

2084

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

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10000/109/479

MONTHLY REP
AUG. - OCT. 194

2085

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

10000/109/479

MONTHLY REPORT, BRIGA & TENDA
AUG. - OCT. 1946

Ex Comm. 12.

Monthly Report on Duga and Lende
is at 7-11. Passages of interest
have been marked. The Ex. Comm.
has seen both appendices. 1-3.

Am I to quote any passages from
App. B in the monthly report?

D. M. C. M. 22/8 H.S. 11/8

13.

Mention the memorandum from the Geologists

& a very short summary of its details. No more.

H.S. 24/8 H.S. 11/8

Belgium

18.

Monthly Report from Geo. Kuno is at
folios 14-17. Passages of interest have
been marked.

D. M. C. M. 5/9 H.S. 1822

19.

French Representative to see D.S. 24/8 D. M. C. M.

See 1/2 Gr. Ref. H.S.

Ex Comm.

26.

Please see folios 21-25 for info.
Passages of interest have been
marked.

D. M. C. M. 14/11 H.S. 14/11

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Am I to quote any passages from
app. B in the monthly report?

D. MCM. 22/8 H. 11/8

13.

Mention the memorandum from the President
as a very short summary of the details. No more.

D. MCM. 24/8 H. 11/8

18. Monthly report from zero bundle is at
folios 14-17. Passages of interest have
been marked.

D. MCM. 5/9 H. 11/8

19. French Representative to see
see in Gr. Ret. H.

26. Please see folios 21-25 for info.
Passages of interest have been
marked.

D. MCM. 14/11 H. 11/11

27.

28. I do know how these off. was came to establish
themselves at Cuneo Province L.O's. However
it is marked ind. M. C. B. H. 15/11

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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13.016

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A L L I E D C O M M I S S I O N L I A I S O N

C U N E O - P R O V I N C E

" P I E M O N T E "

M O N T H L Y R E P O R T

O C T O B E R 1946

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON

CUNEO - PROVINCE

"PIEMONTE"

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1945

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Lu Mi 26

(g/Coma McM)

11/18/45
H. J.

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23
GENERAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

The order to close this Unit was received, and the information passed to the local authorities at the beginning of this month. The news quickly spread to the inhabitants of BRIGA and VENDA, resulting in it being used as the basis of several rumours regarding the transfer of the territory to France. It was the cause of considerable disquiet and misgiving among the Italian element, as they had the feeling that they were being "abandoned". The result as far as the French were concerned was reversed.

A total of 200 families have applied to be transferred to Italy, and very few are natives of the Region. They consist mainly of the following categories:-

- (a) State employees
- (b) Railway employees
- (c) Ex-employees of A.P.I. (A chemical factory in S. Dalmazzo which was closed approximately 6 months ago)
- (d) Workmen employed by building firms, operating on Public Works and Construction
- (e) Small shopkeepers, and
- (f) Timber men and sawmill hands.

The majority of these people are unemployed at the moment, and through their elected committee have forwarded a demand to the Prefect of Cuneo, with a copy to Sig. De GASPERI and other Ministers, asking the Prefect to arrange free transport to Italy and payment of compensation as is reported, to have been arranged for the evacuation of POLA and other parts of VENEZIA GIULIA. The Prefect is dealing with the matter, but as yet, no decision or action can be taken owing to him not having received instructions or information of any kind from ROME, and; therefore, no information or replies have been given to the queries put forward by the local inhabitants. This is also a source of anxiety for those concerned, as the people of social standing with financial interests in that area are afraid that they will not have sufficient time to make any arrangements which may be necessary.

In the majority of cases, the people concerned have found employment, or made satisfactory arrangements in Italy, and it would be much better if they were assisted to evacuate now; this would achieve the effect of keeping the unemployed to a minimum, and, if not carried out during the next six weeks may prove impossible until after the winter, owing to the heavy snow-falls.

Local merchants and landowners have all decided to remain, as there is no guarantee that the Italian Government will pay any compensation for the property which is handed to FRANCE.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY.

