PORTUGUESE GUINEA
EDITORIAL NOTE

In the spring of 1917 the Foreign Office, in connection with the preparation which they were making for the work of the Peace Conference, established a special section whose duty it should be to provide the British Delegates to the Peace Conference with information in the most convenient form—geographical, economic, historical, social, religious and political—respecting the different countries, districts, islands, &c., with which they might have to deal. In addition, volumes were prepared on certain general subjects, mostly of an historical nature, concerning which it appeared that a special study would be useful.

The historical information was compiled by trained writers on historical subjects, who (in most cases) gave their services without any remuneration. For the geographical sections valuable assistance was given by the Intelligence Division (Naval Staff) of the Admiralty; and for the economic sections, by the War Trade Intelligence Department, which had been established by the Foreign Office. Of the maps accompanying the series, some were prepared by the above-mentioned department of the Admiralty, but the bulk of them were the work of the Geographical Section of the General Staff (Military Intelligence Division) of the War Office.

Now that the Conference has nearly completed its task, the Foreign Office, in response to numerous enquiries and requests, has decided to issue the books for public use, believing that they will be useful to students of history, politics, economics and foreign affairs, to publicists generally and to business men and travellers. It is hardly necessary to say that some of the subjects dealt with in the series have not in fact come under discussion at the Peace Conference; but, as the books treating of them contain valuable information, it has been thought advisable to include them.

It must be understood that, although the series of volumes was prepared under the authority, and is now issued with the
sanction, of the Foreign Office, that Office is not to be regarded as guaranteeing the accuracy of every statement which they contain or as identifying itself with all the opinions expressed in the several volumes; the books were not prepared in the Foreign Office itself, but are in the nature of information provided for the Foreign Office and the British Delegation.

The books are now published, with a few exceptions, substantially as they were issued for the use of the Delegates. No attempt has been made to bring them up to date, for, in the first place, such a process would have entailed a great loss of time and a prohibitive expense; and, in the second, the political and other conditions of a great part of Europe and of the Nearer and Middle East are still unsettled and in such a state of flux that any attempt to describe them would have been incorrect or misleading. The books are therefore to be taken as describing, in general, ante-bellum conditions, though in a few cases, where it seemed specially desirable, the account has been brought down to a later date.

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I. GEOGRAPHY PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL

(1) POSITION AND FRONTIERS

PORTUGUESE Guinea, which has an area of about 14,000 square miles, is situated on the west coast of Africa, between 10° 50' and 12° 45' north latitude and 13° 35' and 16° 45' west longitude. It forms an enclave in French territory, the district of the Kasamanse lying to the north, Futa Jalon to the east, and French Guinea to the south. Good natural boundaries are wanting, and the line of division between the French and Portuguese possessions is generally of an arbitrary nature.

By the Convention of May 12, 1886, it was agreed that the northern frontier should run from Cape Roxo and, as far as the nature of the land permitted, should keep at an equal distance from the rivers Kasamanse and Cacheu till it reached the point where the meridian 15° 10' west cuts the parallel 12° 40' north. This parallel was then to form the frontier as far east as 13° 40' west longitude. The southern frontier, according to the Convention, followed a line which started at the mouth of the Cajet and kept as far as possible at an equal distance between the Komponi and the Cassini (Cacine), then between the northern branch of the Komponi and at first the southern branch of the Cassini, and then the Rio Grande, until it reached the point where the meridian 13° 40' west cuts the parallel 11° 40' north. It was also agreed that the eastern frontier should follow the meridian 13° 40' west from 12° 40' to 11° 40' north latitude. To Portugal were
assigned the islands lying within the area bounded by the meridian of Cape Roxo, the coast, and the line which follows the *thalweg* of the Cajet, turns southwest across the Passe des Pilots, and runs along the parallel 10° 40' north till it reaches the meridian of Cape Roxo.

Between 1902 and 1905 a Franco-Portuguese Commission surveyed the boundaries of the region. The most important change made was the cession to France of the district of Kade, about midway on the eastern frontier; while, to the north of this district, Portuguese territory was carried farther to the east than in the original agreement.

(2) Surface, Coast, and River System

*Surface*

Large parts of Portuguese Guinea are practically unknown. The greater part of the country is lowland, and only in the south-east corner does the height of the land exceed 600 feet above sea-level. In the west the sands and clays carried down by the rivers from the interior have covered all the older rocks except at a few isolated points, and have also collected around various submarine reefs and transformed them into the archipelago of broad, low islands known as the Bijagos (Bissagos).

Farther east the surface of the land increases in height, the valleys are deeper and broader, and the country is better drained.

In the alluvial districts the soil is often rich in humus, and where it is well drained is very fertile. The districts in which laterite is found are covered by poorer soils, but are by no means unproductive. Swamps cover considerable areas near the coast and in the vicinity of the rivers.
Coast

The coast is so much indented that no accurate estimate of its total length can be made, but the length in a straight line from Cape Roxo to the mouth of the Cajet is about 150 miles. The islands off the coast may be divided into two groups. A number are only separated from the coast by creeks or the branches of various rivers, and among these are such islands as Bolama, Pecixe, Jata, and many others. Farther off lies the archipelago of Bijagos, in which are Orango, Canhabac, Caravela, Formosa and Ponta.

Navigation along the coast offers serious difficulties on account of reefs and sandbanks, and at the mouths of the rivers especially extreme caution is necessary. The chief ports are Cacheu on the river of the same name, Bissau on the estuary of the Rio Grande, and Bolama on the island of Bolama.

River System

The Cacheu rises in the east central part of the country, and pursues a winding course westward for 360 kilometres, or nearly 225 miles. It has many affluents, of which the chief one on the right is the Patea and the largest on the left the Rio da Armada. The Geba or Rio Xaianga rises in French territory and flows south-west, to the same inlet of the sea as the Rio Grande. Its principal tributary, the Colufe, enters on the left bank near Bafata. The Rio Grande rises in French territory and flows south-west through the country. It then turns west and finally north-west, where its estuary joins that of the Geba. In its course it is known under the various names of Cocoli, Coli, Coliba, and Corubal or Crobal.

Other rivers are the Mansoa, between the Cacheu and the Geba, the Bolola\(^1\) and the Tomboli, south of the

\(^1\) The Bolola is also sometimes called the Rio Grande.
Rio Grande, and the Combidjam and the Cassini near the southern frontier. They are generally speaking small.

