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CHAPTER I
EARLY HISTORY
(up to 1638)

Earliest Visitors. Only during the last three hundred years have men lived on this island. Before that time Mauritius had no inhabitants but only visitors.

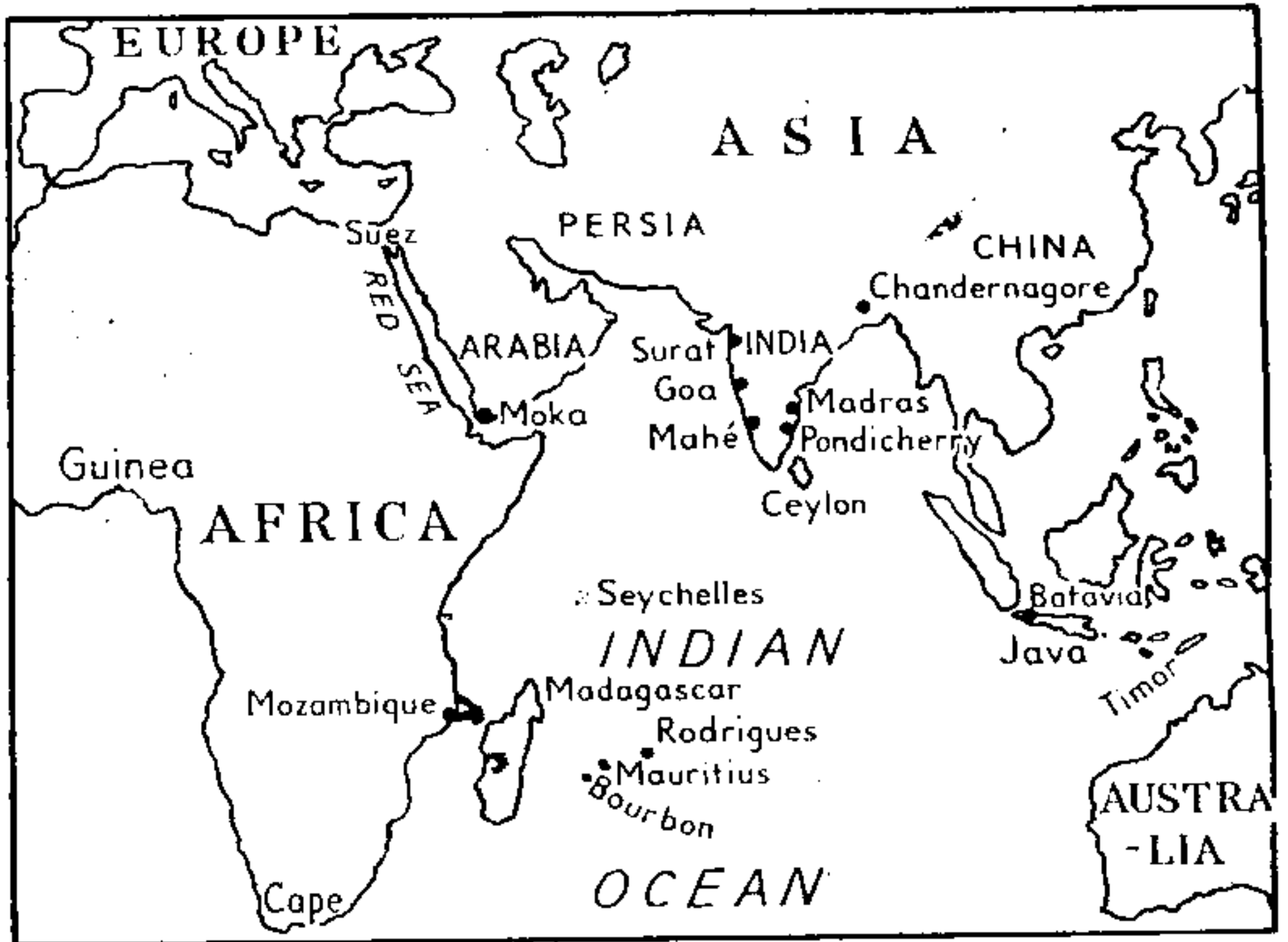
The first may have been the Phœnicians, the most adventurous seagoing people of ancient times, who sailed out of the Red Sea, down the east coast of Africa, and into the Atlantic Ocean two thousand five hundred years ago. It is known that the Phœnicians visited many lands in the Indian Ocean, and wax tablets found on the shores of Mauritius by early Dutch sailors may have been left behind by old Phœnician sailors over two thousand years before; but as the wax tablets were not preserved we cannot say whether the writing on them was Greek or Phœnician or Arabic, nor can we say who brought them to Mauritius. No others have been found in modern times.

Malays. Fifteen hundred or two thousand years ago Malay sailors from the East probably visited Mauritius. During that period many Malays emigrated to Madagascar, sailing across the Indian Ocean in long, swift canoes. As Mauritius lies on the direct route from Malaya to Madagascar it is very probable that Malays came to Mauritius, but they do not seem to have formed any settlement such as they founded in Madagascar.

Arabs. Later came the Arabs, clever seamen from the north, who sailed in strong and well-built vessels called *dhow*s. In the seventh century they discovered Madagascar, and some Arabs certainly visited Mauritius, for the island

appears on several Arab charts. Like other early visitors, the Arabs did not stay long in Mauritius. They captured birds and fish for food; they took also drinking water from the many streams flowing down from the hills of the island; but they built nothing and left nothing behind; they passed and left no traces.

The Portuguese. Not until after 1498, when Vasco da Gama sailed round the Cape of Good Hope and reached



Sketch Map of the Indian Ocean

Natal (the first European to do this) did any men from Europe come to Mauritius. They were from Portugal, which was then building up a great empire and sending its ships all over the world. The first French or English or Dutch sailors did not come till nearly 1600.

The men from Portugal came here on their way from the Cape to India. The map shows Mauritius in the middle of the Indian Ocean, half-way between the south of Africa and

the south of India. Usually the Portuguese went from port to port along the coasts of Africa and Arabia, seldom going very far away from the land. They did not know very much about the Indian Ocean, which has many small islands in it, and so did not come to Mauritius unless storms drove them there.