A total of 200 families have applied to be transferred to Italy, and very few are natives of the Region. They consist mainly of the following categories:-

- (a) State employees
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- (c) Ex-employees of A.P.I. (A chemical factory in S. Dalmazzo which was closed approximately 5 months ago)
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B. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Five men who are charged under 272 Cod. Pen. for having written pro-French slogans in TENDA, on July 1st 1945, come up for trial on November 11th 1945.

A considerable time has elapsed since this incident took place, and I have had a conversation with the Prefect of CUNEO on the subject, and he is in complete agreement with the views that

22
PUBLIC SAFE (Continued).

I expressed. I stated that although the authorities had every legal right to act as they did, and at the time, it was undoubtedly better to take a strong line against any movement which might have grown sufficiently to cause a breach of the peace; the circumstances had now changed, and I thought there was very little to be gained, in fact, they would probably lose if they continued to implement the law to the full in this particular case. It was also much better that the pro-French element should not have what they thought was an injustice to present to the Commission, which will come to make the final economic arrangements for the transfer of the territory.

It was eventually decided by the Prefect and the Questore, that action would be taken to ensure that if the men were found "guilty", they would not receive a sentence or be ordered to pay a fine.

LABOUR.

Nothing outstanding to report. There has been a slight increase in employment, owing to the reduction in Public Works.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

All the bridges on the GUNDO - TENDA road, have now been completed, and the tunnel was finished at the beginning of the month. Work is still in progress repairing the railway tunnel, and the repair of two railway bridges between GUNDO and TENDA, has commenced.

The road bridge at BRIGA, has been completed, and the opening ceremony is to take place on November 3rd, to which the ACLO and numerous Italian Officials from GUNDO and TURIH, have been invited. Unfortunately, the ACLO had previously accepted only invitation to attend a ceremony commemorating the death of Partisans of "R" Division, at GENOSA di Pésio, and will, therefore, be unable to attend.

ECONOMICS.

The maximum amount of wood is being transported to ITALY, but, owing to the transport being limited, to road, it is not in the same proportion as in previous years. Wood in FRANCE, is realising half the price of that sold in ITALY, and that is the reason why timber merchants are eager to transfer as much timber as possible. Before the frontier moves further West. The timber-merchants realise, that when the territory passes to ITALY, they will be bound to have a decrease in wages, and, as the cost of living in FRANCE is equally as high as that prevailing in ITALY, they all intend to leave the area and find work in ITALY.

Several rich Italians who are afraid that they will lose on

2094

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Several rich Italians who are afraid that they will lose on the exchange when the lira is devalued, are negotiating, and have bought property in TENDA with the intention of realising Francos after the change-over.

The Carabinieri report that 8,000 litres of Vermuth have passed the road-block at LIMONE, this month, en route for TENDA for the same reason.

ECONOMICS (Continued).

There is a considerable shortage of butter in the area, and a consequent rise in price from 750 Lire per Kg. to 1050 Lire per Kg. This is accounted for by the fact that all the cows previously in the mountains, have been taken back to the valley of Piemonte, and what butter there is in the district, is going over the frontier to FRANCE.

F. DISPLACED PERSONS.

NIL.

G. TRANSPORT - COMMUNICATIONS.

Position unchanged.

H. LEGAL.

NIL.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Below is a list of people effected of disease in Piemonte Region, for information:-

PROVINCE.	Scarlet-Fever	Diphtheria	Typhus	Tuberculosis
Asti	3	10	12	-
Cuneo	-	20	52	1
Novara	1	17	7	-
Turin	60	16	25	53
Vercelli	7	23	20	3
TOTALS:-	71	86	116	57

1 Nov 46.
TWT/JBS.

Copy to:-

M. J. Lammock
E.W. LAMMOCK,
Major, R.A.,
A.C., Liaison Officer,
CANADA and BRIGA.

1817

G.S.I., 3 District (Northern Detachment),
c/o 427 F.S.S., G.M.F.

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M/ P. Danneberg
P.W. DANNEBERG,
Major, R.A.,
A.C., Liaison Officer,
TIMDA and BRIGA.