(3) Climate

Portuguese Guinea has two well-defined seasons, a wet and a dry. The dry season lasts from December till April, and during this period the hot dry harmattan blows from the desert nearly every day; but it is replaced towards evening by a cool sea breeze, at any rate in the coastal districts. The temperature is high, especially towards the end of the dry season, when readings of 104° F. (40° C.) have been recorded in the shade at mid-day.

The rainy season begins in April and May. During June and July there are severe thunderstorms with much rain, which have a cooling effect upon the atmosphere. During August, September, October, and November there is a gradual decrease to the beginning of the dry season in December. The mean temperature is probably under 80° F. (26·6° C.). In the interior, it is said, the seasons are less marked than on the coast.

A meteorological station has been in existence at Bolama since 1905, and the following figures are based upon observations made there during the four years 1913–16. As regards temperature, the maximum monthly mean occurs in May (85° F., 29·5° C.) with a secondary maximum in November (82° F., 28° C.), and the minimum in January (77° F., 25° C.) with a secondary minimum in August (80° F., 26·6° C.). The total range of the monthly means is barely 9° F. (5° C.).

The period from January to April is entirely rainless, and the fall in May and December insignificant. The total annual rainfall of almost 77 inches (1,948 mm.) is thus practically confined to the six months, June to November, and of it nearly a third (23½ in., 600 mm.) falls in August. The relative humidity, however, is
highest in September (over 80 per cent.), while it is lowest in January (under 67 per cent.). From November to April the wind blows from the north-east with more than twice the velocity with which it blows from the south-east and east from May to October.

(4) Sanitary Conditions

The climate, especially that of the coastal districts, is bad for Europeans. Practically nothing has been done to improve sanitation, and most tropical diseases are prevalent. Malaria and black-water fever are serious diseases in the province, and yellow fever is also known. Sleeping sickness is common in certain districts, while small-pox, leprosy, guinea worm, yaws, and elephantiasis are also prevalent.

It is obvious that Portuguese Guinea can never become a place of permanent settlement for white men. Experience proves that for Europeans the best rule is to stay in the colony for periods of not more than 18 months, and to spend six months in a temperate climate between these periods.

(5) Race and Language

At least sixteen tribes have been recognised in Portuguese Guinea. Roughly, the interior east of a line drawn southwards through the head of the Geba estuary is occupied by the Fula tribes; the land on the northern side of that estuary, as far as the Rio Cacheu, by Balantas in the interior and Papeis towards the coast; and the land on the south side mainly by Biafasdas. Other tribes occupy the littoral and the islands. On the northern bank of the Cacheu, by the coast, are the Felupes (French, Flup or Felupe), a primitive people with relatively regular features, similar to whom are the neighbouring tribes of the Baiotes (French, Bayottes),
Banhuntos or Banhuns (French, Bagnuk) and Cassangas. The Mancanhas, Buramos or Brames, on the same side of the river, are looked down upon as inferiors by the other tribes. They form large villages in the island of Bolama, where they assist in the loading and unloading of vessels.

The Balantas are a tribe of great significance for the future of the colony. They are most industrious, and their territory is densely populated. It has been observed that the greater the expansion of the Balantas the more amenable they become to colonial authority. In appearance they are tall and slender, have irregular features, and wear a tuft of beard.

Coastwards are the Papeis and Manjacos, who much resemble each other in physical appearance and customs, but while the former are still half-savage warriors, the Manjacos are clever traders and workers and a valuable element for the development of the colony.

Two great Fula tribes (French Peulh or Peul; plural, Fulbe) occupy the interior both north and south of the river Xaianga, and are a most important factor for the colony’s future. The Fula-Forros in the south-east form one division. The Fula-Pretos, farther east, are the more numerous section, but are rather more mixed in blood.

Scattered throughout the Fula territory are the Mandingos, a negroid type; they are traders and labourers rather than cultivators. Towards the coast south of the Geba estuary Biafadas, who in every respect much resemble the Fulas, predominate. In the south-east corner are the Nalus, who are being absorbed by the Soços (French, Soso or Susu), a neighbouring people.

The Bijagos (Bissagos) of the archipelago are a race of powerful build and irregular features, who are certain to be favourably affected by the agricultural development now being undertaken in the islands.
The *Grumetes* are descendants of natives of various tribes who were converted to Christianity early in the Portuguese occupation and adopted Portuguese dress and customs. They are most numerous about Bolama, Bissau, Cacheu, Geba and Farim.

Distributed throughout the whole colony are mulatto descendants of the Portuguese, who are familiar not only with the Portuguese language and the degenerate Cape Verde variety of it known as Creole\(^1\), but also in most districts with the languages of the natives. As a result, in most of the native villages some of the coloured people use Creole as a medium of communication.

(6) **Population**

The population of Portuguese Guinea is officially estimated at 400,000; but other estimates vary from 100,000 to 800,000. If 400,000 be correct the average density would be about 28 to the square mile. Regarding its distribution little is known. The most numerous group are the Fula, the smallest the Grumetes.

\(^1\) See *Cape Verde Islands*, No. 117 of this Series, p. 6.
II. POLITICAL HISTORY

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1445(?) Cape Verde discovered.
1446. Coast of Portuguese Guinea explored.
1462. Rights over Rio Grande coast granted to colonists of San Thiago, Cape Verde Islands.
1650. Guinea subordinate to Cape Verde Archipelago Governor.
1690. Bissau a flourishing centre of the slave-trade.
1858. English claim to Bolama.
1870. Arbitration of President Grant on Anglo-Portuguese dispute: decision in favour of Portugal.
1879. Portuguese Guinea separated from Cape Verde Islands and formed into a separate colony.
1886. Franco-Portuguese Convention concerning the frontier of Guinea.
1908. Rising of the Papeis and other native tribes.
1917. Guinea receives a new charter.

