

## Exploration.

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**COMMERCIAL CARAVAN FROM SFAX TO THE SUDAN.** - We know that many of our compatriots, said the Semaphore of Marseilles, living in Sfax in Tunisia, have conceived the project of penetrating to the center of Africa. They have a development committee, chaired by M. Fernand Lafitte, doctor of medicine with a law degree. A high commission has been asked to explore ways of connecting a railway from Senegal to Niger, Algiers to Timbuktu and to unite, by a huge rail link, our two major African colonies.

But, it must be remembered, the trans-Saharan railway would give us access to only to a limited part of the Sudan. The central and eastern countries, the rich regions of the Hoassa, of Bornou, of Ouaday, of Darfur, will remain outside its area of action. It is to obviate this inconvenience & that these men of wisdom and initiative, Dr. Fernand Lafitte and his collaborators have designed the patriotic project of one day flying the flag of France over Cohobbé, the capital of Darfur, by establishing a regular caravan between Djerba, in Tunisia, and central Africa.

One can not approve too strongly such a company which especially interests the trade commerce of Marseilles and our industry whose products would find extensive opportunities in central and eastern Sudan.

The project is not a dream. It has been masterly presented at the 19th meeting of the Learned Societies, at the Sorbonne, by M. Désiré Bordier, captain of the 81<sup>st</sup> regiment of line, knight of the Legion of Honour, delegate of the meteorological society of Algiers.

Dr. Fernand Lafitte, president of the Development Committee, is a man of rare science and valour under any pressure. It was he who, very recently at the assault of Sfax in Tunisia, put himself at the head of the landing party that he guided to the Casbah, in the middle of the shooting. Nothing forced him to do this act of devotion, and, without him, our soldiers would inevitably have been lost in the maze of winding streets of Sfax. He has received the praise he [861]deserves from Admiral Garnault who has proposed him for a military medal, while waiting for the cross of the Legion of Honor.

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