making the great numbers of peasants owning little or no land small landowners having a chance to lead a decent, not to say a wealthy life with their families, is what the agrarian reform is aiming at. The scheme has just been drawn up by the Government and when its provi-



Tkout (Aurès mountains). A military doctor from a specialized unit treating a Moslem child.

sions are carried out, there will be a change in the social aspects of Algeria. Here are the three main features :

1. The area required for operating the plan will be bought either by amicable arrangement or by expropriating the properties irrigated above a certain area, or expropriating the estates which were conceded to some companies in the 19th century;

2. Parcelling out, allotment and development of the new properties;

3. Distribution of the new pieces of land among the Moslem peasants who own no property.

A special fund—the “Caisse d’accession à la petite propriété rurale”—commanding an important budget, is responsible for the financial operation of the agrarian reform, which is now in progress.

ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION

Finally, a complete reorganization of the administrative system, which the present uprising has shown to be inadequate, is being effected: the number of departments has been raised from 4 to 12; the number of “arrondissements” to 37. Special Administrative Officers have been installed in isolated rural centres where the influence of the Government General in Algiers could not make itself sufficiently felt. They are responsible for admising, guiding and helping the villagers, anticipating their needs in every way; in short, increasing the human contact between the administration and those it administers. The happy results of this decentralization are already perceptible.

The sum of all these measures, carried out at the cost of great sacrifice, illustrates the determination of France to assure justice and prosperity for the future of Algeria within the national entity.

Algeria, French since 1830, will remain French.

Her development can be furthered only with the financial assistance of metropolitan France which amounted to a total of 150,000 million francs in 1955 and which, according to studies on hand, should amount to 3,000,000 million francs over ten years.

Widening the road from Batna to Biskra.



Édité par le
gouvernement général de l'Algérie.
Dépôt légal B 4640.
Imp. GEORGES LANG, Paris.