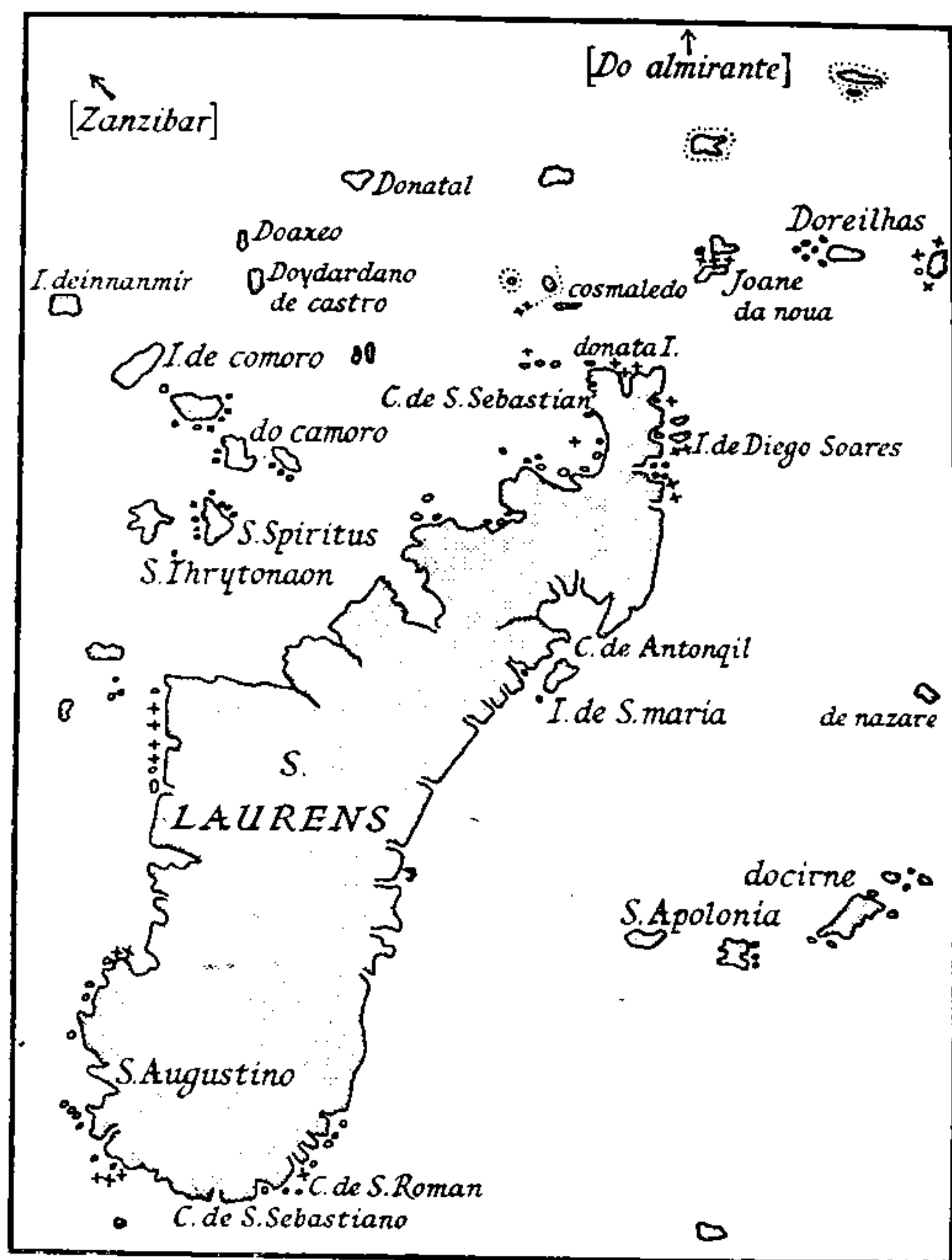
Don Pedro Mascarenhas, at some time between 1500 and 1530, is thought to have been the first Portuguese navigator to visit Mauritius, but accounts of Portuguese visits to Mauritius are not easy to obtain.

What They Left Behind. Like the Arab and Malay sailors, the Portuguese built no permanent houses here. But they brought pigs, goats, and cattle from Madagascar and left them on the island. The idea was that later they would come back and find the pigs and goats ready to be eaten. They brought also rats, though they did not plan to do this: most ships contain rats, some of which swim to land when a ship reaches harbour.

Another animal which the Portuguese brought to Mauritius was the monkey, whose flesh they were fond of eating.

The Portuguese Name for Mauritius. The Portuguese seem to have given four names to Mauritius: *Santa-Apolonia*, *Mascarenhas*, *Diego-Roiz*, *Cirne*. Of these the most usual was *Cirne*, which some writers say was the name of one of the first Portuguese ships to visit Mauritius; another theory is that *Cirne* stood for *Cisne*, the Portuguese name for *swan*, and that this name was given to Mauritius because the Portuguese described the dodo as a bird as large as a swan—but though many writers mention this theory none considers it at all likely.

Dutch, 1598: Van Warwijck. Several Dutch sailors described the island as they found it just before 1600. These Dutch sailors came here because they wished to avoid the Portuguese, who were then trying to prevent sailors



Madagascar, after a map made by Gysbert in 1599

from other European countries from trading in the Indian Ocean: they knew the Portuguese usually went round the African, Arabian, and Indian coasts; they therefore went straight across the Indian Ocean and stopped at Mauritius.

Grand Port Bay, 1598. So it was that in 1598 Dutch sailors under the command of Wybrandt Van Warwijck came to the fine bay of Grand Port, took formal possession of the island, and named it Mauritius after Maurice Van Nassau, *stathouder* or ruler of their country. They found many birds so tame that the sailors caught them in their hands and took them back to their ships for cooking and eating. They saw many fish in the streams around the coast, and some large birds which dived after the fish and ate them. These Dutch sailors had to stay some while to repair their ships damaged in storms. So they went ashore, near where Ferney now is, and made small huts. To do this they cut down branches and covered them with palm-leaves. Some of the sailors were ill when they arrived, but soon got better.

Strange Birds. There were no crocodiles, no snakes, no wolves, nor any dangerous beasts at all. Many of the birds were strange, but quite harmless and very good to eat. There were pigeons which could be killed with sticks very easily. There were grey parrots flying about in great flocks and making much noise. There were Indian crows twice as big as the parrots; their feathers were of two or three colours. There were a few geese and wild duck.

Dodo. Two birds were very strange indeed and have never been found except in Mauritius. One called the aphanapteryx had very long legs, with which it ran away from the sailors and could not be caught. The other was very fat, as large as a swan, with a twisted beak, very small wings ending in black feathers, and a round bottom with grey feathers for a tail. This bird was easy to catch, but not good to eat unless very well cooked. Later it was called

the "Dodo," perhaps from a Portuguese word meaning *stupid*; it was also called *dodaers* from two Dutch words meaning *black* and *rump*, and became famous because extinct.)

Mauritius in 1598. Some of these 1598 sailors went to see what the rest of the island was like. Trees and bushes made it hard for them to go quickly, and after three or four days all returned without having gone very far. They found the soil rocky but covered with trees and bushes. The country was very hilly and the hills so high that their tops were always in the clouds. Thick mists made it impossible sometimes to see anything. The sailors found several sorts of ebony tree, very hard and so useful for repairing their ships. One sort of palm-tree gave food, drink, and shelter: part was good for making roofs of huts, part was good for eating, and the sap of the tree made a pleasant drink. In the lonely valleys away from the coast there were very few animals. There were tortoises, however—enormous tortoises, large enough for four men to walk on and for ten to sit upon. There were also many birds and great bats. These bats had long ears and spent their time hanging down from the branches of trees.

