

THE MONITOR

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Senegal and Its People



Mountaineers of Senegal.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

Senegal, brought into prominence because of the thousands of Senegalese who, as soldiers and laborers, assisted the French in the World war, is the gateway and main trade route to France's West African possessions.

In that country and in the regions inland to the east, Mohammedanism holds almost undisputed sway; and from there, some observers declare, there is likelihood that this religion will sweep southward until the great majority of African natives will become Moslems in name at least.

On its west, or Atlantic coast, Senegal may be said to mark the beginning of the real Africa—the hot, moist "dark continent" populated by negroes. For northern Africa is to a large extent desert, and is the land of Arab and Berber or "Moor." As one steams down the Atlantic coast of Africa, leaving the last of the perennial streams of Morocco, he skirts a forbidding desert coast without a permanent stream for 1,800 miles. The first large stream encountered is the Senegal, emptying into the sea through a system of lakes and lagoons, navigable during the rainy season for 600 miles inland. This was naturally one of the best trade routes into the interior of northwestern Africa, and by the construction of a railroad from the river's rapids to a point 435 miles farther inland, it has been made still better.

Real Control by France is Recent.

The foothold of France in Senegal dates from the days of Richelieu. In 1636 Fort St. Louis was established as a trading post at the mouth of the Senegal river. France could point to little more than the maintenance of coast stations in this region, however, until relatively recent times. It was not until near the middle of the Nineteenth century that there was anything like an aggressive effort to consolidate Senegal under French control. How great the progress has been since that time is indicated by the fact that there are now four self-governing municipal communes in Senegal, and they jointly send a deputy to the French chamber in Paris.

The portion of Senegal which may be regarded as having progressed far toward becoming, like Algeria, a part of France, is small, embracing less than 1,000 square miles and having a population of only a few hundred thousands. The remainder of Senegal, with an area of more than 70,000 square miles, consists of native states under French protection and under the supervision of resident agents.

Situated between desert Africa and moist tropical Africa, Senegal is not unaturally a region of mixed races. As an advance from the north, the Senegal river marks the first encounter with predominantly negro tribes, as it marks the end of the desert and its fringe of semi-desert. On the north side of the river dwell people of Berber or "Moorish" stock—swarthy, straight-haired, straight-nosed. To the south of the river the tribes vary much in appearance, but practically all are negroes—black or dark chocolate colored, with broad flat noses and kinky hair. Close to the coast are the members of the Wolof tribe, who are usually regarded as typically Senegalese. They are said to be the blackest negroes known. Even their lips are black. The people of this tribe are particularly loyal to the French and have served in large numbers as soldiers.

Wise Methods of Administration.

In administering Senegal, as indeed in administering all her African possessions, France has depended on tact rather than on force. Her officials not only recognize native chiefs, but also treat them with consideration. The greatest of the rulers are presented with valuable gifts, which emphasize the wealth and power of France, and some of the leaders are taken to Paris as guests of the government. The

French administrators have earned the gratitude of the large and influential trading class in Africa by breaking up brigandage and policing the caravan routes. The Moslems are all grateful because of the French policy, which has insured privacy to the mosques and harems and has permitted them to continue their schools and colleges, and in some cases has even subsidized such institutions.

But though France has permitted Moslem schools to be carried on, she has not left all schooling to the Mohammedans. Public schools have been established in Senegal and elsewhere in the West African possessions, in which children of the various races, tribes and religions are taught in French. At present these schools reach only a few thousand children in Senegal, but the system is being extended as rapidly as possible.

Excellent roads have been built by the French in Senegal, connecting the various towns and supplementing the river and rail routes to the sea coast. Dakar, which is situated under the lee of Cape Verde, the westernmost point of land in Africa, is the best port on the whole west coast, and almost the only port on that coast at which ocean-going vessels can tie up along-side a quay protected from the surf. As a result, the commerce of the port is heavy, and the trade route to the east starting there is used to distribute and collect supplies to and from extensive regions in the interior. Dakar is the seat of administration for all French West Africa and has a larger European population (about 3,000) than any other town in Senegal or the neighboring countries.

No Place for White Men.

Senegal is not a "white man's country." Because of its climatic conditions it is unhealthful for Europeans and probably always will be. The French recognize this and have made no efforts to colonize the country. The European population is made up almost entirely of administrators of various kinds, and traders. This situation has made necessary the French plan of organizing the country largely on the basis of native states under protection.

Although cattle-raising on the grassy plains of the upper Senegal has long been the chief industry, agriculture has attained a place of greater importance in recent years. The principal article of export is the peanut, and considerable amounts of other oil seeds, oils, hides, rubber, timber and cocoa also are sent out. Senegal ships large quantities of kola or cola nuts. These are eaten by the natives throughout western Africa, and even in the more remote parts of the continent, because of their stimulating qualities.

Cotton grows wild and its production might be made into an important Senegalese industry but for the habits of the natives. They are unwilling to engage in the cultivation of a crop which requires considerable steady work and a relatively long wait for maturity. They prefer to raise such crops as peanuts and millet which require little attention between planting and harvest.

