



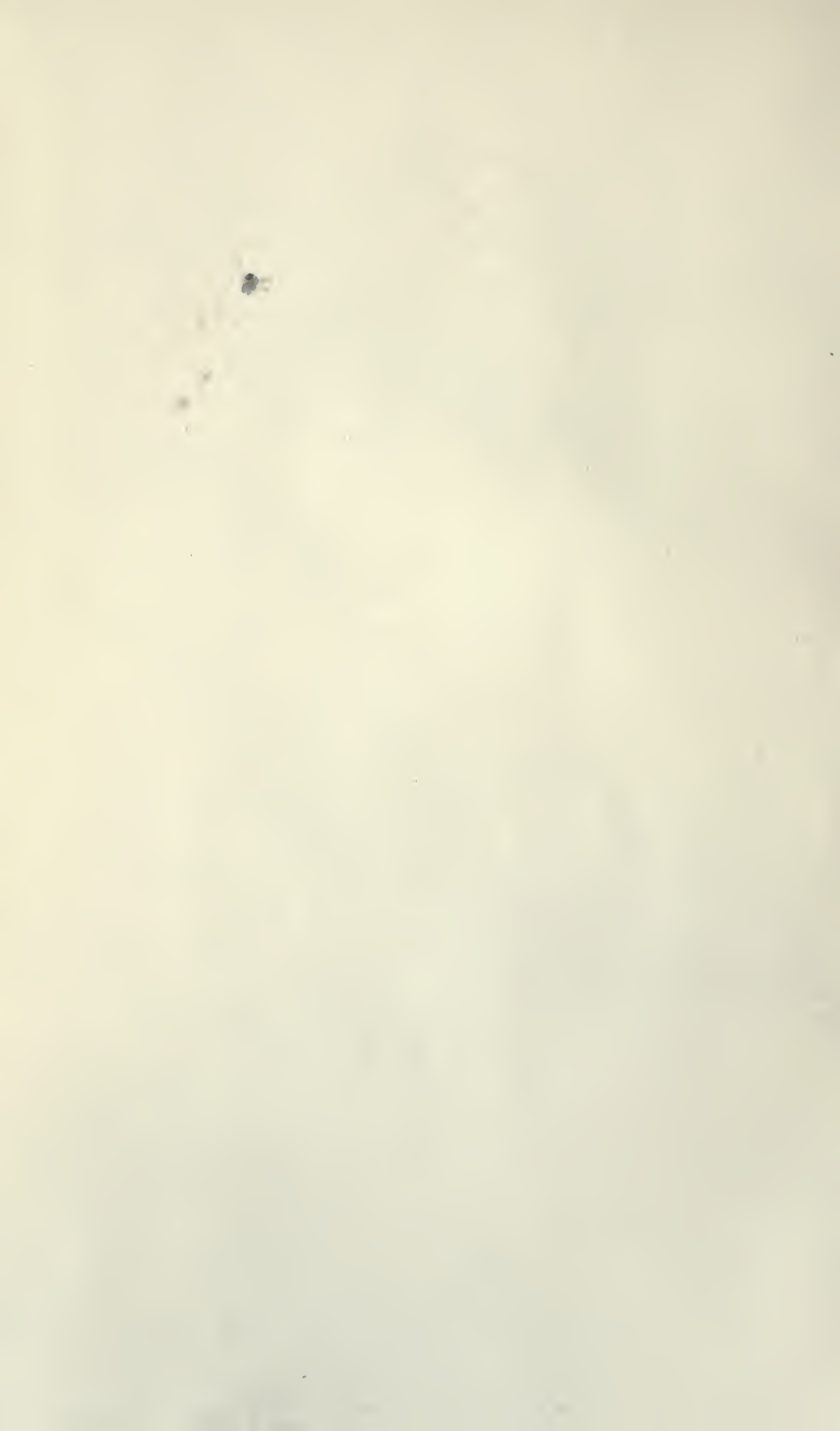
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BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A.