1 Nov 46.
RWT/JBS.

Copy to:-

1817

G.S.I., 3 District (Northern Detachment),
c/o 427 P.S.S., C.M.F.

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON

CUNEO - PROVINCE

"PIEMONTE"

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 1946

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See M-18

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ALLIED COMMISSION LIAISON

CUNEO - PROVINCE

"PIEMONTE"

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 1946

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(5 copies)

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000 31st August 1948 000

15
A. POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation remains quiet in the Upper Roya Valley and the people appear to be resigned to accept without question, the decisions made at Paris regarding the boundaries of France and Italy. According to the local authorities it is not even considered probable that any breach of the peace will arise on the publication of the Paris decisions. As the announcement in the papers that the territory of Terre di Caccia and S. Bernardo, together with other parts in the North will be given to France, has been accepted without comment, it would appear probable that the opinion of the local authorities is correct.

It has been reported that on the night of August 22/23, leaflets were distributed in Turin asking the people of Piemonte to take an active interest in the ultimate fate of TENDA and BRIGA, but no action has been effected in the district.

Although it was first thought that the Partisan movement throughout N. Italy would effect the situation in the TENDA - BRIGA area, nothing materialised, and the Partisan activities has not effected this area.

No prominent people have visited this area in their official capacity during the month of August, and the memorandum which ~~GENERAL~~ LOMBARDI forwarded to Rome has not received any acknowledgement to date.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY.

The position remains unchanged, with no trouble to report regarding Public Order.

C. LABOUR.

There has been a reduction in the unemployment figure this month owing to the "lavender picking" season, but, as this finishes within the next 10 days, there will be a return to the previous months' total.

D. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

The work on the road tunnel, the road bends leading to the tunnel and the bridges, has not yet been completed, but has reached the stage where it does not handicap the movement of traffic.

The railway tunnel repairs are still in progress and will not be finished until November. The threatened action by drivers and timber workers mentioned in last month's report, did not take place, as it would appear a logical sequence of events to repair the railway tunnel on completion of the repairs to the road tunnel. The firm SOGNO, who are carrying out the repairs to the railway tunnel, work 24 hours a day in three shifts and appear to be carrying out the work as quickly as possible. The result of the closing of the railway tunnel, is

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It has been reported that on the night of August 28/23, leaflets were distributed in Turin asking the people of Piemonte to take an active interest in the ultimate fate of TENDA and BRIGA, but no action has been effected in the district.

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D. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES (Continued).

from 150 c.met. to 100 c.met. The French Liaison Officer reported that a number of empty barracks situated in the mountains were being stripped of roofing material. The matter was taken up with Generale LOMBARDI, who is taking the necessary action to ensure that the road block at LIMONE prevents any further transport of these building materials. Action is also being taken by the Carabinieri against the people who stole the missing material.

E. ECONOMICS.

(?)

Cost of living is mounting in conjunction, add for the same reasons existing in Italy as a whole.

F. DISPLACED PERSONS.

NIL.

G. TRANSPORT - COMMUNICATION.

Position remains the same.

H. LEGAL.

NIL.

W. Tanno

F.W. TANNOCK,
Major, R.A.,
A.C., Liaison Officer,
TENDA and BRIGA.

FWE/JBS.

Copy to:-

G.S.I., 3 District (Northern Detachment),
c/o 422 F.S.S., CHF.

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CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 22 1946

ALLIED COMMISSION (LIAISON)

CUNEO PROVINCEPIEMONTE

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

See 81-12-13

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ALLIED COMMISSION (LIAISON)

CUNEO PROVINCEPIEMONTE

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 1946

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See 77-12-13

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P.A. 7/12/46
J. A. J.

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9
A. POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation in the Upper Roya Valley remains unchanged; the majority of people have apparently recovered from the shock administered by the announcement of the Foreign Ministers' decision (and it undoubtedly was a shock - practically everyone expected a result favourable to Italy) and, for no apparent reason, there is a general feeling of optimism regarding the possibility of a reversal of the decision at the Peace Conference. The energetic and enthusiastic efforts of the wall writers of Briga have been discontinued recently, thereby ending the silent battle with the Carabinieri who, each morning, went out to erase the previous night's work only to find the next day that fresh slogans had appeared - often on the freshly painted space provided by their attempts at obliteration. At Briga, the slogans were largely pro-Italian; at Tenda, they were mainly pro-French and the only arrests made, it will be recalled, were at Tenda (referred to in previous monthly reports).