While there are a few tribes of natives in the outlying portions of Senegal whose members practice fetish worship, the great majority of the inhabitants of the country profess Mohammedanism. This religion was introduced both by the Berbers or "Moors" from the north and by nearly pure negroes who came from the West about the Thirteenth century and set up the powerful sultanate of Timbuctu. Some of the tribes of Senegal are apparently staunch Mohammedans, but others are only nominal followers of the Prophet, preserving their superstitions and pagan practices such as nominal Christians continued to hold to such superstitions in Europe during the Dark Ages.

The following appreciated letter was recently received by Mrs. J. W. Hammond from Prof. Kerlin who upon reading her poem "The Way of Life" published in The Monitor requested her to send him any other of her poems she thought meritorious. She sent him several with which he was well pleased as this letter will show:

Lexington, Va.,
September 5, 1921.

I cannot tell you how delighted I am with your poems. They are of the true spirit of poetry. Now I wish you would carefully revise them according to my suggestions and do me the honor to write me off a clean copy. Why not send some of them to The Monitor? Have one each week in The Monitor. I wish you to make yourself known. Yours very gratefully,
ROBERT T. KERLIN.

NOTICE OF PROBATE WILL

In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska.
 In the matter of the estate of Ida May Johnson, Deceased.
 All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court, praying for the probate of a certain instrument now on file in said Court, purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 6th day of October, 1921 and if they fail to appear in said Court on the said 6th day of October, 1921 at 9 o'clock A. M., to contest the probate of said will, the Court may allow and probate said will and grant administration of said estate to Silas Johnson or some other suitable person, enter a decree of heirship, and proceed to a settlement thereof.
 Bryce Crawford
 County Judge
 31-9-15,22,29-21

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.
 Dec. 186 No. 27

NOTICE
 In the matter of the estate of Ernest C. H. Wicke, deceased.
 Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of an order of the Honorable L. B. Day, judge of the district court of Douglas County, Nebraska, made on the 2nd day of September, 1921, for the sale of the real estate hereinafter described, there will be sold at public to be secured by note and mortgage on vendue to the highest bidder and upon the following terms, one-third cash, and the balance on three years' time, with interest at six per cent per annum the premises sold, at the east door of the court house in the city of Omaha, in said county, on the first day of October, 1921, at the hour of ten o'clock A. M. the following described real estate: Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3) and Four (4), in Block Two (2), in Hyde Park, an addition to the city of Omaha, Nebraska, as surveyed, platted and recorded. Said sale will remain open one hour.
 Dated this 12th day of September, 1921.
 Frederick J. Wicke
 Administrator of the Estate of Ernest C. H. Wicke, deceased.

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Kitty's Regular Attitude.
 Eleanor, accompanied by a pet kitten, was playing on the sidewalk. A stray dog came up to them with which Eleanor immediately became friendly. Meanwhile the kitten proceeded to swell up and spit, showing usual cat-doglike for a dog. Eleanor, noticing the cat's apparent displeasure, said: "Look at that, will you? She always acts like that when I speak to a dog."
 Partially Identified.
 Sloan—"Did you ever meet a fellow down there with one leg named Sanders?" Doan (pondering)—"What was the name of his other leg?"
 Pearl Fishers in Sea All Year.
 The women pearl fishers of Japan commence their work at the age of fourteen and are in the water almost all the year round, except in the coldest season, from the end of December to the beginning of February.
 Venerate Sandal Wood.
 No wood is so largely used by Hindus in India as sandal wood. Whether living or dead, it has been connected with their religious ceremonies for over fourteen centuries.

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SOUTHERN WOMEN SPEAK

WOMEN have tremendous influence, either for good or evil. Fortunately it is generally exerted on the side of good rather than of evil. This being so, The Monitor has often wondered why the women of America seemed so apathetic and so indifferent to the grave injustices and acts of violence so prevalent in this country and of which our people have been so largely the victims. We have wondered why they could be unmoved by the almost unbelievable acts of barbarism against men and women of our race. As the majority of these fiendish mob-murders, so cruel and inhuman that the recital of them would make the blood congeal in one's veins, occurred in the sunny Southland, we marvelled at the silence of the tenderhearted women of that section concerning these deeds of blood. It looked as though they approved. And yet we were reluctant to believe this. But at last this silence has been broken. On several occasions recently women of culture, refinement, social prestige and wealth have voiced their disapproval of such deeds in no uncertain terms. The most recent and significant was the action taken a few days ago at Atlanta Georgia, by the flower of white Southern womanhood in which they took an uncompromising stand against lynching and all acts of lawlessness and unqualifiedly demand a single standard of morals both in the white and colored races and declare themselves for the protection of womanhood of whatever race. These women make it very plain, altho their language is guarded, that the greatest protection Southern womanhood needs is a righteous single standard of morals. Their meaning must be readily apparent to all in any way conversant with Southern conditions. The voice of Southern white women lifted in protest against mob-violence and all forms of lawlessness will have a tremendous influence upon conditions which all right-thinking people must deplore. When Southern white women speak, Southern white men will listen.

