

L'AFRIQUE DU NORD ILLUSTRÉE

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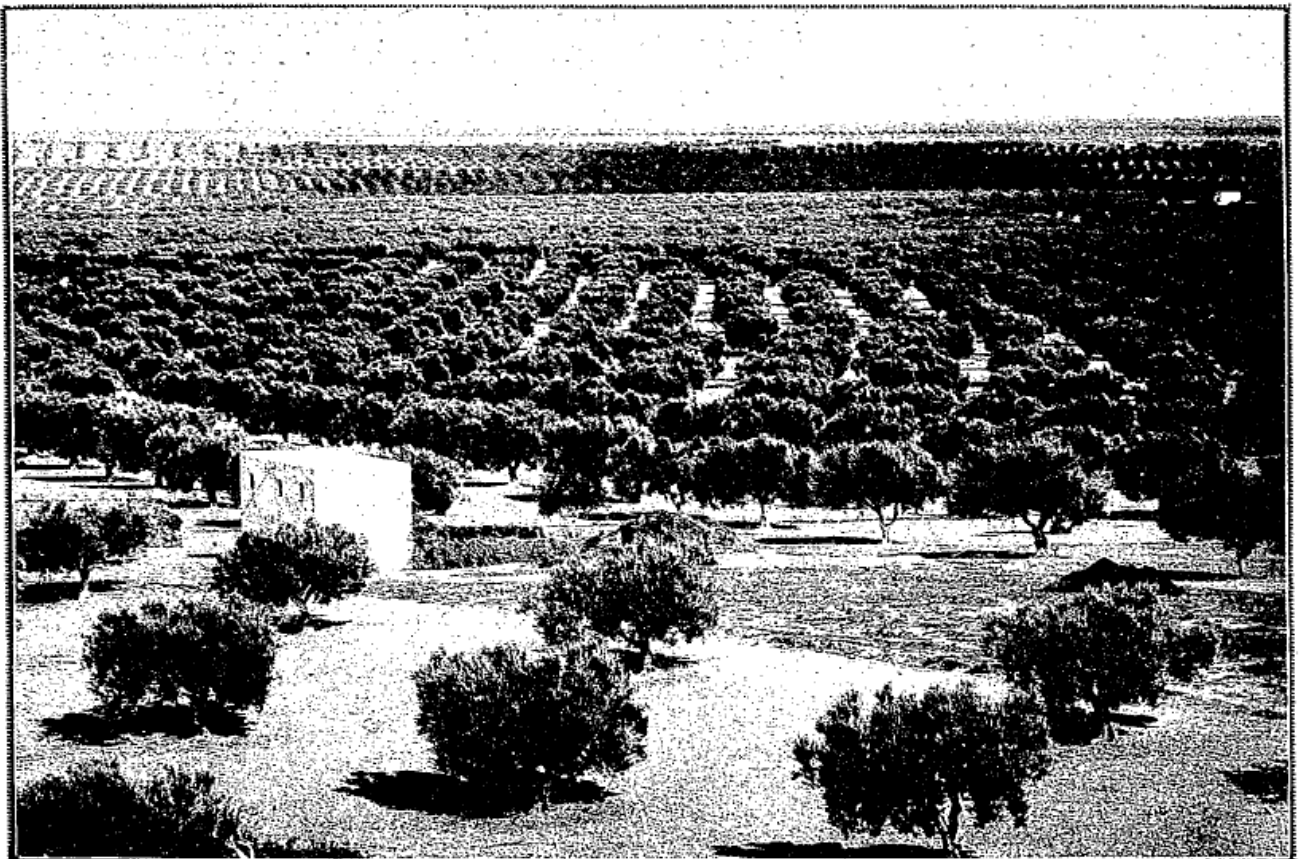
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SAMEDI 17 NOVEMBRE 1928

The Ninth International Congress of Oleiculture is held in Tunisia.

During the last international Congress of Oleiculture, which was held in Rome in 1920, on the authorities of Mr. Louis Dop, permanent delegate from Tunisia with the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome, the Standing Committee of this Institute had indicated Tunisia to be the seat of the future Congress of 1928. This choice greatly honoured the Regency, where the

importance of the production of oils grows unceasingly: the Tunisian forest now comprises, after the last census, sixteen million olive-trees, including nearly eleven million in full growth, which represents half of the total volume of French North African olive groves. As of last August, the Commissariat General of the Congress was ensured of the success of this enterprise of scientific study by support that he received emanating from all the Mediterranean



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countries of the greatest interest in this question of the olive-tree and the production of oil. If at the last moment a certain hesitation occurred, generated by the difficulty of the sea transport because of the strike of the Marseilles voters, on the other hand, on Monday October 29, at the solemn meeting of opening of the Congress, the French Minister resident general, on declaring the session open, was able to express his legitimate satisfaction and pride in Tunisia to note that such a considerable number of French and foreign delegates had answered his call. The official delegates numbered forty-two, and were divided by nationalities as follows:

Delegates of France. - Mr. Latière.