HISTORY

The territory now known as Portuguese Guinea is the only remnant of the once important Portuguese Seignory of Guinea, which was lost during the struggles with the Dutch in the seventeenth century. The discovery of this coast was made by the explorers sent out by Prince Henry the Navigator during the years following 1445, when Cape Verde was doubled by Dinis Dias. One of the most adventurous of these was João Gonçalves (Zarco), the discoverer of Madeira twenty-five years before. De Barros and Azurara say that he passed the Senegel River and Cape Verde, and sailed as far as the Cabo dos Mastos, which is in Portuguese Guinea
south of the Rio Grande, and which owes its name to the fact that the trunks of some dead palm-trees suggested to the mariners the masts of a ship. Another well-known explorer of this period was Nuno Tristão, who had been commissioned to explore beyond the Cabo dos Mastos, but instead entered the Rio Grande and went up the river in a small boat, probably looking for slaves. Here he was attacked by negroes of the Nalu tribe armed with poisoned arrows, and was killed with many of his men. This event, which occurred in 1447, is said by some writers to have taken place in Gambia, but De Barros distinctly says it was on the Rio Grande.

In the grant of the island of San Thiago in the Cape Verde Islands made in 1462 to Dom Fernando, all rights on this part of the African coast were granted to the colonists of this island. The most valuable of these rights was doubtless the slave-trade. Among the factories established by them were those on the estuary of the Rio Grande and on the Rio Geba, one of the largest feeders of this estuary. The principal factory on this coast was at Cacheu, on the estuary of the Rio Cacheu, which enters the sea to the north of the Rio Grande, but it was afterwards moved to Sarak higher up the same river, where a fort was built towards the end of the sixteenth century. In the seventeenth century the trade in slaves to supply the Spanish colonies as well as Brazil increased very greatly, and in 1690 Bissau on the north side of the estuary of the Rio Grande became the principal centre of this trade.

The islands off the coast were long unoccupied, and in the middle of the nineteenth century England made claims to the island of Bolama and the adjacent mainland coast. After long discussion these claims were, by an Anglo-Portuguese Protocol of January 13, 1869, submitted to the arbitration of the President of the
United States of America, who decided on April 21, 1870, in favour of the Portuguese. Meanwhile the French had occupied the territory along the Kasamanse River between the Gambia and the Rio Grande, and the country known as the Rivieres du Sud, which separates Portuguese Guinea from Sierra Leone. Thus it was definitely bounded both to the north and south, and the land frontier was determined by Article 1 of the Convention between France and Portugal of May 12, 1886. The frontier was actually delimited between 1902 and 1905.

Till 1879 Portuguese Guinea was administered as part of the Cape Verde Islands. Since that date it has been a separate province under a Governor.

In 1908 there was a formidable native rising of the Papeis tribe on Bissau Island and of other tribes on the mainland, which was with difficulty suppressed by troops sent from Portugal. Most of the Guinea tribes, however, are practically independent.

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1 See State Papers, Vol. 61, 1870–1, pp. 1103–6 and 1163.
2 See Appendix, p. 36.
III. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

(1) RELIGIOUS

The Roman Catholic Church in this colony has hitherto been presided over by a Vicar-General, under whom were a number of missionary priests with a College at Sernache de Bomjardim. Since the disestablishment of the Church in 1912 these establishments seem to have fallen into decay, and the missionaries have been withdrawn from the inland territories. In the districts occupied by the Mohammedan Fula, Islam shows a tendency to spread, and its propaganda, which is said to be unfavourable to Portuguese rule, is strengthened by the withdrawal of the Christian missionaries.

The negro population nearer to the coast is mainly fetishist, and the vast majority of the inhabitants of the colony are still pagans.

(2) POLITICAL

In 1906 the military commands were converted into civil residencies, and in 1912 the residencies were in turn converted into civil “circumscriptions,” a subsequent modification of these being made in 1916. A new charter was given to the province in 1917. Its capital is Bolama. The Governor is appointed by the Lisbon Ministry, and is the head of both civil and military administration, but has no control over the course of law and justice. He has a council to assist him, composed of ex-officio members and elected representatives of commerce and of the municipalities. For certain measures, such as the proclamation of martial law, or the dissolution of administrative bodies, the
previous sanction of this council is obligatory; for others, its consultation is optional.

There is also a special tribunal for the settlement of “contentious matters and accounts,” i.e. questions arising between individuals or corporations and the Customs or Treasury and involving the interpretation of a rule or regulation. Bissau and Bolama, also the chief towns of civil circumscriptions, have their municipalities for the control of purely local affairs. The unsubjugated areas are, or may be, separated from the circumscription in which they are comprised and placed under military commands, with detached posts subordinate to these wherever circumstances render it necessary.

The administrative work of the province is portioned out among eight departments.

Judicial affairs are independent of the Government. There is a single judge for the province, assisted by a deputy-procurator and a judge-advocate for courts martial, the latter being also registrar for the civil and criminal jurisdiction. A municipal judge sits at Bolama, and there is a deputy-assistant-procurator at Bissau.

(3) Educational

Such primary education as existed was in the hands of the missionary priests until the disestablishment of the Church in 1912. Schools were maintained at Bolama, Bissau, Cacheu, and Farim for both sexes, and for boys only at Bafata, Buba, and Cassini (Cacine). These have now been transformed into State schools. No effect seems to have been given in this colony to the decree of Jan. 18, 1906, in favour of technical schools. There is however one apprenticeship institution at the National Press, Bolama, and one at the telegraph station of the same town.
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

From the first, progress in this colony has been retarded by the unhealthiness of its climate and the hostility to European civilization displayed by the greater part of its native population. Such foreign capital as has been embarked in local enterprises has not achieved any very promising results. The region is virtually an enclave in French territory. Its natural and agricultural resources are considerable and not incapable of development; but in view of the very special circumstances of the province, there is reason to believe that Portuguese methods have a better chance of success here than those likely to be applied by the capitalists or administrators of any other nation. Sir Harry Johnston has recorded, in the case of Angola, that the Portuguese rule more by influence than by force. This opinion seems to be equally applicable to the case of Portuguese Guinea, where the military establishment amounts to 500 men of all ranks, or 35 men per 1,000 square miles of territory.
IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

(A) MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

(1) INTERNAL

(a) Roads

The abundance of waterways in Portuguese Guinea, affording a convenient means of communication, not only makes an extensive system of roads superfluous over a large part of the colony, but would also, on account of the numerous bridges or ferries which would be necessary, render road construction extremely expensive. Up-country, however, as the streams cease to be navigable, roads become more necessary and the obstacles to their construction decrease. In the neighbourhood of the Geba there are many roads, some of them veritable highways, linking up the native settlements with the ports. Two cart roads were reported to be under construction in 1914. One was to start from Buba at the head of the Rio Grande and cross the Corubal to Xitioli, thence striking north-east up the valley of the Corubal towards Futa Jalon in French territory; the other was to connect the town of Farim with Port Mansoa. It is proposed to make others in the cattle-breeding region between the Farim and Geba rivers, where animal traction is available.