"ARE YOU A YELLOW JACKET?"

THIS is the caption of a suggestive editorial which appeared in last week's issue of The Houston Informer one of the ablest and most fearless of our race journals published in the South. It was reported that the Kluxes had compelled the Informer to suspend, but the rumor was false. Editor Richardson is a man from the ground up and does not scare a bit. This editorial, however, has nothing to do with local, sectional or national problems, but presents a personal question which should lead many of us to searching of heart. Here is what is pertinently said:

"Are you a Yellow Jacket?"
 Perhaps this is a queer question and your ready response is, No!
 The yellow jacket is an insect that gets its substance from the rotten or bad part of fruits, etc.
 There are some people in this world (and they do form the hopeless minority) who, like the yellow jacket, can only see the bad spots in the lives of others.
 The yellow jacket has the opportunity to eat the good part of the fruit, but it seems to be a part of his nature to hunt the bad and there seek out an existence.

We are prone to imitate this insect. Despite the admirable traits and characteristics of individuals and in the face of some stellar accomplishments and achievements we overlook all that and hunt for their faults and shortcomings.
 After we find them we labor overtime in an effort to fatten ourselves at their expense and to their detriment.

We air and publish on the house tops their sore spots, figuratively speaking, and glory and gloat in the performance of such a deleterious and destructive program.
 Remember, any old fool can be a yellow jacket and that the substance secured in sucking these rotten parts never fattens nor renders healthy the pursuers of such a pernicious program.
 Again, the yellow jacket takes out and puts nothing in; he is destructive, obstructive and not constructive.
 Locating sore spots and feasting thereon is a yellow jacket's long suit. Are you a yellow jacket?

COLORED MOB THREATENS JAIL
 CHARLESTON S. C., Sept.—A group of colored men threatened Augustus Weston in jail here on the charge of criminally assaulting a young child, eight years old.

BOOZE JOINTS

THE MONITOR would respectfully call the attention of the authorities to the fact that there are booze and bootlegging joints in certain sections of our city. Some of these are on North Twenty-first street. It is alleged that there is at least one of these joints in the frame flats on Twenty-first between Nicholas and Izard Sts. Clean out these booze joints. They are a menace. It does not need a Sherlock Holmes to conclude that houses which men and women apparently sober enter and come out drunk as lords are bootlegging.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS SAY

Hold Race Too Cheap
 The colored race, just like others, is valued according to the valuation it puts upon itself. God created us in His likeness in the same manner as he did all other races, and out of the same sort of dirt. The human possibilities were given the race to serve the Creator's purpose. As respectable law-abiding, honest citizens of this country, we have a right as any other citizens to command and demand what we are entitled to, no more, no less. But lest we forget, it takes genuine, 100 per cent manhood to display this sort of courage. Until the colored race holds itself as high and as important as any other race, it will always be looked upon as a cheap and inferior race of people, willing to take anything the white people see fit to give it.—The Advocate, Portland, Ore.

Exposing The Ku Klux

Those of us who have followed the exposure of the Ku Klux are more than gratified to see the judgment of the Negro proven sound and correct on the operations of the Klan. When the news first spread that Simmons was reviving the Klan, the colored population of the country raised its protest in no uncertain terms. The colored people knew that the Klan could have no justification for its existence, and, therefore, fought it vehemently.

Little attention was paid to the protests of the Negroes until the New York World gave to this country the general workings of the Klan. The World has collected the facts, and is publishing the facts to the public. The facts as disclosed by the World show that not only is the Klan operating to the detriment of the Negro, but it is opposed to Jews, to Catholics and all foreign-born people. This is a gigantic undertaking by white men to control this country through means other than laid down in our Constitution. This is an effort to defy the Constitution by corrupt practices against certain members of the great American family.

It is more than a blessing that the Klan has designs upon the Jew, the Catholic and the foreign-born citizen. If the Klan opposed only the Negroes, it might, in time, prove almost destructive to the Negro who is helpless to summons aid from whites who are not interested in our racial tribulations. But the Klan is arrayed against the Jews, the Catholics and the foreign-born. This gives the Negroes a common ally in war. With the combined efforts of the Jews, the Catholics and the foreign born the Klan may expect the battle of its life. If actual bloodshed is desired, then the allies are prepared to do battle. If war is a social and industrial one, then the allies are ready to meet that kind of warfare. The common enemy will drive the common allies together in their own defense.—The Pittsburg Courier.

Poets Ingle Nook

THE OPTIMIST
 By Mrs. J. W. Hammond.
 Who would have the sky any color but blue,
 Or the grass any color but green?
 Or the flowers that bloom the summer through
 Of other color or sheen?
 How the sunshine gladdens the human heart—
 How the sound of the falling rain
 Will cause the tender tears to start,
 And free the soul from pain.
 Oh, this old world is a great old place!
 And I love each season's change,
 The river—the brook of purling grace
 The valley—the mountain range.
 And when I am called to quit this life,
 My feet will not spurn the sod,
 Though I leave this world with its beauty rife,
 For a glorious one—with God.