There have been no incidents of any kind during the month and only two meetings have taken place which might be regarded as demonstrations. One was held at San Dalmazzo on Sunday, 21st July, 1946, and addresses were given by the On. BRUSASCA, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Conte Alberto di Briga, and an Italian Captain who had been a partisan leader. Conte Alberto read two telegrams to the meeting - one for dispatch to the Big Four (translated copy at Appendix "A" of this report) and the other to the Italian Government.

The second meeting was the occasion of a Mass, celebrated on Mt. SACCARELLO by the Bishop of Ventimiglia, and attended by a large crowd. Speeches were made regarding the Italian character of ~~the~~ Tenda and Briga and a telegram addressed to the Prime Minister was read to the meeting.

During the early part of the month, General LOMBARDI Giacomo was appointed Commissario Prefettizio del Comune at Tenda, and the Sindaco, DUREO, was removed from office. The General has issued a memorandum setting out his views on a satisfactory solution to France and Italy of the Upper Roya Valley problem, and a copy was sent to the Executive Commissioner, on 8th August (further copy attached hereto as Appendix "B"). The General has made an excellent impression during his short period of office, and his appointment is further proof of the efforts the Italian authorities are making to maintain calm and discipline in the area whilst, at the same time, taking all possible steps to protect Italian interests.

Since the elections there has been little interest in party politics in the valley, but a strong point is still made of the large percentage of people who went to the polls at that time; thereby, it is claimed, demonstrating the Italian sentiments of the population.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY.

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B. PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Carabinieri in the zone number 63 all ranks, and are stationed as follows:-

San Dalmazzo di Tenda - A Maresciallo Maggiore and 33 men (seven of whom are engaged on the Frontier block post).

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B. PUBLIC SAFETY (continued).

Tenda	-	A Maresciallo and 11 men
Briga	-	A Brigadiere and 7 men
Miniera	-	A Brigadiere and 8 men

The Lieutenant in charge of the Tenenza which includes these stations is situated at Borgo San Dalmazzo (on the Cuneo side of the Tenda tunnel), but the Carabinieri have appointed a Lieut. RAGO as Liaison Officer at Tenda and he maintains contact with the British and French L.O's.

Also stationed at San Dalmazzo di Tenda is the Vice-Questore of Cuneo who has 8 Public Safety agents engaged in frontier control.

There is a Tenente of the Guardia di Finanza at San Dalmazzo and he has 40 men stationed throughout the Valley.

The Carabinieri are in a satisfactory situation as far as automatic arms are concerned, and there is gradual improvement with regard to uniform and boots; their only means of transport is the jeep allotted to the Carabinieri Liaison Officer.

Public Order in the valley remains very good.

C. LABOUR.

There is some unemployment, mainly amongst returned prisoners of war, discharged soldiers and men who have returned from forced labour abroad. It is rather difficult to find work for these men as the trades in the valley are highly specialised, e.g., timber ^{cutting} pulling, hydro-electric work etc. The Commissario is trying to persuade the contractors engaged on public works to absorb as many local men as possible but he states his biggest problem is with ex-partisans who did no work for a long time and now consider that they should be found especially good jobs and should not be expected to work in humble capacities.

D. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Work on the road tunnel connecting Tenda with Limone is almost completed and the tunnel has been re-opened to traffic. Work on the road bends leading up to the tunnel and on two road bridges (one at either end of the tunnel) is being carried out very quickly and it is hoped to have all the repairs and re-building finished by the end of August.