(b) Rivers

The colony possesses a network of waterways, including not only the rivers with their tributaries and lengthy estuaries, but also various water-channels, which sometimes afford a connection between rivers. One such channel joins the estuaries of the Cacheu
and the Kasamanse, and another, the Impenral, connects the Mansoa with the Geba.

The waterways form the main highways of the colony. Many of the so-called rivers are merely arms of the sea. Of these the Bolola is navigable for sea-going ships up to the town of Buba, but owing to the continual warfare of the tribes inhabiting its banks it has for the time being lost its former commercial importance. The Rio Cassini does not admit vessels drawing more than 10 feet.

The chief rivers properly so-called are in the northern and eastern sections of the colony. The Rio Cacheu, known also in its upper course as the Rio Farim, has a length of 224 miles and is navigable by vessels drawing not more than 19 feet for 105 miles, up to the town of Farim. Small boats can go about 8 or 9 miles farther. Its bar is carefully buoyed, and there is no difficulty in making the entrance to the stream. The bar of the Rio Mansoa has a depth of four fathoms at low tide and this river is navigable for a good distance by sea-going ships. By the Impenral channel on the south bank the whole commerce of the Balanta tribe is directed towards Bissau on the estuary of the Rio Grande. This channel takes craft drawing up to five feet; above it the Mansoa is navigable by small boats for 43 miles.

The most important of the rivers commercially is the Geba or Rio Xaianga, which is navigable by vessels drawing not more than three feet as far as Bafata, the capital of the circumscription of Geba, a distance of about 71 miles. Its estuary, which joins that of the Rio Grande and is subject to a tidal bore, can be used by larger ships for 30 miles above the port of Bissau. The largest of the rivers is the Rio Grande. Coasting craft can ascend it as far as Xitoli, where there are important factories, but above this point its
course is obstructed by rapids and navigation is continued by native boats only.

(c) Railways

At present there are no railways, but it is strongly urged that a line should be laid from Bissau to Kade in French territory in order to tap the produce of the Futa Jalon hill area, which at present has to be carried across a considerable tract of Portuguese territory on its way to the nearest French coast port.

(d) Posts and Telegraphs

There are post offices at Bolama, Bissau, and Cacheu, and at six of the nine chief towns of the up-country circumscriptions, with sub-offices at six villages in the interior. The first three offices receive and deliver ordinary, registered, and value-declared correspondence, and also issue and pay money-orders. Their receipts for 1913 were Esc. 3,914, and for 1914 Esc. 5,247. The towns of Bolama, Bissau, San Joāo (on the mainland opposite Bolama), Buba, Bambadinca, Bafata, Mansoa, Farim, and Cassini (Cacine) are inter-connected by telegraph, and 100 miles of line were open in 1916.

(2) External

(a) Ports

Bolama, Bissau and Cacheu are ports open to ships of all nations. The special permission of the Government of the colony is required to visit, under restrictions, the ports of the Rio Cacheu, the Rio Mansoa and the Bijagos archipelago.

Bissau, near the mouth of the Geba estuary, on its north side, is the principal port of the colony. The anchorage, with a depth of 6–7 fathoms, is safe at all times, and the largest vessels used in the West African trade can enter, whatever the state of the tide.
A T-shaped wharf of reinforced concrete, 720 feet long, was approaching completion in 1914. At the lowest tides there is sufficient water at the head to allow ships of 25 feet draught to come alongside. At the land end of the wharf are two great storehouses, from which Decauville lines run along the wharf to facilitate the loading and unloading of vessels. There are also workshops for small repairs. Ice is made for the use of ships, but the water supply is of inferior quality and not laid on in pipes, though steps were being taken to accomplish this. In all the other ports water is easily procurable.

**Bolama** is on the east side of the island of that name. What has been said above regarding the conditions of navigation at Bissau applies also to Bolama, where, however, the anchorage is wider and has a depth of 10–14 fathoms. A wharf similar to that at Bissau had been contracted for in 1914. Bolama possesses naval workshops for urgent repairs. Excellent water is brought in pipes to the landing. The agencies for the Companhia Nacional and the Woermann Linie, as well as almost all the commercial houses, have lighters for the discharge of goods, and the administration have ordered a steam-tug to assist vessels in coming alongside the wharves. A dredger is in use to keep the navigable channels clear.

**Cacheu** stands on the south bank of the river of the same name. Its anchorage is safe at all times, but access to it is restricted by the bar on the river some 15 miles below the port. Vessels drawing not more than 19 feet can cross the bar at low tide. There are two wooden landing-stages easily accessible to ships of more than 1,500 tons, which can thence proceed as far as *Farim*, 90 miles up the river.
(b) Shipping Lines

The Companhia Nacional de Navegação runs a monthly steamer from Lisbon to Bolama and Bissau, starting nominally on the 14th of every month, and another from these ports to Lisbon, starting on the 22nd. In time of peace the direct voyage takes nine days, but during the war deficiency of tonnage compelled the company to combine these voyages with those to and from the Cape Verde Islands. The Messageries Africaines used to run a monthly boat between Dakar (Senegal) and Bissau, and vessels of the Woermann Linie used to call at Dakar and Bissau on their voyages to and from Hamburg. Although in 1915 no German vessels called at a Guinea port, German tonnage during the quinquennium 1911–15 formed 49 per cent. of the whole, Portuguese tonnage amounting to only 27 per cent. Early in 1918 the Companhia Nacional re-modelled its constitution and increased its capital, in order to purchase from the Portuguese Government a number of ex-German vessels seized in 1916.