1601: *Harmansz.* In 1601 some more Dutch sailors, under Harmansz, landed near the Morne Brabant. They caught fish and ate one which was poisonous. Then they made their way up the west coast and stayed three weeks, supposedly at Tamarin Bay. They found nobody there. From the Rempart river they got fresh water, and near the mouth of Tamarin river they caught dodos. Those of the sailors who were ill were taken on land and soon got well again.

1606: *Matelief.* In 1606 more visitors, over a thousand Dutch sailors in several ships commanded by their admiral Matelief, came to what is now Port Louis harbour. They found sea-cows, ten to fifteen feet long, very good to eat. They saw monkeys as well as many rats.

1610 and 1615: Both. In 1610 and 1615 Mauritius was visited by the Dutchman Pieter Both, who, during the four years between his two visits, did much to found the Dutch empire in the East Indies, making trading centres at several places (including Batavia) and carrying out expeditions to various islands in the East Indies; on his second visit to Mauritius, in February 1615 (during the cyclone season), his vessel was caught by a storm and wrecked in the bay called Baie du Tombeau. So that his fame and fate should not be forgotten Dutch sailors gave his name to a bay and a mountain.

What They Brought. These Dutch sailors of 1598, 1601, and 1606 not only took things from the island but also brought things to it. In the south-east, at Anse Bambou, a flat piece of ground was dug up and a fence put around it. Inside the fence were planted orange-trees, lemon-trees, peas, and beans. Cocks and hens were left behind also.

In the north-west, where Cassis church now is, cotton was planted, as well as such fruits as oranges and pineapples. Twenty-four goats and ten or twelve pigs were set free also. The sailors hoped these plants would grow and these animals multiply; then, when the sailors came back from the East Indies, they would find fruit and animals ready to be taken away.

What They Took Away. Other Dutch sailors found fine oysters, eels thick as a man's thigh, and various other things very good to eat. Other voyagers said they had opened tortoises and found inside them hundreds of eggs each as large as a tennis-ball.

Every time a ship came to Mauritius many birds were killed by the sailors; some they ate at once, others they took away with them. Many animals also were taken for food. In 1629 for example, Dutch sailors called at Grand Port and took away with them not only tortoises, partridges, dodos, pigs, fruit, and fish, but also seventy goats.

French and English Visitors. French ships and English ships also came to Mauritius. In 1599 one Frenchman was left behind and lived on coconuts and other fruits for nearly two years like a savage. Later several English ships came, and one Englishman sent a dodo home to his brother in England as a curiosity.

Another English visitor, Thomas Herbert (later made a baronet by Charles II of England), came in 1629 and wrote a book about his travels. He said Mauritius was an island paradise; he described the dodo carefully, hunted the wild hens of Mauritius with a red handkerchief, and noted many sorts of fishes and birds. What he wrote about Mauritius caused the Earl of Southampton and Charles I of England to consider taking over Mauritius as an English colony; but the English king finally did nothing, as he preferred not to quarrel with the Dutch government.

Valuable Ebony. The French and English and Dutch ships took trees also from Mauritius. They cut some down to repair their ships. They took away loads of ebony as well, the best and hardest wood, for sale in Europe. The Portuguese no longer came to Mauritius; the three rivals for the use of the island and for the possession of its fine ebony forests were thus the English, the French, and the Dutch.

CHAPTER II

THE FIRST DUTCH SETTLEMENT

1638 - 1658

Gooyer, 1638-1639. French, English, and Dutch were rivals in the Indian Ocean. French and English ships took to landing on Mauritius to cut and take away cargoes of ebony. The Dutch East India Company, founded in 1602, decided therefore to occupy Mauritius. Accordingly, in 1638 they sent twenty-five men and an *opperhoofd*, or governor, to settle there. The governor, named Gooyer, was expected to do eight things:

(a) Cut down ebony trees and send off ship-loads of them to Europe. There were great forests of ebony on the island.

(b) Find ambergris, a greyish substance produced by whales, very valuable for making perfumes, and send that also to Europe. Very little ambergris was ever found, because very few whales came near Mauritius.

(c) Grow tobacco and various foods so that his men would not always be needing food and tobacco from outside the island.

(d) Rear cattle and fowls, both for his men and for Dutch ships that might call at the island and need them. The Dutch in 1638 brought rabbits, sheep, chickens, geese, ducks, and pigeons.

(e) Explore the island and find out what minerals were in it. The Dutch found iron near Pamplemousses and Villebague, but never found any precious metals or stones.

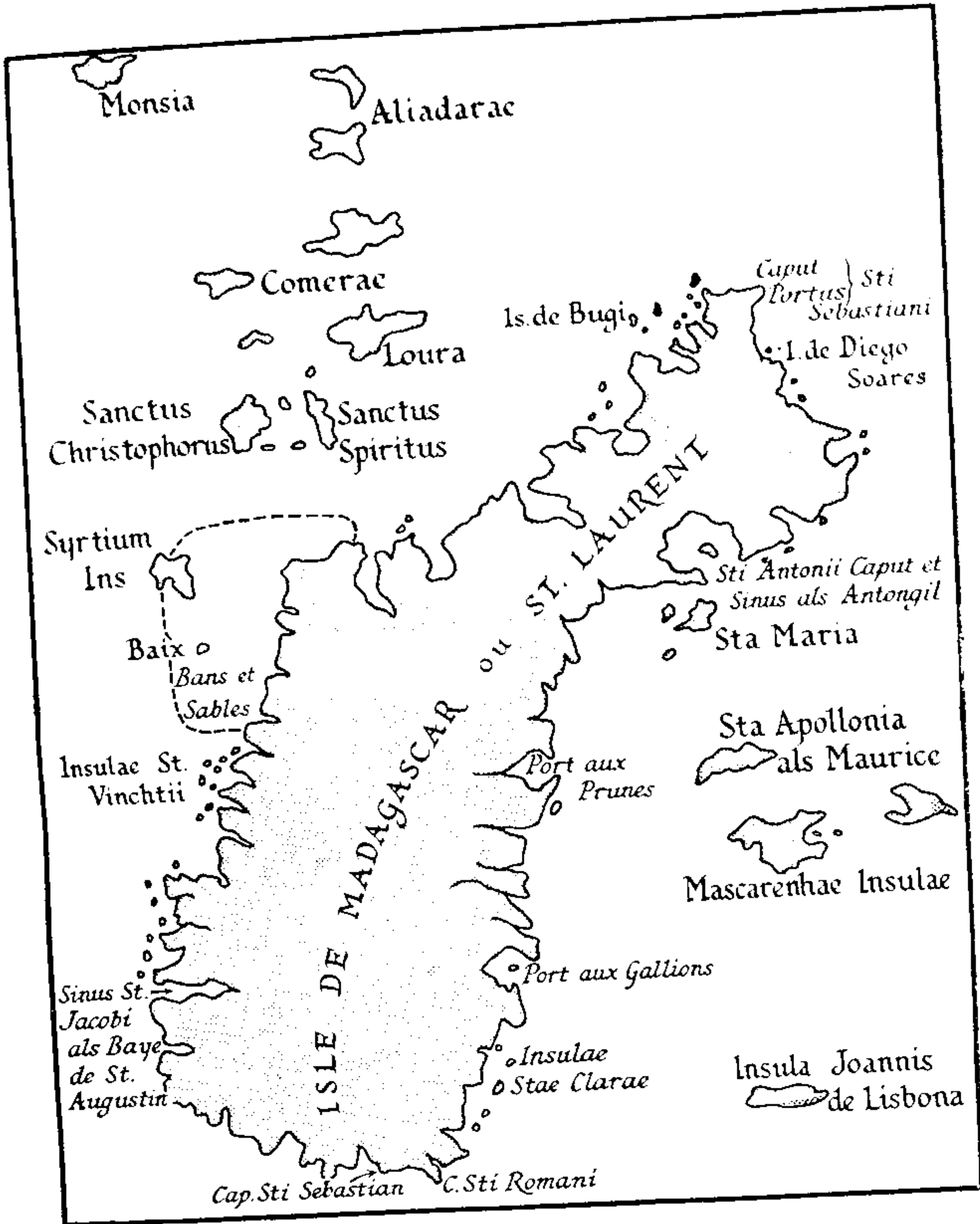
(f) Receive invalids from Batavia, Dutchmen whose health had been ruined by living in hot countries for a long time,