The railway tunnel (which was used for road traffic of all kinds prior to the re-opening of the road tunnel) has been closed. This has given rise to considerable discontent amongst the people engaged in the timber industry, and road haulage, as many of the very large trucks and trailers used to carry wood from the valley can pass through the railway tunnel but cannot negotiate the ^{pin} bends leading to the road tunnel. The result is, that the recent large removal of timber from the valley has, of necessity, been decreased. No official reason has been given for closing the tunnel and many rumours are rife - that the mines most credence is

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There is some unemployment, mainly amongst returned prisoners of war, discharged soldiers and men who have returned from forced labour abroad. It is rather difficult to find work for these men as the trades in the valley are highly specialised, e.g., timber ^{cutting} ~~pulling~~, hydro-electric work etc. The Commissario is trying to persuade the contractors engaged on public works to absorb as many local men as possible but he states his biggest problem is with ex-partisans who did no work for a long time and now consider that they should be found especially good jobs and should not be expected to work in humble capacities.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Work on the road tunnel connecting Tenda with Limone is almost completed and the tunnel has been re-opened to traffic. Work on the road bends leading up to the tunnel and on two road bridges (one at either end of the tunnel) is being carried out very quickly and it is hoped to have all the repairs and re-building finished by the end of August.

The railway tunnel (which was used for road traffic of all kinds prior to the re-opening of the road tunnel) has been closed. This has given rise to considerable discontent amongst the people engaged in the timber industry, and road haulage, as many of the very large trucks and trailers used to carry wood from the valley can pass through the railway tunnel but cannot negotiate the ^{pin} ~~pin~~ bends leading to the road tunnel. The result is, that the recent large removal of timber from the valley has, of necessity, been decreased. No official reason has been given for closing the tunnel and many rumours are rife - the one given most credence is that SOGNO, the engineer in charge of the repair work to the tunnels, has been bribed by the French with the object of preventing further wholesale removal of timber before the area passes to France. The Carabinieri are rather perturbed as drivers and timber workers are threatening to take action; application has been made

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D. PUBLIC WORKS A. UTILITIES. (Continued).

through CC.RR headquarters to the Genio Civile for the official reason for closing the tunnel. Generale LOMBARDI, on this subject, states that he has been informed that the streams in the mountain over the tunnel have caused an earth movement and it is considered necessary to completely rebuild the tunnel in a manner similar to the London Underground Railway. He is not satisfied with the situation and has contacted Minister ROMITA personally, with a request that experts be sent from Rome to make an independent examination as soon as possible.

The rebuilding of two bridges near Briga (including the one across the Roya River) has commenced and it is anticipated that they will both be finished by the end of September.

E. ECONOMICS.

The cost of living increases in the valley and prices generally are higher than they are in Cuneo. There are no Co-Operative Stores in Tenda and Briga; and the people are at the mercy of the shopkeepers. It is considered that some of the high prices are not justified by the additional cost of transport from Cuneo, e.g. when tomatoes in Cuneo were being sold at 8 lire a kilo they were being offered at 18 lire in Tenda. The Commissario intends to issue a Communal Order, that all items in shops must be clearly marked with a price ticket and, if a decision from Paris is long delayed, he intends to start a Co-operative at Tenda to assist the working people.

.. DISPLACED PERSONS.

Nothing to report under this heading as no problem exists in the Roya Valley.

G. TRANSPORT - COMMUNICATION.

As the railway cannot operate beyond Vernante, communication is maintained between the frontier, Briga, Tenda, San Dalmazzo and the railhead by means of trucks owned by the State Railways, operating as couriers.

There are two transport companies operating in the valley - one for the transport of timber and the other for sand used in the manufacture of glass.

H. LEGAL.

The Preture from Borgo San Dalmazzo visits Tenda periodically, and holds his court in the Municipio to save local people the difficulties of making the journey to the other side of the mountains. There appear to be no outstanding problems of a legal nature.

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W. RONNIE,
Major.,
A.C., Liaison Officer,
TENDA and BRIGA.

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WR/JBS.

Copy to:- G.S.I., 3 District (Northern Detachment), c/o 427 F.S.S, CMF.

APPENDIX "A".

