

FRENCH INDO - CHINA.

FOR reference see MAP in MESS.

NOW - in Jap hands; likely to be source of strength to Japanese. It is not known how natives regard occupation. Judging by historical background it is safe to say native population have more in common with Japs than with Allies. The French were regarded as "Foreigneers"

HISTORY - from Cochinchina in the South, to Tonkin in the North, the Chinese came as conquerors & colonisers 200 years B.C.

FROM - then until 1428 it was 5 times a Chinese colony.

ONE - of first native rebellions against China led by a woman who ruled for 3 years.

THE - rebellion of 1428 established a TONKINESE fisherman whose family ruled until the end of the 18th century. This ruler united Annam, Tonkin and Cochinchina. He adopted the name of "Gia-Long" which means "Big Toe"

IN - order to hold his power against his enemies he, acting on the advice of a French Bishop, sent an embassy to Paris asking for protection. The Bishop also sent a petition to Paris, and later went himself, to point out that possession of Indo-China by the French would help balance growing political power of England in India. Gia-Long got more help than he needed, by having to cede to all of France's demands; the Bishop got a splendid tomb and a lot of streets named after him.

ALL - territory now under French rule - known as "Protectorate"

POPULATION - 20,000,000, made up as follows :-

ANAMESE	17,000,000.
CAMBODIANS	1,300,000
LAOSIANS.	1,000,000.
MIXED	500,000.
FRENCH.	10,000.

CAMBODIA:

(SEE MAP IN MESS)

PHNOM PENH - French Capital

ANCIENT - capital was ANGKOR. This is described as " the greatest collection of ruin on earth. This city was once one of the splendours of the world. It was larger than Rome in her most brilliant period. The great Angkor Temple was one of the biggest buildings of the ancient world.

CITY - reached it's zenith in the centuries 900 to 1200 A.D.

TEMPLES - discovered in 1861 by one Henri Mouhot. Not until 1991 did excavations commence.

DESTRUCTION - of the temples mainly the work of tropical trees, of which there are three types.

" THE SILK COTTON TREE " - which sends out roots thirty yards long. As the roots grow in size they undermine columns and overturn all rocks in their way.

"THE FIG TREE OF RUINS" - this tree, sown by the wind on the top of towers and walls, its roots insinuate themselves between stones in walls; in time they become as strong as steel cables and open walls from top to bottom.

THE BANYAN TREE - the roots of this tree gathers whatever rocks and other matter that lie in its way and dislodge by an embracing movement.

CAMBODIANS - have a legend that the monkeys formerly talked like men, until men made slaves of them, and set them to work; the monkeys did not like this, and as they were timid, but intelligent, they ceased to talk like men, and pretended they did not understand, so that from then on they lived in peace, working only for themselves. (Some humans have not been so clever)

CAMBODIANS - are a slow, quiet race. They lack the foresight & industry of the Chinese. Are agriculturalists on a low level. Make all their own tools, houses etc. Are what we call "lacking in ambition".

SMALLEPOX - marks of maturity. Until one is so marked one is exempted from taxes: a girl cannot marry, a youth has no claims on privileges of adulthood until so marked.

Next week : THE ANAMESE.