and help them to get better. In those days no one in Mauritius was ever ill with malaria, and Mauritius was a healthy place.

(g) Build a fort at Grand Port for his men. This fort took one month to build and was called Fort Fredrik Hendrik after the ruler of Holland at that time. Gooyer's men cut down trees and bushes, put up a fence of wood, and in the middle built a house, with leaves of palm-trees for a roof. In this fort the men lived. They brought with them some plates, two table-cloths, towels, handkerchiefs, two lamps, two wooden taps, and twenty pairs of boots. When their clothes wore out Gooyer's men sent off to Batavia for cloth to make new clothes. For food the men received fish and meat each day, with some bread, butter, and vinegar each week.

(h) Stop English and French ships from using the island any longer. Gooyer was not strong enough to do this. In 1638 for instance, just after Gooyer's party had arrived, some Frenchmen came. They also wished to settle in Mauritius. But they found the Dutch had already built their little fort at Grand Port, and so, after cutting ebony for six months, they went away again. These Frenchmen took with them bulls, goats, pigs, lemons, and pomegranates for their long voyage across the Indian Ocean. An English ship which called at the same time wished the French to join it in driving out the Dutch. But the French refused and the Dutch were left in peace.

Van der Stel, 1639-1645. In 1639, with the second governor, Van der Stel, forty invalids came. The climate of Mauritius was expected to cure them as if by magic; but twenty-three of the forty soon died, and the other seventeen went away as soon as they were well. Thus invalids (who did not work, but only doubled the amount of food needed on the island) did not help the first settlers in Mauritius very much.



Madagascar, after a map made by Samson in 1655

Much more necessary and somewhat more useful were the slaves. They were brought across from Madagascar in small ships. The voyage was painful: there was little room for them in the ships and many Malagasys died. Others, rather than go to a place they did not know and slave for men whom they had not chosen as their masters, threw themselves overboard to drown. Van der Stel in 1641 captured over a hundred Malagasys and took them to Mauritius to work with his sixty Dutch. Of these hundred slaves over fifty ran away in their first weeks on the island, and thirty-four were never captured again.

Van der Stel is also to be remembered for having brought from Java to Mauritius in 1639 its first stags, which multiplied very quickly and provided the Dutch with much fresh meat.

In 1642, when Van der Stel had been three years governor, a very famous Dutch explorer came to Mauritius. He was Tasman, who discovered parts of Australia and gave his name to Tasmania. The map shows Tasmania off the south coast of Australia; it is over thirty times as large as Mauritius. (Australia is a hundred times as large as Tasmania, and therefore more than three thousand times the size of Mauritius.) Tasman came to Grand Port harbour, but preferred to remain on his ship rather than live in the Fort. Being lively and fond of drinking, he displeased Van der Stel, who was a grave and serious man.

Nevertheless, after Tasman had made a rough map of Mauritius Van der Stel added details and sent the map home to Holland. All the names are in Dutch, which is a language very much like German and somewhat like English. In the centre of the island mountains and trees are marked, but no names are given to the mountains, and some are put in the wrong places. None of the Savanne mountains is marked, while between Port Louis and Grand' Baie, where many mountains are marked, there are in fact only a few small hills.

Most of the places named are in the south-east, because that was the part of the island which Tasman and Van der Stel knew best. They were more interested in the bays and river-mouths of the coast than in the centre of the island. The map is therefore not very accurate.

In the north of the island Grand' Baie is in the right place, and is called "de Bogt zonder einde" (the Bay without an end). The island now called Coin de Mire is called "de Leest" (the Vamp, l'Empeigne) because it looked to the Dutch sailors just like the upper part of a shoe. Down the west coast there are some bays and rivers marked. Some of them are really in the south of Mauritius. The names of all have changed except two: De Diepe Rivier (Deep River, Rivière Profonde), and De Zwarte Rivier (Black River, Rivière Noire).

Around Grand Port many places are named, including Both's Berg and Both's Baay, a hill and a bay near de Groote Rivier (Grand River South East), but even here there is one grave mistake: Vissers Eyland (Fishers' Island, Ile aux Pêcheurs, now called Ile aux Aigrettes) in Grand Port harbour is shown as the most southerly point of Mauritius; Souillac, which is the real south of Mauritius, is shown half-way up the west coast, where Tamarin should appear.

Van der Meersch, 1645-1648. In 1645 Van der Stel was succeeded as governor by Van der Meersch, and next year was killed fighting in Ceylon. Van der Meersch paid several visits to Madagascar to capture slaves, and continued the cutting of ebony. In 1644, when there was too little food available, Van der Stel had sent many men back to Batavia; thus Van der Meersch had not so many ebony cutters as Van der Stel. Until 1645 there were no roads in Mauritius, only paths. But then, to make it easy to bring ebony trees down from the forests of Flacq to the seashore, three miles of road were made near Trou d'Eau Douce.

Por, 1648-1653. Three years later, in 1648, Por became governor. Very many ebony trees were cut down, until in 1650 the government at Batavia sent orders that only four hundred trees were to be cut down in Mauritius each year. At first, when ebony was scarce in Europe, men had paid the Dutch high prices for it. But when much ebony was sent and it became common, the price of it went down. In 1650, therefore, the Dutch in Mauritius were ordered to cut less ebony and to do other work instead.

