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in from the country and come to the door with it. It is light, and you get quite a lot for your money; it used to cost about 34d for a kilogram, that is about 2½lbs. In the European part of the town there are of course many gas and electric stoves.

The European quarter is quite modern with wide streets and pavements and very good shops. At the "Magasin Général" you could buy everything. A few years ago they opened the "Monoprix," rather like our Woolworth's or McKenzie's, and they sold everything in this shop—meat, fish, clothes, cheese, butter, shoes, jewellery, etc., at prices far below those of other shops.

Cheap Tram Fares

The residential part of the town was also well served by trams and buses. Fares were not high—you could travel 4 miles for 1d. The conductors and motormen were Arabs or Italians. There were a great number of inspectors, who often got on to the same car three times. They did not "punch" the tickets but simply tore them a little. I remember once some one complained because the conductor did not speak French (he was an Italian), and it was maintained that he was under no obligation to speak French as Tunisia is not a French possession—it is a Protectorate.

I often wonder why the French fleet did not take shelter at Bizerte instead of at Oran, as there is a narrow passage to it, and the French have a large arsenal at Ferryville, on its shores. During the Great War Bizerte was used by Great Britain for reserves of fuel for the reinforcement and hospital base of the Serbian Army. In the Ferryville cemetery I have noticed in one corner many black crosses over the graves of Serbian dead.

A Wonderful Market

Tunis has a wonderful market and the Tunisian housewife does all her shopping there. The better-off Frenchwoman sends her servant to do the buying, but the rest of us used to go down early to get the day's food. The market is right in the centre of the town—a big square, partly covered in, where you get the most splendid choice of every fruit and vegetable in season—sweet, juicy oranges for as little as 5d a dozen, muscatel grapes, luscious rock and water melons, fresh dates from Tozen, to say nothing of the strawberries and cherries grown inland and the many varieties of figs. All the vegetables that are grown in New Zealand can be found there, except parsnips and kumeras, but there is a sweet potato, though it is not so nice as our native kumera.

Precautions in the Butcher's Shop

You buy eggs at so much for 4—they never cost more than 1/- a dozen, and often fall to 4½d a dozen. Fish is good and plentiful, but you never buy a lobster unless it is alive. You find, too, that the feet have always been left on skinned rabbits, otherwise you might be given cat. Butchers who sell goats' meat are not allowed to sell mutton; this is done so that you can't be made to pay for mutton when you are given goat. We

always "bargained" with the Arabs, but I know that we always paid far more than the French or Italians, who were adept at "beating them down."

In Tunis there are shops open all the time. The European shops are closed on Sundays, but you can always find what you want at the djerbiens' (an Arab grocer who sells everything). I believe the djerbiens were the wealthiest Arabs of all as they took advantage of their Arab clients when they sold olive oil and semoule (semolina) in small quantities, since the illiterate Arab could not get the price of 1/16 of a quart of oil when he knew the price of a quart only.

Most Italians, Arabs, Maltese, and Jews use condensed milk, but it is possible to get cows' milk, while some of the Italians drink goats' milk. In the summer, from June to the beginning of October, there is no rain and no pasture. The whole country is brown and dried up, save for the bright green of the vines and the greyish green of the olives. Early winter and spring are the most pleasant seasons in Tunisia.

Cheap Living for Visitors

There are always many visitors from England during the winter months. Living is cheap, and there is no real cold. I knew one man who came regularly each year; he said that he lived most comfortably in an hotel with central heating for 3/6 a day. Wages are low, so that the cost of living can never rise very high. However, in 1937 the wages went up by 10% and immediately the cost of living rose by at least 50%.

Poor Tunisia. I expect this collapse of France will hit her hard. She imported all the coal for her electricity from England, and that source is now stopped—perhaps for ever.

Cowboy Songster

HIMSELF an ex-cowboy, Carson Robison has made a study of hill-billy songs, which are really the folk songs of America. In addition to his collection of old traditional songs, he has two hundred of his own compositions to his credit. He is a Westerner and a natural musician who can read music only in the tonic sol fa. Over twenty million records of Carson Robison's songs have been sold in America, besides millions of others throughout the British Empire. He will be heard in 4YA's "Music, Mirth and Melody" session on Tuesday, August 6, at 10.3 p.m.

PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE

STATEMENT FOR JUNE, 1940

Estates of a value of £425,637 were reported and accepted for administration by the Public Trustee during the month of June, 1940. The total value of the estates and funds under administration by the Public Trustee on March 31, 1940, was £62,622,175, and the new business for the three months ended June 30 was £1,566,043.

Grants of administration made by the Court in favour of the Public Trustee numbered 123 for the month.

During the month 1,042 new wills appointing the Public Trustee executor were prepared on behalf of testators and lodged for safe custody, and 388 existing wills were revised to provide for changes desired by testators. The total number of wills now held in the Public Trust Office on behalf of living persons is 99,309.



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