Delegates of Spain.. - MM. Manuel Priego, président ; J. Viedma, A. Ruiz Fernandez, Juan Calmarza, Luca de Ferra, Manuel Alva Romero, Carlos Alve Serrano, Exe. Sr D. Antonio Zurita Vera, Francesco- Munoz Garcia-Crego. Ricardo Bajo, Don Diego Heredero, Don Pedro de Solis y Desmaissières, Don Antonio Cruz Valero, Don Manuel Alvaro, Don Emiliano Va-cas Garcia, Don José Ôvardo Montero de Espinosa, Don Juan GomezCaneda, Don Fabian Sozatio Beyes, Don José Gan. Roldan, Don José Alcalé Espinosa.

Delegates of Italy. - MM. Professeur Petri, Princ. Ludovico Chigi, D' Mario Solarj, D' Giulio Merciai, Ing. Alessandro di Pasquale.

Delegates of the International institute Agriculture of Rome. - MM. Louis Dop, Francisco Bilbao.

Delegates of Greece. - Mr. Constantin Isaakidès.

Delegates of Morocco. - MM. Bey Rozet, Noelinger (Charles-Fernand).

Delegates of the State of Syria. - Mr. Hallaja (Raphaël).

Delegates of Algeria. - MM. Videt, Brichei, Husson.

In the French Companies Hotel, on the Avenue de Paris, the Commisariat General had installed an office where the congressmen could get information concerning the housing reserved for them in the best hotels of the town, the program of the work entrusted to several sections, and a plan of various excursions organized in the Regency.

Because this event did not concern only the study of technology matters discussed by professors or relevant members in the rooms of the Congress, but also and especially the examination of all the phases of the problem in the varied areas where it presents itself, it is for this reason that after the work undertaken in Tunis, the congressmen were invited to go successively to Bizerte, Cape Bon, Sousse and finally Sfax where they could contemplate one of the jewels of which the Protectorate is proud: the immense forest of olive-trees which, aligns itself everywhere around Sfax, to a distance of almost 70 kilometers inland, the greenery of its branches loaded with fruits.

It is the marvellous development of this crop, thanks to the initiative of the government of the Protectorate that affirms to underline the Resident General in his speech at the opening of the Congress.

The whole Assembly made a cordial ovation to the Resident General who called then on Mr. Gounol, president of the Chamber of Agriculture of the North; M. Ventre, president of the French Chamber of Commerce of Tunis; Si Mohammed Chenik, president of the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Dop, vice-president of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome; Mr. Raybaud, vice-president of the National Company of Oleiculture of France, and finally MM. Pétri, delegate of Italy; Manuel Priego, delegate of Spain, and

Isakidès, delegate of Greece. The foreign congressmen expressed, with the names of the countries that they represent, their full recognition to the organization Committee for the interest and the solicitude of which they were the object since their arrival in Tunis. This solemn inaugural meeting, which proceeded at the municipal Theatre, was followed with interest by all the personalities that count in Tunis, from the administrative, military, trading, agricultural and industrial fields.

The Congress included three sections: olive-growing production and industry, trade of oils and preserving of olives. This last question is of the most delicate difficulty which arises today in the producer or importing countries, understanding the mixture of olive oils with oils from another source.

This country is concerned by competition that has with Tunisian oil, in Tunisia itself, from the oil of imported seed. It is considered that olive oil of the first quality remains a luxury article that can not compete with oil seeds infinitely less expensive. Today, in Tunisia, manufacturing tends to improve from day to day to reach a degree of perfection unknown before. As almost everywhere, in the Sahel or the area of Sfax, the antique indigenous oil presses give way to factories equipped with all the modern tools. The Regency therefore has the means and the material necessary to manufacture an oil of choice and to export the very best quality of these oils must be the subject of its concerns.

The work of the Congress, begun in Tunis within the Commissions which sat

laboriously in the rooms of the French Company Hotel, was moved, from October 31, to a marvellous situation, that of the immense orchard that is the almost-island of Cap Bon. The temperature was lenient and it was in the middle of the acclamations of the indigenous population, massed on the route, that the congressmen made their entry into the small town of Nabeul. The standards – hanging from zaouias and flapping in the wind forming a beribboned and multicoloured hedge, while young Moslems danced in front of the procession shouting cries of welcome. In turn, the gardens of Menzel-bou-Zell'a, the orange groves of Hammamet received a visit from the congressmen. At Sousse, the reception was most cordial. The city was entirely rejoicing to honor the guests, and the Municipality received them in the grand audience room where all the authorities of the city were gathered. An interesting and documented visit to the oil mills and soap factories of the Sahel took place in the afternoon.

The day of November 2 was also well filled; the caravan moved towards Monaslir and Mahdia, passing through the forest of the Sahel in which the olive-trees, though planted and cultivated differently from that of Sfax, are a no less beautiful venue. Last of all Sfax reserved for its guests an imposing reception; in addition to the work which will proceed in that city, on Sunday a visit to the Touili-Cheridi geodesic point will take place.

Photographs, Rrami.