Shortly afterwards Batavia sent cuttings of sugar-cane to Mauritius for planting. This was first suggested in 1641 by the governor-general of Batavia. The first canes grew well, but when the canes were fully grown they were almost all eaten by rats.

By 1648 runaway slaves were so numerous and were causing so much trouble that Governor Por sent a party of fifteen men after them. This party killed one man, caught four women and one baby. The rest of the runaways escaped; they lived in the centre of the island, where the Dutch could not easily follow them.

Of the many slaves who escaped from their Dutch masters, some made their way to what is now Port Louis, and got away from the island as sailors in English or French boats which used the harbour. Some runaways died in the forest, but many of them made themselves comfortable in lonely parts of Savanne.

Some of the ships that came to the island carried several hundred men; and so the presence of a single ship for a few days often doubled and trebled the population of Mauritius. From time to time ships left some of their sailors behind; other sailors refused to go back to their ships and preferred to live a free life in the forests with the runaway slaves.

The Dutch had convicts as well as slaves to work for them. These were sent from Batavia to cut ebony. They lived on

biscuits, water, and a little salt fish—that was all. There were perhaps ten convicts on the island at a time. When they were freed some remained and became planters. In 1655, two years after Por's death, one freed convict had a family or household of sixteen persons: he must have been very content indeed, and a very exceptional ex-convict.

Woutbeek and de Jongh, 1653-1656. After four years as governor, Por asked that his chief assistant, Woutbeek, should succeed him. The government at Batavia replied by sending another man, de Jongh, who was to be governor if Por agreed. Por died before choosing between de Jongh and Woutbeek, who then decided to govern together; the government at Batavia did not agree to this and caused Woutbeek to resign, de Jongh thus becoming governor alone.

By 1655 the island still contained fewer than two hundred people; in that year a ship from Batavia brought twelve more invalids and three Chinese convicts. There were then a hundred planters who had slaves to work for them. The planters asked again and again for more slaves, but the Company feared that if there were more slaves than planters, the slaves might rebel. So the planters had to keep on working.

At this time there were sixty Company employees. Some of them were running shops and drinking-houses. This work should have been left to private persons, as private persons had to earn their living, whereas the employees were paid by the Company.

Each day there was hunting and fishing, but even so people had little to eat. By 1655 cattle had fled away from the coast into the forests and valleys of the centre of the island. Planters and employees were not very successful in growing food. Not only did they not work hard enough, but rats often ate up the crops. Also there were storms which did great damage and sometimes no crops grew because no rain

fell for several weeks. Most of the planters and employees lived either around Grand Port Bay or in the districts now called Flacq and Trou d'Eau Douce.

Evertz, 1656-1658. From 1656 to 1658 Evertz was governor, but he had only twenty employees under him instead of sixty. This was because the Dutch had from 1652 a settlement at the Cape as well as at Batavia; they no longer thought Mauritius valuable or important; they considered it gave more trouble than it was worth. So in 1658 they left the island.

Before the Dutch went they destroyed their plantations, buildings, fort, boats, and all things which might be useful to English or French men who might decide to occupy Mauritius after the Dutch had abandoned it; the Dutch did not wish to use Mauritius themselves, but did not intend to help other persons to use it. Their first settlement of Mauritius thus lasted only twenty years.

CHAPTER III

THE SECOND DUTCH SETTLEMENT, I

1664 – 1692

Visitors of 1661. Three years later, in 1661, some Dutch sailors, from their wrecked ship *Arnhem*, were forced by storms to come to Mauritius—and they enjoyed themselves. In the hollows of rocks on the seashore they found salt, and from certain palm-trees made wine easily. They found also fish, oysters, tortoises, and wild cattle.

Neither English nor French had taken over the island after the Dutch had left it. The Dutch settlers at the Cape had succeeded in their farming, and the Dutch Company now thought they might succeed at Mauritius too. So in 1664 the Dutch Company sent men to settle in Mauritius again. This time the Dutch remained for over forty years.

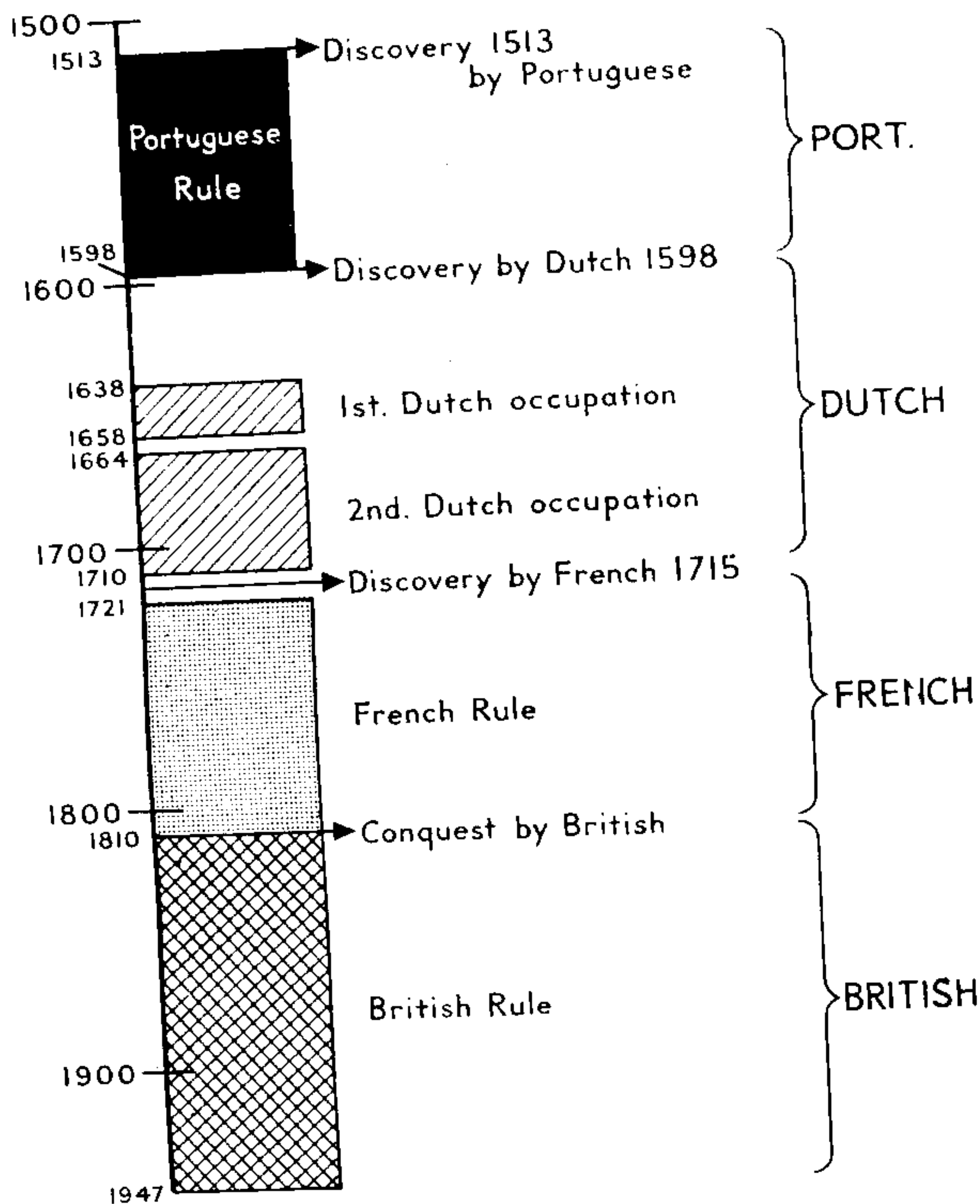
Nieuwland, 1664-1665. Just as in 1638, so in 1664, the Dutch sent first a small party to get things ready and then a larger party to colonise the island. The small party consisted of a leader, Nieuwland, and twelve men, who did little work. When Nieuwland fell ill they left him alone in a hut and retired into the woods, taking provisions with them. Some days later the larger party arrived, found Nieuwland dead in his hut, and beside him a diary explaining what had happened. The deserters were taken back to the Cape and severely punished. Another governor, named Wreeden, was then left in Mauritius.