VENEZUELA.

PART I.

BULLETIN No. 93—IN TWO PARTS:

Part I—ENGLISH.

Part II—SPANISH.

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
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NOTICE.

Owing to the changes that have lately occurred in the political division of the Republic by the constitutional subdivision of the several federal sections, and in view of the fact that no official maps embodying these changes have been published, it has been deemed expedient not to append to this Handbook the Map of Venezuela. The only one available for the purpose (Statistical Annuary for 1889) has an historical value only. A list of the best-known maps of Venezuela is found in the section of the Handbook relating to Venezuelan Bibliography.

VENEZUELA.

I.

GEOGRAPHICAL SKETCH—AREA AND POPULATION.

The Republic of the United States of Venezuela occupies the central portion of the northern extremity of South America and lies within the torrid zone between $12^{\circ} 26'$ latitude north and $1^{\circ} 40'$ latitude south, and between $10^{\circ} 20'$ east and $6^{\circ} 50'$ west longitude from the meridian of Caracas. The country was discovered by Christopher Columbus, who, while on his third voyage, sighted the stretch of land between Punta de Araya and Boca de Dragos, according to some writers, on the 31st of July, and according to others on the 1st of August, 1498.

Venezuela is bounded on the north by the Caribbean or Antillean Sea, on the south by the United States of Brazil and a part of the Republic of Colombia, on the west by Colombia, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and British Guiana.¹

The British Guiana boundaries have been the subject of a long controversy between the Republic and Great Britain. Through the efficient intervention of the United States the dispute has been submitted to an arbitration tribunal, which is to meet in Paris pursuant to the treaty signed in Washington in 1897.

The area of Venezuela, including the territory in dispute with bordering nations, is 1,552,741 square kilometers²—that is to say, an area greater than that of France, Germany, and the Netherlands combined, or than the aggregate area of the States of Texas, Colorado, Idaho, and California.

Baron Humboldt, who explored Venezuela at the beginning of the century, considered from the information he collected from good sources that the population of Venezuela, then a Spanish colony governed by a captain-general, did not exceed 802,100 souls.

The slaughter of the devastating war of independence, which lasted until 1824, was the cause of a great decrease in the population. So that by the year 1825, when peace and order were reestablished in the

¹ See chapter devoted to the boundary question.

² 1 kilometer is equal to 0.62137 mile.

Republic, the population had dwindled down to 659,633 souls. Thirteen years later, in 1838, the population was estimated at 887,168, and in the succeeding year, according to the data carefully collected by Col. Agustin Codazzi, who made the map of the Republic, the population was not less than 945,348 souls. From that time on, through the influence of the peace and quiet of the country, the population increased to 1,218,716. This was in 1844. In 1854 it was 1,564,433. The aboriginal population in 1839 was 221,400, of which there were: Independent, 52,400; subjugated, 14,000; assimilated with the other inhabitants, 155,000.

According to the census of 1896 there are in Venezuela 326,000 aborigines, of which there are: Independent, 66,000; subjugated, 20,000; assimilated with the other inhabitants, 240,000.

The first regular census of the Republic was taken in 1873, showing a population of 1,784,194, although it should be noted that owing to the frequent previous recruitings, imposts, and other like causes, the general tendency of the country to reduce the real number of inhabitants can not be avoided, and that it can safely be asserted that the census taking, far from showing an increase in the different parts of the country, the tendency is, probably, in the opposite direction. The second census, eight years later, in 1881, gave a population of 2,095,245. The third, in 1886, according to the Bureau of Statistics, showed a total of 2,207,967, and the last report of the Bureau, in 1894, gives a population of 2,444,816.