The population of Tenda and Briga, and of the whole Roya Valley, who met in popular assembly, state their strong will already shown plebiscite and by the complete participation in the first democratic polls held on the 2nd day of June in the time of the reconquered liberty, to remain Italian as it always was; and reminds the representatives of the big Allied Powers of its history thousands of years old - the dialect spoken by the people - its economy that tightens it indissolubly to Piemonte and Liguria to which, ethnically and geographically it belongs, affirms that any attempt to separate it ~~it~~ from its natural background would be surely its economical decline; and, invokes passionately to be able to continue in the future as it was in the past - not the apple of discord between two near peoples but the place of useful agreement and the meeting of two daughters of the same civilisation.

(Copy of a telegram read by Conte Alberto di Briga to the meeting at San Dalmazzo, on 21st July 1946).

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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TRANSLATED COPY.

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Tenda, 5th August 1946.

SUBJECT :- Questions regarding the Commune of Tenda.

The important questions of interest regarding the Commune of Tenda that have a regional importance, and that may have a repercussion of national and international importance, are as follows:-

1) High Power Stations.

These are all in the Communal territory, and owing to there being very few k/w (which are sufficient for rendering enough power for local and private use) are only of local economical importance in a very small way.

As you know, the power of the C.I.E.L.I. Company's high power station is used both in Italy and France. In Italy, it is used in the industrial plants of Liguria, for the Ligurian Electric Railways, and very little in Piemonte.

A concession of power was made to France - the power of one generator of 8,000 k/w of the San DALMAZZO High Power Station which goes to MENTONE. Of this remarkable quantity of power, France for some time past and is still only using a part - usually less than one half, as it is possible to control on the Watt registering apparatus of the High Power Station. Therefore, half of the power on French disposal is lost.

If the High Power Stations will eventually go to France it will provoke a crisis in the industries of Liguria Region, which are already in a bad state owing to the shortage of raw materials and war damages, - it would also be a menace for the Ligurian Railways, owing to the shortage of coal which has already affected the Italian Railways.

We can say, without any exaggeration, that 250,000 labourers would suffer, if the High Power Stations do go to France.

Somebody suggested that France cannot immediately use all that great quantity of power, and so it could be sold to Italy for its industries and railways. But, this would make the Italian people very indignant, who would judge the fact of having to pay for the power of their plants very severely, especially when the industries are nearly falling owing to the consequences of the war.

On this matter, you can see that the way of an agreement would be to give a distribution of power that is sufficient to both the countries.

2) Pasturage.

The pasturage in the Communal Territory of Tenda, is of about 16,800 acres. This area is let in patches to shepherds and cowmen, natives, and to people from other zones who bring here about 10,000 cattle and sheep. Among the cowmen, there are some who hail from the communities of SALUZZO and SAVIGLIANO, and from other parts of the Province. Of the shepherds some are natives of whom some come from France. Nearly all of the herds of cattle (of which some total 100) are from Piemonte. Grazing period is from the end of May until the end of September, and

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accustomed to having for hundreds of years, and it would repercuss on the economical situation of Piemonte owing to the crop rotation system which produces very little hay. Without this pasturage, cattle would be reduced at a loss in the region and for the whole country. There would also be a loss for France, because all milk-food before being exported to France would be reduced, and probably cancelled, whilst Italy would much rather appreciate business concerns between the two countries.

So the pasturage question, which may seem of a secondary importance, may become of regional pre-eminence, so as to touch the national economy and to have international repercussions.

3) Timber.

The area of forest of high-trunked trees, is of about 14,000 acres. This wood, some of which is soft and a smaller part of which is hard, is used for building and also by carpenters.

Some of these forests were regularly transacted some years ago; some of the timber has been taken to Piemonte, but there is still quite a lot of it in the Communal territory owing to the breaking-up of roads which was done by the Germans.

The quantity still to be removed from the Tenda Communal area is, of about 880,000 cubic feet, whilst the quantity still to be removed from the Briga area is higher.

Since the opening of the tunnel, the daily cartage goes from about 3,500 to 4,200 cubic feet.

Local interests also represent regional interests on this matter, because of the terrible shortage of wood for construction use, and to all the difficulties in the reconstruction of war-damaged buildings.