(c) Cables

The African Direct Telegraph Company, a British firm, has two short cables connecting Bolama and Bissau with Bathurst (Gambia). From Bathurst there is cable communication northwards via St. Vincent with Madeira, Lisbon, and Porthcurno; southwards with Ascension, St. Helena, and Cape Town, and through Ascension with the River Plate; and westwards through St. Vincent with the Azores and South America (Pernambuco, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro). As yet no wireless installation has been erected.
(B) INDUSTRY

(1) Labour

(a) Supply; Emigration and Immigration

As in tropical Africa generally, white labour can be used only for purposes of supervision. *Mestiço* or half-breed labour could be used to some extent, but the local half-breeds and the Cabo-Verdeans, who are fairly numerous in the province, are best employed as overseers and interpreters.

The tribes willing to serve as contract labourers, in or out of the colony, are the Brames (Buramos, or Mancanhas), the Manjacos, and the Grumetes. The personal qualities of the Papeis, were it possible to overcome their hostility to the whites and to induce them to follow the example of their industrious neighbours the Balantas, would make this tribe a valuable instrument in the development of the colony. In the south of the island of Bissau, something definite has been accomplished in this direction. The natives of Portuguese Guinea, being strong and active, make excellent carriers.

The local labour market being restricted to the requirements of the mercantile houses and of a few European concessionnaire companies, experiments were made in the engagement and exportation of contract labour to other colonies, such as San Thomé. The men sent there are reported to have given satisfaction, and to have themselves been satisfied with the terms of their contract and the punctuality of their repatriation, but for some unexplained reason the arrangements have not been continued.
(b) Labour Conditions

Where urgent public needs call for the impressment of labour, the hands required can generally be obtained, once it is understood that the men taken will be fairly treated, punctually and fully paid, and guaranteed against detention from their farms or garden plots at seed-time or harvest, or other periods at which their absence would be detrimental to their crops. But local agriculture, especially the raising of the ground-nut crop, absorbs much of the labour available, and, as it is undertaken by the native for his own profit, it has been recognised as highly undesirable to discourage it, the more so as even before the war the agricultural concessions granted to Europeans were said to be languishing if not moribund.

Moreover, the native of Portuguese Guinea is fully aware that, by working on his own land at his own time and season, he can gain much more than the equivalent of any wage likely to be offered him; and this fact is not one which the European can afford to ignore. The usual wage for a labourer is 1s. 2d. a day, with food supplied, but in the interior there is no fixed rate, and men may sometimes be obtained more cheaply.

(2) Agriculture

(a) Products of Commercial Value

Vegetable Products.—The soil is fertile, the country well-watered, and the agricultural possibilities of the colony are therefore good. Moreover, there are many wild plants of economic value.

Cocoa is said to grow well in the Bijagos archipelago and in the Corubal and Xime country.

Cotton is at present cultivated in small plantations near the villages, but might with advantage be grown
on a much larger scale. The present supply is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the natives, who use it for the manufacture of clothing. The Guinea varieties are *Gossypium barbadense* and *G. herbaceum*.

*Ground-nuts* (*Arachis hypogaea*) are raised chiefly in the districts of Farim and Geba, on the island of Bolama and in the back-country of Cacheu. They are the leading article of commerce, and though their commercial development has been rapid during the last twelve years or so, the supply still fails to meet the demand. The ground-nut requires little labour in its cultivation beyond the preliminary clearing of the ground. The destruction of trees for this purpose is a serious danger to the forest resources of the colony.

*Kola nuts* grow magnificently in the district of Cassini, and are found also in Geba and Farim. At present there is a considerable import of kola nuts for consumption by the natives, especially the Mohammedans, but the local production might easily be increased to meet local needs.

*Maize* is an important foodstuff, but is not grown to the same extent as rice. It does well, produces two crops a year and finds a steady market in the Cape Verde Islands and at Lisbon. Its cultivation therefore might be greatly expanded.

The *oil-palm* (*Elaeis guineensis*) flourishes more exuberantly in Portuguese Guinea than in any part of West Africa, and the export of palm-kernels nearly rivals that of ground-nuts.

*Rice* is the staple food of the natives, and is grown on a large scale in suitable localities, especially by the Balantas in the basin of the Mansoa. The natives, however, with the exception of the Mohammedans, much prefer the cultivation of ground-nuts, which are easier to raise and quite as useful for trading purposes.
It is only by the persuasion of the administration that they are induced to grow a bare sufficiency of rice for local requirements. Large crops might be raised, and rice might form a valuable article of export.

_Rubber_ is obtained from wild vines (e.g. *Landolphia heudelotii*) and other climbing plants. Some of the rubber, particularly that produced in the circumscription of Cassini, commands the highest price. The rubber-producing plants, however, have not been sufficiently studied.

_Sugar-cane_ is grown with good results in some scattered plantations on the coast levels, as at Bissau, but in many cases entirely for the sake of the alcohol which is distilled from it.

The _tobacco_ plant affords a leaf of excellent quality, but is not grown sufficiently to meet the demand.

Other vegetable products which might be developed are _copra_, _castor-oil_, and various _gums_ and _dye-woods_.

_Live-stock and Animal Products._—_Cattle_ are kept all over the colony, and are particularly numerous in the circumscription of Geba. They are small and the cows give little milk, but the meat is good. No effort is made to control breeding. Cattle have a place of peculiar importance among the natives, for they are the evidence of wealth and the means of procuring wives, followers, and social prestige. Only where the natives are in direct contact with Europeans have they become willing to sell their stock for slaughter. Hides occupy an important place in the list of exports.

_Horses_ and _asses_, also small, are confined to the circumscription of Farim and the northern part of that of Geba. Elsewhere, for reasons unknown, they are unable to live longer than a few months. They are not bred to any extent in the colony but are imported from Senegal.
Sheep and goats are to be found everywhere, but the sheep give no wool and the goats only a little milk. Pigs are common and are of excellent quality. Bees-wax is exported, and bees are kept throughout the colony.

(b) Methods of Cultivation

Agriculture is an impossible occupation for Europeans, but, with the exception of a few tribes, the natives, especially the Biafadas, take to it naturally. They practise an extensive cultivation, and their plough is a sort of long-handled wooden spade with a narrow, pointed, and iron-shod blade. These primitive methods seem to be suited to local conditions, and some experiments with European methods have not been successful.

The cultivation of rice is limited to districts which can be laid under water, that is, to low lands where the water from the heavy rains accumulates in great pools, or to the banks of river channels. The natives are skilled in the construction of dams for the purpose of securing more regular irrigation.