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

The territory of the Republic comprises three well-defined regions—the agricultural, the grazing, and the forestal. The first occupies an area of 134,942 square miles, and extends from the north to the north-west of the country. In this region are to be found the Coast Range and that of the Venezuelan Andes, which form very fertile valleys. The region is not all cultivated. It comprises 87,325 square miles of public lands and 47,617 square miles belonging to private parties. The grazing region forms a great belt south of the agricultural region. It has an area of 156,496 square miles, of which 58,480 are public and 98,016 are private lands. This region is made up of immense grass-covered plains, with navigable rivers which overflow during the rainy season and inundate them. The third region, the forestal, lies to the south of the grazing belt and extends to the southern limits of Venezuela. It has 308,095 square miles of area, of which 303,345 are public and 4,750 are private.

MOUNTAIN SYSTEMS.

Venezuela has three great systems of mountains, which are the Venezuelan Andes and the Coast and Parima ranges. The Venezuelan Andes start from the Nudo de Pamplona, in the Republic of Colombia, and consist of two branches, one running north to the Goajira Peninsula, called the Perijá Branch, and the other running in a northeasterly direction until it joins the Coast Range at Mount Altar. The Coast Range runs along the Caribbean Sea, dividing itself into two branches at Mount Tucuragua. One of these branches forms the Coast Range, which follows the sea line, is interrupted at Cape Codera, and then continues through the Araya and Paria peninsulas to its termination at the Paria Promontory. The other branch forms the inland range, which extends along the southern part of Lake Valencia or Tacarigua to the mouth of the Unare. It is broken farther on for a long distance, and then follows from the vicinity of Barcelona to the Gulf of Paria, first touching the Coast Range at Mount Mapire. The Parima system is made up of ranges and mountains separated by plains, forests, and groups of gigantic boulders.

The following are the highest peaks in these ranges:

Peaks.	Height.	Peaks.	Height.
ANDEAN RANGE.		ANDEAN RANGE—continued.	
	<i>Meters. a</i>		<i>Meters. a</i>
The Sierra Nevada of Mérida	4,500	Caldera	3,799
El Salado	4,230	Linares	3,763
Mucuchíes	4,320	Tetas y Atajo	3,762
Santo Domingo Peak	4,146	Niquitao	3,695
Conejas	4,180	Cabmbú	3,578
Pan de Azúcar	4,138	Mendoza	3,093
Alto del Fraile	4,096		
Culata	4,012	COAST RANGE.	
Pueblo de Mucuchíes	4,012	Naignatá	2,800
Granate	3,941	Silla	2,628
Volcán	3,511	Cares	2,466
Culata Veguilla	3,427	Cáleno	2,665
Bocomboco	3,419	Centa Peak	2,120
Tapias	3,414	Peoní	2,048
Aricagua	3,385	Tres Picachos de Bergantín	1,505
Migará	3,367		
Tuno	3,344	INLAND RANGE.	
La Sal	3,336	Platilla	1,886
Don Pedro	3,260	Guraima	1,670
Molino	3,168	Pao Zárate	1,597
Cuchilla	3,029	Roncador	1,463
Balallón	3,210	Peñon de Maraguapa	2,500
Tama	3,200	Cumuyano	1,882
Agripa	3,051	Quinata	2,257
		Zamuro	2,240

a 1 meter is equivalent to 39.37 inches.

There are numberless mesas, particularly in the former State of Bermúdez, the principal being Guanipa, Urica, Amana, and Toneró.

The geological formation of the mountains in Venezuela is, in the main, of granite and gneiss, but in some few localities calcareous rocks are found. In the valleys and plains the soil is covered by detritus carried from the mountains by the rains.

Solid granite abounds in the regions east of the great bend of the Orinoco River, where the soil is generally barren. In the mountain ranges of the Orinoco and in those forming the agricultural zone or belt gneiss predominates. The vegetable soil is exceptionally rich in this zone, where it sometimes attains the depth of 2 meters.

The Andes range is mainly formed of Plutonic rocks, granite, and gneiss, but frequently large marble beds are found in the mountains. The soil on both sides is of Neptunian origin.

