

The Ministry of the Interior is represented in Algeria by the Governor-General, who to some extent can be compared to the Regional Prefect in France. In addition, there are the Departments of Oran, Algiers and Constantine, each with a Prefect whose duties are similar to those in any other French Department. The Governor-General, however, has much greater powers than any similar official in France, since the special problems arising from the relationships of a mixed population of Moslems and Christians require a special adaptation of many French laws applicable in Algeria.

At one time at the turn of the century, Algeria was completely attached to France, and was to follow exactly the same administrative regime. This was soon found to be unworkable, however, since many French laws could not be applied to the Moslems -- including laws with respect to monogamy -- and a far greater degree of control was given to the local administration in Algeria, although this control remained technically in the hands of the Ministry of the Interior. Justice and education remain under the direct control of France, but in financial matters Algeria prepares its own budget, and only occasionally has to call upon French resources for a loan to balance its receipts and expenditures.

At the same time certain anomalies have arisen out of the vague system of "integration" with France at present in existence. Most of the ills are of an economic nature. Economic life remains greatly integrated through the influence that such Ministries as the Ministry of Public Works, the Ponts et Chaussées, Economie Nationale and Production Industrielle can exert through their functionaries in Algeria. At present it is the French industrialist and businessman in Algiers who resents the tutelage of France, whereas the Moslem is more and more vociferous in his demand for complete attachment to France. In the latter case, the Moslem feels that there could be no discrimination, since complete integration would mean the extension of French nationality to all inhabitants, and would give them outright control of Algeria. The European, on the other hand, asserts with considerable truth that the present status of the country prevents its industrialisation and economic development. Indeed, there is every evidence that pressure is being continually applied to prevent the establishment in Algeria of textile industries, oil refining, and all the major industries which would compete with similar industries in France. In other words, from the economic point of view, the French Government would like to consider Algeria as an economic dependency almost colonial in its status.

POPULATION

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the total population of Algeria according to the 1936 census