If the forests were to be blocked by France for the time being, Italy will suffer a terrible loss because of the general impoverishing of the Alpine Forests done by the Germans during the past years.

Connected to this, there is the question of the rope-railways of the zone, of a total length of about 35 miles - all private property, and for that reason they cannot be requisitioned. If something will happen, the thing would have repercussions on everybody's life and on the Italian public opinion.

4) Inhabitants.

The population consists of:- Elements of definitely patriotic sentiments.
" " " pro-French sentiments.
" " " no tendency.

It is impossible to state the percentage on the proportion of the three tendencies because of the opinion not being static - even in a family it is possible to find all three tendencies.

Generally, we can consider the real Italians to be those who intend to leave the zone, who number 100 which means that there are over 100 hundred people. We do not know the exact figures for Briga, but we think that they are of about the same number. The other two tendencies represent Italian people who intend to perform illegal business, or who for reasons of having some property do not intend to leave the zone.

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There are some reasons of competition between the pro-Italians and the pro-French, and first that there is the possibility of some trouble of some importance that will be repressed by the Police Force and by the local Carabinieri Detachment.

If the zone will be annexed to France, the removal of the evacuees will take some weeks, and will be done by lorries. It will be difficult for the Italian government to provide assistance and arrangements because of the unemployment and shortage of houses. The matter will surely be one of national importance and will have a repercussion on the people which are already in a bad situation.

5) Strategical Situation.

France wants to reach the water-shed line on the border with Italy, and, if possible, to go further beyond this line on the mountain passes.

We can understand the idea regarding the Gesso Valley and the Stura Valley zone which is called the zone of the Caccie Reali, but not the high Roya Valley question, because France has already got a very vast Alpine territory and the small zone in Italian hands can only be of small importance.

Someone says that France wants to defend herself from invasion from the Balkans and from the Soviets, that could go towards the west; but anyone, even with a slight knowledge of strategy can understand that if a next war will be fought between the west and the east it will be much different from the old wars, and the Alps will not probably be taken into consideration even if forts will be built on the mountains. Take into consideration how the Maginot Line did not help France in the North.

6) Conclusion.

Besides the questions regarding the Commune of Tenda which may be the same for the Commune of Briga and which would have been considered in a much greater way, there are several others which make you understand the importance of the annexion to France of the High Roya Valley and which make you understand the national importance of the matter and the possibilities of an international repercussion.

This annexion could assume the importance of an apple of discord very grave to both countries, whilst it would be useful or much better, if an agreement could be made between the Latin countries that are joined by an historical tradition that cannot be broken in such a way, without reflecting.

The Italian intellectuals and the ~~biggest~~ ^{major} part of the people would consider it a mistake of France, if she will annex the zone completely, because knowing the Italian character of the zone that cannot be destroyed would be a reason of revenge.

What is the solution?

We can only think that the possible solution to the present situation is by making in the High Roya Valley that means the land from the pre-war border to the water-shed of the Tenda Pass, a "Zona Franca", similar to the Aosta Valley Autonomy and to pre-war administration of the town of Fiume; this, would save the Italian character of the zone and would guarantee an administrative and commercial independence that would satisfy

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all the fortifications, also on the east side of the water-shed.

Regarding the High Tower Stations, it should be possible to reach an agreement between Italy and France as to the use of power.

Pasturage and timber - we could have the same agreement that would be useful to both the countries and also to the natives.

France would benefit of the local labourers for work in her territory, and would benefit also by the temporary immigration that has already given her several advantages, on country work and on artisans' work, incrementing with clever specialists the French industrial activity.

A solution of this type would be an advantage also for the local country people, by keeping to the clauses of the 1860 treaty, according to which the goods can cross the border free of customs.

A special joint-commission can provide to reach the agreement by special conventions to assist both Italy and France, and saving the interests of the natives and of the local administration.

In this way, we will surely see a good will of the two countries to become friends; that would represent an advantage to Western Europe in an uncertain situation that will raise with the keeping to the clauses of the Peace Treaty with Italy.

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