Wreeden, 1665-1672. Under Governor Wreeden, from 1665, a new fort was built at Grand Port, and then the employees cut ebony, though not so much as before. There

were no more ebony trees near the shore at either Baie aux Tortues in the north-west or Grand Port in the south-east. So Wreeden's men worked in the forests of the north of the island as well as at Trou d'Eau Douce and Flacq. First of all they cut down trees near the sea, then trees further away. The further away from the shore the trees were, the more work the Dutch had to do and the less pleased they were. Soon they began putting the ebony trunks on wheels so that oxen might pull them along more easily.

There was less ebony-cutting and therefore more hunting and fishing. Most of the colonists hunted and fished for their food. Certain employees also were detailed to hunt and fish for the rest. At first fishermen fished from Ile aux Aigrettes, but when they found they could catch fish quite as easily at Anse Jonchée, they did so because it was much nearer the Fort. While Wreeden was governor, hunting was easy. But as years went on, hunters had to go further and further from their homes. In later years, indeed, they had often to go twenty miles in search of game and wild cattle, westward over towards where Souillac now is or northward far into the valley of Trois Ilots, towards the present Quartier Militaire.

From October 1667 to October 1669 Wreeden was out of Mauritius, answering complaints against his administration. Jan van Laar acted as governor for one year, and then Dirk Jansz Smient became governor in 1668 and tried to grow more food. There were already many fruit-trees but more were planted. The planters and employees planted also maize, corn, oats and barley, cucumber, cabbages, pumpkins, water-melons and sweet-potatoes. But rats, as in earlier years, and also grasshoppers waited till crops were nearly ripe, then ate most of them just before they were ready to be gathered. Such misfortunes gave lazy farmers an excuse for doing less work: whether they worked



Mauritius under Portuguese, Dutch, French and British

or not, they said, made not a jot of difference. While Wreeden was governor, coconut trees were planted around the Fort and at Anse Jonchée. There were already many such trees on islands off the coast, but they did not grow very well because of bushes and other plants.

Of the south and centre of the island the Dutch still made very little use. They seldom visited the high land of Savanne, and for this reason runaway slaves, as well as sailors who had left their ships, were fond of Rivière des Galets and of Baie du Cap. Plaines Wilhems remained virgin forest: the soil was covered with dense thickets and mossy trees; there were no flowers and no tall plants, we are told, but only a little grass here and there.

Of the islands around Mauritius the Dutch made some use. Ile aux Cocos in Blue Bay was used as a home for she-goats; coconut trees grew there in spite of rocks and bushes. Ile d'Ambre was also used for rearing goats, and whenever goats were scarce in Mauritius itself, the Dutch went across to Ile d'Ambre and got some. Ile Plate, far away to the north of Ile d'Ambre, was rich in edible animals. Governor Wreeden in 1672 wanted to go there in a new boat to get tortoises and sea-cows. Wreeden (who in South Africa had been a scholar and explorer, but in Mauritius had become a drunkard) insisted on setting out from Flacq in a storm and was drowned.

Telleson and Col, 1672-1673. After Wreeden's death the settlers unanimously elected Telleson, the chief wood-cutter, to be governor. He was an uneducated man and unfit to govern. After several months, during which the settlers did as they pleased, Col, an officer from the Cape, took command. Instead of ruling firmly, however, he persuaded the settlers to send a petition to the Cape Government asking that they should be called back to the Cape. This petition was rejected by the Cape Government, and a new governor, Hugo, continued to rule in Mauritius.

Hugo, 1673-1677. Hugo had been a pirate on a French ship in the Red Sea. He was more energetic than most of the Dutch governors and strong enough to rule the two hundred people whom he found on the island. For instance, there was a planter who lived near the Fort. He had five young cows, a bull, and the best land around. He wanted to hunt for his food and to sell arrack. Hugo refused to let him do as he pleased and told him sternly that his job was to grow crops and rear cattle: the planter obeyed.

Animals and Food. Hugo, in 1673, found no wild geese in Mauritius, for sailors and settlers had killed them all. Very few sheep remained as dogs killed them. Dodos were even rarer; when properly cooked, dodos were fairly tasty, and so men ate them avidly.

Of hens, ducks, and cattle, on the other hand, Hugo found many. The cattle were good, but not very well looked after. The cows gave rich milk, from which butter and cheese were made. These cattle were water-buffaloes with humps on their backs, and from the humps came the best and tenderest meat. Hugo built a large park at Flacq to protect them from wild bulls.

Wild pigs also gave trouble. They were very many and somewhat dangerous; they ate not only the eggs of tortoises, so that tortoises became rare, but also very young goats. So goats were reared indoors and kept as pets until they were too strong to be attacked by wild pigs and too tough for the wild pigs to eat.

