

TWENTIETH CENTURY TEXT-BOOKS

A TEXT-BOOK OF  
COMMERCIAL  
GEOGRAPHY

BY

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NEW YORK AND LONDON  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1904

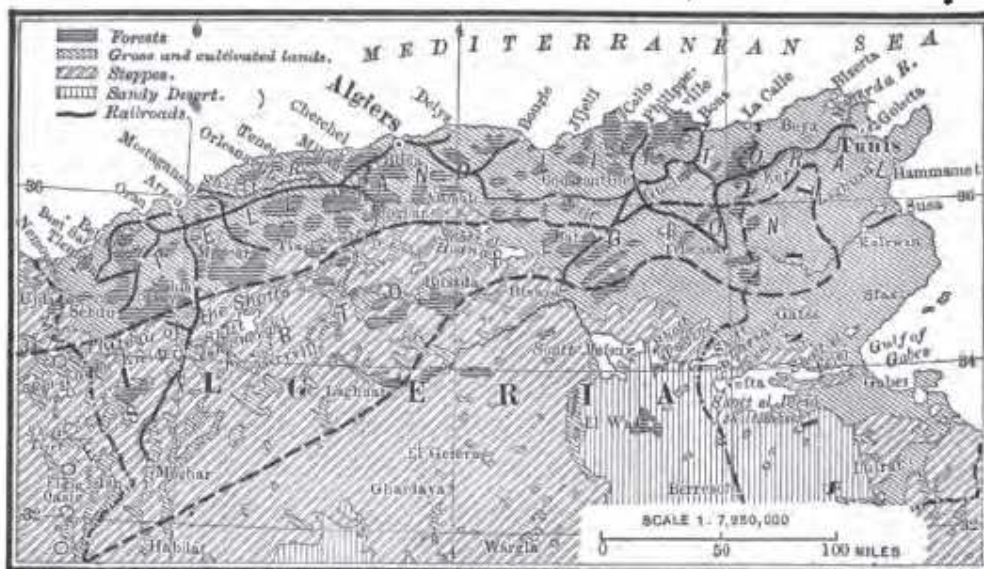


FIG. 155.—ALGERIA AND TUNIS.

**ALGERIA.**—Algiers, the capital and chief port, has a fine artificial harbor (Fig. 12), the fastest steamship connections with Marseilles, and exports more vegetables, tobacco, flax, wine, and sheep than any other port. Its great commercial advantages are its central position on the coast and the shortest sea route to Marseilles. Oran, with two thirds as much foreign trade as Algiers, leads in exports of esparto, tanning bark, and cereals. Philippeville and Bona, in the east, with nearly as much trade together as that of Algiers, export half of the wool, fish, and fresh and dried fruits, and the larger part of the olive oil and cork wood. Mostaganem, near Oran, though an open roadstead, has considerable trade. Beni Saf is the port for the rich iron ores of the northwest. The Tell and littoral, the rich cultivated strip between the Atlas Mountains and the coast, are covered with agricultural villages, and yield the wheat, barley, tobacco, olives, grapes, and other fruits forming a large part of the wealth of the country. The Tell extends from 50 to 150 miles inland. Only the finest forest areas are shown on this map; they are mainly on the slopes of the Atlas. The vast area included between broken lines shows the high drier regions, where esparto (alfa) grows wild. It is exported mainly to French paper mills and England, but would supply a large part of the paper stock of the world if wood pulp were not generally in use. Sheep and goats in great numbers graze on the succulent herbs of this region, supplying the wool and skins that are important in the exports. On the edge of the desert, reached by the railroad at Biskra, are irrigated oases growing millions of date palms.

**TUNIS.**—The Tell, with its characteristic products, extends through the north part of Tunis. The French have cut a deep channel through the salt lake between Goletta and Tunis, the capital, making Tunis a maritime port. Bizerta is also an important port and a French naval station. Susa and Sfax, on the east coast, export esparto and cork. A railroad has been built (1900) between Sfax and Gafsa to the rich phosphate beds extending into Algeria, making that region the largest source of phosphate, excepting our southeastern states.