(c) Forestry

The typical virgin forest, interwoven with rubber vines, is found mainly in the river valleys, where there is abundant moisture all the year round, and on the coasts and islands. In the land between the rivers the growth is less dense and continuous. In the east, where the rainfall is lower and the land better drained, forests are generally confined to the river banks and low-lying districts.

Besides the forest products mentioned above, there are woods such as the African mahogany and ebony, as well as African teak and elm-wood, but the quantity
of these has probably been a good deal exaggerated. There are also the kapok tree (*Eriodendron anfractuosum*), the wine-palm (*Raphia vinifera*) and other fibre-yielding plants. But the forest resources as a whole call for closer and more extensive investigation. They are menaced by the clearings made for ground-nuts.

Control of the forest lands is regulated by a decree of July 23, 1903, which divides the colony into forestal circumscriptions coinciding, approximately, with the administrative circumscriptions. Concessions of forest land are granted for not more than two years, but may be extended. Cutting of timber is not allowed nearer than 400 feet to a river bank and reserves must be left for ship construction. It is forbidden to cut down the different species of rubber plants, trees bordering the roads, or those bearing oil-seeds or fruits used by the natives, but as a matter of fact rubber vines are often destroyed to make room for rice. Only natives can cut and sell wood for fuel without a licence.

**(d) Land Tenure**

Only State property is alienable by concession. The law enacted May 9, 1901, with subsequent amendments, defines the limits within which concessions may be made, laying down restrictions in respect of public or common lands, waterways, alluvium or beaches, and safeguarding at the same time easements such as rights of way. These the concessionnaire may buy out subject to certain conditions.

The power of the Governor to grant concessions is limited to 2,500 hectares (about 6,000 acres), but the Colonial Minister may grant up to 25,000. In every case the concessionnaire is bound to bring his holding under cultivation or utilize it in the manner stipulated, to the extent and within the period provided in the grant-deed.
Concessions have always to be put up to public auction. A tenure by emphyteusis can only be converted into one of full dominion in the insular regions of the colony, not on the mainland.

Portuguese citizens, born or naturalized, and foreigners who can prove over six months’ residence in Portuguese territory previous to the date of their application are qualified to hold concessions. The latter must file a written declaration of submission to Portuguese law in all matters affecting their concession; and the deed of grant must contain a proviso that should the concessionnaire have recourse to the diplomatic representative of his country in any matter affecting the concession, the latter will ipso facto become void.

A peculiar feature of this colony is that natives of the Cape Verde Islands have introduced into it a form of tenure known as the ponta. The islanders take up small allotments of cultivable land, hire, or make bargains for the services of natives of the vicinity, and with their help grow sugar-cane and market-garden produce; or they may sub-let plots to those natives for the cultivation of ground-nuts or other commodities, supplying them with seed, and purchasing the crop from them when harvested.

(3) FISHERIES

The fresh-water streams and tidal back-waters are only fished by the natives for their own domestic requirements; but in Bolama, Bissau, and other centres Chinese settlers (time-expired convicts from Macao deported to Guinea), as well as natives, earn a livelihood by supplying fish for market and for the shipping in harbour.

(4) MINERALS

The Fulas on the Corubal river extract and work iron ore, but native mining is primitive and the quantity
of ore obtained insignificant. No geological survey has yet been made of the colony as a whole, but the presence of oxides of iron in the soil has been recorded as a result of chemical analysis. Government rules provide for the grant of mining concessions, but none has as yet been made.

(5) Manufactures

There are no manufactures in the European sense of the term, but as a general rule the personal and domestic requirements of each tribe are supplied by its own craftsmen. The Mandingos are skilful workers in leather, making sandals, sword-scabbards, cartridge-pouches, etc., while the Papeis make articles of clay. Cotton cloth is manufactured in strips about 20 centimetres (8 inches) wide, which in some parts are used as money. Before the competition of imported goods, however, native arts and crafts tend to disappear.

(C) Commerce

(1) Domestic

(a) Principal Branches of Trade

Domestic trade consists mainly in the exchange of native products for European goods; there is little intertribal commerce.

The tribes which do most trade with Europeans are the Mandingos, Balantas, Biafadas, Manjacos, Fula-Forros, and the Grumetes. Most of these tribes are on the coast or in the basin of the Geba river. The Mandingos are primarily traders and workers; they furnish employees for the commercial houses and make up caravans for the conveyance of European goods to the interior. The Fula-Forros from time to time bring
caravans of native products to the coasts. The Balantas, Biafadas and Manjacos also facilitate commercial penetration, and are interested in trading. The other tribes are more suspicious and exclusive.

Among the natives themselves trade is normally restricted to particular lines. Cattle are valued, especially by the Balantas and Manjacos, as a standard of wealth. The natives of the interior do a fair business among themselves in cattle, and would do more were these districts properly pacified. The natives of districts where rice will not grow are always eager to accept rice in exchange for their own produce, and the Balantas are thus able to dispose of their surplus rice to their neighbours. The Bijagos women bring fowls, eggs, and fruits to the Bolama market, while the Felupes of the north take firewood to Cacheu and other centres of population in order to obtain alcohol and tobacco. Besides these articles the natives generally are eager to acquire guns and gunpowder.

Those who do occupy themselves with trade show aptitude and enterprise. Native retail traders are scattered throughout the colony and dispose of goods provided by the great commercial houses at Bolama and Bissau through their local branches. There are also numerous traders from the Cape Verde Islands. So-called Syrian traders coming from the Mediterranean ports of Asia and Africa form a class apart. They are generally unscrupulous and content with a low standard of living. They act as middlemen for the great firms, but, as they exploit the rivalries of these firms, the latter are full of complaints about them. In order that the interests of the natives may be safeguarded, the Syrians are not allowed to establish themselves where their activities cannot be watched by the authorities.

Neither firms nor individuals can trade in the colony
without a licence. These are classified and assessed as follows:

(i) Persons carrying on grocers’ trade without a fixed address, £1 per annum.
(ii) All trading stores and firms, £2 10s. per annum.
(iii) All persons or firms importing, £20 per annum.
(iv) All importers and exporters, £29 per annum.

(b) Towns, Markets, etc.