The Decrepit Fort. Hugo found the Fort (which had been built only ten years before) very unpleasant to live in. All the woodwork was rotten and a new roof had to be put on. The guns of the Fort were covered with rust and fell to pieces when they were fired. The Fort had included a carpenter's shop and a slaughter-house; but these had been allowed to fall into ruin, the carpenter did no more repairs and the remains of dead animals were left lying around

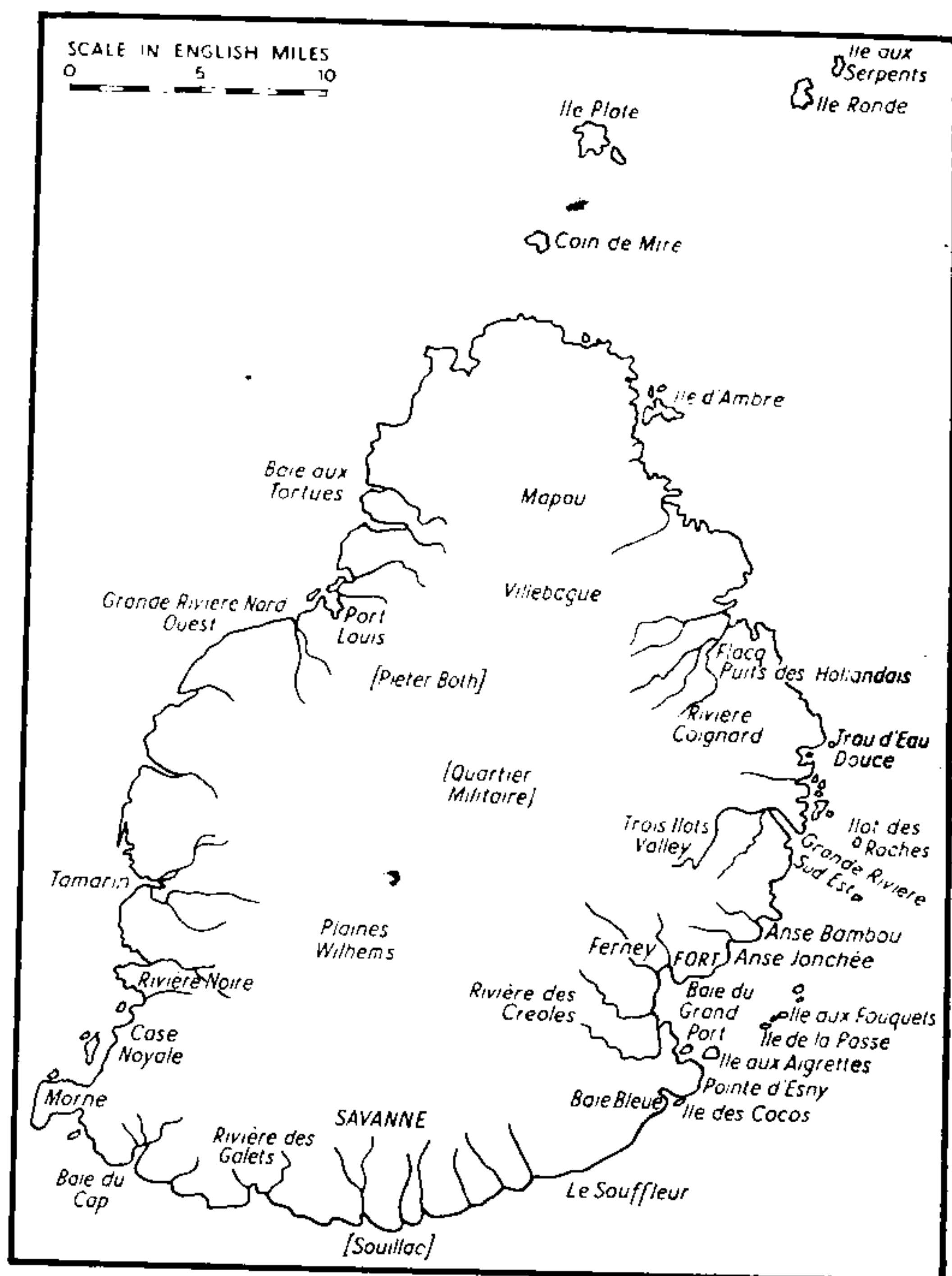
Flacq, past Trou d'Eau Douce, down the east coast to the mouth of Grand River South East. From here ships took the ebony away to Europe. In making this road Hugo's men removed great rocks and cut down three thousand large trees, mostly ebony.

At the same time the Dutch were cutting down more ebony near the modern Villebague, near Port Louis, near Grand Port in the Rivière des Creoles valley, at Baie du Cap in the south, and in the Trois Ilots valley. All these places are marked on the map of Dutch Mauritius; nowadays they are great villages with many people and houses of all sorts, but while the Dutch were here there were perhaps only one or two houses in each of these places and very few people.

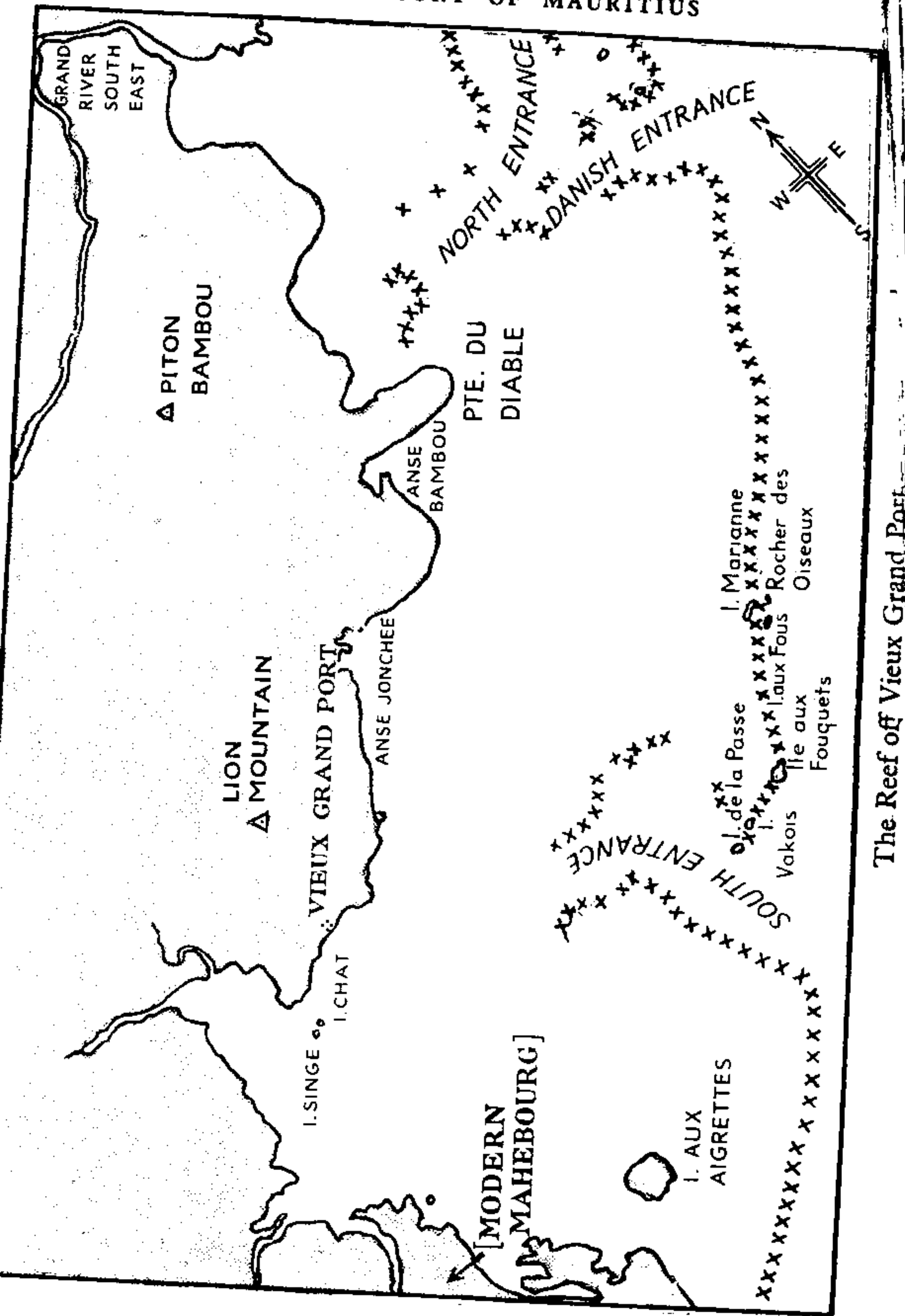
The Saw-mill. For cutting up the ebony trees into smaller pieces which could then be more easily carried to the sea-shore, several governors tried to build saw-mills driven by water. Hugo built the first in 1673, near the Fort. But when storms came the stream rose rapidly and washed the mill away. Lamotius, who became governor after Hugo, made another mill for cutting wood, but a flood ruined this also.