Bissau, situated on the north bank of the Rio Grande estuary, is the natural outlet for the products of the northern, central and eastern districts of the colony, and is consequently its most important commercial centre. Bolama, the next considerable town and the seat of the Government, draws only upon the southern district and the Bijagos archipelago. Cacheu, however, on the south bank of the Rio Cacheu, near its mouth, seems likely to divert to itself the greater part of the commerce of the northern region. It was once the capital of Guinea and fell into decay owing to revolts among the natives. Under settled conditions it will probably recover most of its ancient prosperity.

Of the inland towns, Farim is an important station on the upper waters of the Rio Cacheu, and Bafata, similarly placed on the Geba, is the capital of the circumscription of Geba. Xitoli, some way up the Rio Grande, has important trading factories.

(2) Foreign

(a) Exports

Despite various handicaps the trade of the colony was increasing up to the outbreak of war at a rate only less than that of San Thomé and Principe. In 1890 the value of the export trade was Esc. 207,000,
in 1900 Esc. 400,000, and in 1910 Esc. 940,000. The following table shows the value from 1911 to 1915:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>1,226,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1,243,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>1,628,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1,055,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>970,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The values of the principal articles of export, from 1911 to 1915, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ground-nuts</th>
<th>Hides</th>
<th>Palm kernels</th>
<th>Rubber</th>
<th>Wax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>299,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>325,000</td>
<td>436,000</td>
<td>49,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>383,000</td>
<td>57,000</td>
<td>366,000</td>
<td>354,000</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>516,000</td>
<td>79,000</td>
<td>497,000</td>
<td>319,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>418,000</td>
<td>102,000</td>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>262,000</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>311,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Palm-oil, gum copal, rice, etc., are also exported in small quantities.

The greater part of the exported produce of the colony went to Germany, which took on an average 72 per cent. of the exports to foreign countries, which themselves amounted to about 78 per cent. of the total exports. Portugal thus took a comparatively small proportion of the exports.

The following table shows the destination of exports from 1911 to 1915:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Portuguese ports</th>
<th>German ports</th>
<th>Other ports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Escudos</td>
<td>Escudos</td>
<td>Escudos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>266,000</td>
<td>751,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>246,000</td>
<td>733,000</td>
<td>264,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>375,000</td>
<td>907,000</td>
<td>346,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>248,000</td>
<td>499,000</td>
<td>308,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>536,000</td>
<td>434,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 These figures are given by the Anuario Colonial. A. L. de Fonseca, A Guiné Portugueza, gives the value as Esc. 604,000.
(b) Imports

What has been said as to the expansion of exports from the colony applies also to its imports. The total value of the import trade rose from Esc. 271,000 in 1890 to Esc. 777,000 in 1900 and Esc. 1,520,000 in 1910. The following table shows the value from 1911 to 1915:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1911 Escudos</th>
<th>1912 Escudos</th>
<th>1913 Escudos</th>
<th>1914 Escudos</th>
<th>1915 Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton textiles</td>
<td>416,000</td>
<td>415,000</td>
<td>495,000</td>
<td>238,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodstuffs</td>
<td>129,000</td>
<td>76,000</td>
<td>158,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>104,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunpowder</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kola nuts</td>
<td>95,000</td>
<td>103,000</td>
<td>143,000</td>
<td>205,000</td>
<td>138,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco in leaf</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>98,000</td>
<td>104,000</td>
<td>57,000</td>
<td>123,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine in cask</td>
<td>41,000</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>62,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The values of the principal articles of import, from 1911 to 1915, were as follows:

Germany took the principal place in the import trade of the colony; her share in the three years preceding the war was 44 per cent. of the total. The

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Portuguese ports</th>
<th>German ports</th>
<th>Other ports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Escudos</td>
<td>Escudos</td>
<td>Escudos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>172,000</td>
<td>494,000</td>
<td>637,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>155,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>690,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>232,000</td>
<td>661,000</td>
<td>805,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>295,000</td>
<td>409,000*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>741,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>320,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The Anuario Colonial gives the figure as Esc. 1,701,000.
2 Fonseca gives this figure as Esc. 309,000, but this does not agree with his total.
previous table shows the origin of the imports from 1911 to 1915.

The small part played by Portugal is due to the fact that the home country produces few of the colonial requirements. It sends, however, almost half the total import of foodstuffs, and its wines, apart from the tariff in their favour (see below), are preferred on account of their quality. But Portugal produces neither the trade alcohol, which came mostly from Germany, nor gunpowder, and Manchester cotton goods are preferred by the natives. The leaf tobacco is of American or Dutch origin and the kola nuts are supplied by the British colony of Sierra Leone.

(c) Customs and Tariffs

Custom houses are established at Bolama, Bissau, Cacheu, Cassini, Morso, Bafata, Juda Cantancia, Arame, and Farim, with 14 vigilance posts subordinate to them. The tariff rates are not illiberal, and are free from the discrimination between Portuguese and foreign goods which is so marked a feature of other Portuguese colonial tariffs. The imports paying special rates of duty are wines, spirits, tobacco, gunpowder, and firearms. All other imports pay an ad valorem duty of 3 per cent., which is imposed in lieu of house, trade, and interest taxes, which are not leviable in this colony. There is an ad valorem duty of 7 per cent. on all exports except passengers’ personal baggage and effects (exempt), and oil-stuffs (special rates fixed). The charges for licences to import or export have been dealt with above (p. 28).
(D) FINANCE

(1) Public Finance

The general budget for 1913–14 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Taxation</td>
<td>203,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Taxation</td>
<td>320,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and Miscellaneous Revenues</td>
<td>18,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earmarked Revenue</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>111,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>56,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>15,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiastical</td>
<td>1,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>128,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine</td>
<td>67,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Charges</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
<td>20,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-recurring Expenditure</td>
<td>1,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total ordinary expenditure: 404,190

Total extraordinary expenditure: 106,149

Total: 510,339

The above year was the last in which the finances of the colony showed an excess of revenue over expenditure, a position which had been first reached in 1910–11. The following table gives in round numbers the budget totals from 1906–7 to 1913–14:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue Escudos</th>
<th>Expenditure Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906–7</td>
<td>300,800</td>
<td>344,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907–8</td>
<td>239,600</td>
<td>372,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908–9</td>
<td>280,800</td>
<td>338,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909–10</td>
<td>333,700</td>
<td>404,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910–11</td>
<td>447,400</td>
<td>341,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911–12</td>
<td>449,500</td>
<td>350,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912–13</td>
<td>533,100</td>
<td>409,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913–14</td>
<td>542,400</td>
<td>510,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It will be seen that in the period from 1906–7 to 1909–10 there was an average deficit of Esc. 76,450, while in that from 1910–11 to 1913–14 there was an average surplus of Esc. 90,075. During the war there
was an average deficit of Esc. 98,000, the figures being as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue Escudos</th>
<th>Expenditure Escudos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914–15</td>
<td>410,800</td>
<td>494,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915–16</td>
<td>497,800</td>
<td>598,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916–17(estimated)</td>
<td>685,200</td>
<td>795,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Almost the only sources of the colony's revenue are Customs and the Hut Tax, which between them, since the beginning of this century, have provided from 81 to 92 per cent. of the total receipts. The revenue derived from Customs more than trebled between 1901–2 and 1912–13, but after the outbreak of war it fell off considerably. The Hut Tax, first imposed in 1901–2, has now multiplied twenty-fold and exceeds the Customs revenue. The following table shows the contribution made from these two sources to the total revenue from 1910–11 to 1915–16:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hut Tax Escudos</th>
<th>Customs Escudos</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910–11</td>
<td>79,891</td>
<td>322,531</td>
<td>89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911–12</td>
<td>88,364</td>
<td>314,565</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912–13</td>
<td>97,004</td>
<td>386,140</td>
<td>90.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913–14</td>
<td>170,150</td>
<td>314,792</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914–15</td>
<td>221,450</td>
<td>146,792</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915–16</td>
<td>245,382</td>
<td>198,082</td>
<td>89.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That the financial prosperity of the colony should be so largely dependent on such revenues is not regarded by Portuguese writers on colonial subjects as satisfactory. The Hut Tax is unpopular and a serious native revolt might render it inoperative. Even more critical is the position of the revenue from Customs, the greater part of which is derived from imported alcohol and alcoholic liquors. Almost all the alcohol came from Germany, a fact which may affect the
revenue from this source in the future, as it has already done during the war; moreover, there is a growing tendency among civilized nations to view all such traffic among the natives with disapproval. This disapproval may at any time take practical shape in severe restriction or even prohibition of the traffic, in which case Portuguese Guinea would suffer as it suffered by the abolition of slavery.

(2) Currency and Banking

The currency of Portuguese Guinea is that of Portugal. As in other Portuguese colonies, the right to issue paper currency is a monopoly of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, of which the head office is in Lisbon. This bank was founded in 1864 and received a fresh charter in 1901, which expired in 1911 but has been twice renewed pending the report of a Commission appointed to investigate colonial banking generally. In return for the privilege of issue, the bank undertakes, free of charge to the State, the duties of Government treasurer wherever it may have a branch or agency in Portuguese territory. Its notes are only current at face value in the province where issued. Its capital is Esc. 12,000,000, of which Esc. 7,200,000 were paid up in 1914. Its reserve fund in 1915 was raised to Esc. 3,350,000.

(E) GENERAL REMARKS

There is little to add to what has already been said as to the various aspects of the economic life of the colony. The complete pacification of the country and the conciliation of the tribes which may show signs of becoming amenable to civilization must precede all other developments; until this has been done, European activities will continue to be restricted to a narrow
fringe of the coast, and the interior will remain a constant menace to the colonist.

Among the European industries which could count upon success are the making of bricks, tiles, and other materials of construction, the extracting of oil from palm fruits and oil-seeds, and the preparation of frozen meat for European markets.
APPENDIX

CONVENTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND PORTUGAL,
MAY 12, 1886

ARTICLE I

In Guinea, the frontier which shall separate the Portuguese from the French possessions will follow, in accordance with the tracing upon Map I, which is annexed to the present Convention:

In the north, a line which, starting from Cape Roxo, will keep, as far as the nature of the ground will permit, at an equal distance from the Rivers Casamance (Casamansa) and San Domingo de Cacheu (São Domingos de Cacheu) to the point of intersection of 17° 30' longitude west of Paris with the parallel 12° 40' of north latitude, between this point and 16° of longitude west of Paris the frontier shall be merged in the parallel 12° 40' of north latitude.

In the east, the frontier will follow the meridian of 16° west from the 12° 40' parallel of north latitude to the 11° 40' parallel north latitude.

In the south, the frontier will follow a line starting from the mouth of the River Cajet which lies between the Island of Catac (which will belong to Portugal) and the Island of Tristão (which will belong to France), and keeping, as far as the nature of the land permits, at an equal distance between the Rio Componi (Tabati) and the Rio Cassini, then between the northern branch of the Rio Componi (Tabati) and at first the southern branch of the Rio Cassini (tributary of the Kacundo), afterwards the Rio Grande, until it reaches the point where the 16th meridian of west longitude cuts the parallel 11° 40' of north latitude.

Portugal will possess all the islands included between the meridian of Cape Roxo, the coast, and the southern boundary formed by a line following the thalweg of the River Cajet, and afterwards turning towards the south-west across the Passe des Pilots, where it reaches 10° 40' north latitude, and follows it as far as the meridian of Cape Roxo.

1 This map was not published with the Convention.
APPENDIX

ARTICLE II

His Majesty the King of Portugal and Algarves recognizes the French Protectorate over the territories of Fouta-Djallon, such as it was established by the Treaties concluded in 1881 between the Government of the French Republic and the Almamy of Fouta-Djallon¹.

The Government of the French Republic, on its side, binds itself not to attempt to exercise influence within the limits assigned to Portuguese Guinea by Article I of the present Convention. They further bind themselves not to modify the treatment which has always been extended to Portuguese subjects by the Almamy of Fouta-Djallon.

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**MAPS**

Portuguese Guinea is covered by the War Office General Map of West Africa (G.S.G.S. 2434), on the scale of 1:6,336,000 (1903, additions 1914, boundaries corrected 1919). The War Office Map of Africa, on the scale of 1:1,000,000 (G.S.G.S. 1539), sheets 58–70 (old numbering), only shows the southern part of the country.
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