Hugo repaired the Fort, but it was never comfortable, and Lamotius said that whenever rain fell it came through the roof. Nevertheless the Fort was better than it had been, for in 1673 Hugo had described it as more like a park for pigs than a place for men to live in. Men slept in the Fort, and so too (till Hugo came) did cattle, dogs, sheep, and goats. Hugo, on the day he arrived, chased the animals out. They made so much noise that for the first night he had to let them in again; he did not like their smell, but he liked their noisy lamentations even less.

Lamotius, 1677-1692. Lamotius, who was governor from 1677 to 1692, complained that rats lived in the roof of the Fort and at night came down in battalions. Arsenic



Mauritius under the Dutch, with modern names of places where the Dutch were active



The Reef off Vieux Grand Port

came. They were expected to begin farming at once with slaves and land, some cows and a bull, some oxen and a cart, a plough and some other tools. Lamotius was usually able to give them the animals, but often he had no tools to give and instead they bought them from English ships that called at the island for food and fresh water.

Some planters grew sweet potatoes, from which they made arrack; another planter, Van Harmansz, had a palm distillery also for making arrack. Lamotius encouraged planters to grow vines, from which he intended to make wine or brandy; Dutch farmers at the Cape grew vines and made wine very successfully, but in Mauritius they failed because a cyclone spoilt the vines. Lamotius grew sugar-cane seriously, and with small hand-presses made a juice called *frangourin*.

Most of the planters were Dutch, but some were coloured men from Java, and there was one Englishman. The coloured men remained in Mauritius and worked on their farms patiently. But some Dutch planters would come to Mauritius for a year or two, return to the Cape or to Batavia, spread tales of how useless the governor of Mauritius was, come back to Mauritius, make more trouble and so on. For this reason planters were ordered in 1679 to stay on the island for at least fifteen years.

Oxen and Horses. Both planters and employees used oxen for drawing carts. A few fine Persian horses were at one time brought to Mauritius, but proved unfit for the heavy work of pulling ebony trees down to the seashore. There was no race-track for horses in those days and no horse-racing. So the Persian horses were quite useless and ran wild till in 1683 Lamotius had some of them shot.

CHAPTER IV

THE SECOND DUTCH SETTLEMENT, II 1692 - 1710

After Lamotius had been governor for fifteen years he was in 1692 succeeded by Deodati, who in 1703 was succeeded in his turn by the last of the Dutch governors of Mauritius, Momber Van de Velde.

Deodati, 1692-1703. Deodati was of Dutch birth but of partly Swiss-Italian descent. His first duty in 1692 was to arrest Lamotius and two other officials, who were then sent to Batavia for trial.

There Lamotius was accused of having been cruel to several colonists and of having whipped employees harshly: he had quarrelled with his chief subordinates and once, in a drunken party, had nearly killed one of them with a knife; he was accused also of having been too friendly with English visitors, receiving them with official salutes and dining on board English ships, instead of helping them as little and sending them away as soon as possible. The public prosecutor in Batavia asked that Lamotius should have his head cut off, but in 1695 he was finally condemned to spend six years in prison.

Leguat's Long Visit. Meanwhile, in Mauritius, several interesting things had been happening.

In 1693 seven Frenchmen, of whom the oldest and the leader was François Leguat, came to Mauritius from Rodrigues, where they had been living all alone since 1690. They had been sent to Rodrigues (as a small advance party) to see whether it might be settled by Protestants who had fled from France into Holland and were seeking a new home.

belonged to the King of France. He also found a negro who said he had deserted from a pirate ship (perhaps Taylor's or La Buse's) which had called a few months before. Dufougeray went on to Bourbon, and persuaded the governor to send a party of settlers to Ile de France at once so that neither pirates nor English nor Austrians should occupy it.

French Occupy Mauritius. Accordingly, on 24 December 1721, twenty men from Bourbon, commanded by an officer named Durongouet Le Toullec, arrived at Port North West, built a few huts and planted a few plants, just where the Company's garden at Port Louis is now. Some months later a larger party came, and the smaller party returned to Bourbon. They meanwhile searched the island more thoroughly than the crews of Dufresne and Dufougeray had done, pushed further inland, and in the centre found a German, Wilhelm Lechenig, living a lonely Robinson Crusoe life. There may have been other human inhabitants besides Lechenig in Mauritius in 1721, but the French did not find them. It is likely that Plaines Wilhems, where Lechenig was living, was called after him, the only district of Mauritius to bear the name of a man.

Indigo was grown in the Crèvecoeur valley where *L'Industrie* Mill now stands; cotton grew at Pamplémousses. At Pamplémousses also Labourdonnais grew many new crops, to see which grew best. Some grew well, others failed; then Labourdonnais ordered the planters to grow the crops which had grown well for him.

Salt was at first got from Madagascar, but Labourdonnais made a salt-pan at Caudan in Port Louis, and from then on the island used its own salt. At Villebague Labourdonnais had a great farm at which he hoped to produce sufficient sugar for Bourbon and for passing ships, as well as for Mauritius. His sugar-mill, started by his cousin, Ribretière de la Villebague, was called *Villebague*: it is now called *Rosalie*; his friend Moulinot started another down at Grand Port where *Ferney* now is.