COASTS AND WATER BASINS.

According to the latest official data the coast line of Venezuela extends 3,020 kilometers along the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and has 32 harbors, 50 coves, and numberless anchorages, exclusive of those in the interior on the lakes of Maracaibo and Valencia.

The eight extensive water basins into which the Republic may be divided are the following:

Water basins.	Extent in square miles.	Water basins.	Extent in square miles.
Orinoco	366,587	Lake Maracaibo	68,490
Río Negro	38,750	Lake Valencia	1,782
Cuyuní	61,048	Coast watershed	48,256
Gulf Cariaco	2,723		
Gulf Paria	11,897	Total	599,533

GULFS.

There are five gulfs, the principal of which is Gulf Maracaibo, also called Gulf of Venezuela, formed by the Goajira and Paraguaná peninsulas and the coasts of Zulia and Falcón; Gulf of Paria or Triste, between the Paria Peninsula, the eastern coast of the State of Bermúdez, and the northern mouths of the Orinoco; the Gulf of Coro, formed by the Paraguaná Peninsula, the isthmus of the same name, and the coasts of the continent, which gulf communicates with that of Maracaibo; the Cariaco Gulf between the Araya Peninsula and the

coasts of the continent, and the small Gulf of Santa Fe, on the northern coast of the old State of Bermúdez.

Sailing charts mention another Golfo Triste between the ports of Borburata, Puerto Cabello, and Point Chichiriviche, within which lie the San Juan Keys and the port of Tucacas, terminus of the railroad of the Aroa mines, also called Southeastern Railroad, which runs as far as Barquisimeto. It is from this port that the copper ore of the English company operating the Aroa mines, brought on the narrow-gauge railroad, is shipped for export.

LAKES.

The most important lakes in the country are Lake Maracaibo, having an area of 21,728 square kilometers, and Lake Valencia, also called Tacarigua, 559 square kilometers in extent.

There are 204 small lakes in Venezuela, Lake Zulia covering an area of 750 square kilometers, and Lake Laguneta, also in the state of Zulia, 500 square kilometers in extent. Lake Tacarigua has a circumference of 85 kilometers, and Lake Camaguán, in the State of Guárico, covers an area of 240 square kilometers. Fish and game abound in and around all of them.

ISLANDS.

The 71 islands belonging to Venezuela are divided as follows: The former State of Miranda, now forming the States of Rivas, Miranda, and Guárico, and Territory of Colón, 14; area, 625 square miles. State of Carabobo, 4; area, 12 square miles. The old State of Bermúdez, now forming the States of Barcelona and Sucre, 25; area, 204 square miles. State of Falcón, 16; area, 170 square miles; and 12 islands in the Orinoco Delta, which cover an area of 14,633 square miles. Of these islands the only one of real importance is the Island of Margarita or Nueva Esparta, celebrated at the time of the conquest for its pearl fisheries.

RIVER SYSTEM.

The territory of Venezuela is bathed by 1,047 rivers and rivulets, of which 436 are affluents of the Orinoco. Two hundred and thirty flow into the Caribbean Sea, 24 into the Gulf of Paria, 120 into Lake Maracaibo, and 22 are tributaries of Lake Valencia. The Orinoco, Apure, Meta, Caura, Negro, and Guárico rivers are the principal streams of the country and are navigable by large vessels. The Orinoco, into which all the other great rivers flow, is navigable as far as Los Atures.

The innumerable tributaries of the Orinoco feeding it from the west are the highways whereby the rich products of the interior of Colombia, inaccessible on the Pacific Ocean side, reach the interior of Venezuela. Toward the south the waters of the Orinoco, through navigable tributaries, commingle with those of the Amazon by means of the Casiquiare Creek and the Negro River, so that in this direction the material wealth of another vast inland territory finds an outlet to the ocean.

The Orinoco, the third river in importance in America and the largest in Venezuela, rises in the Parima Range and empties, through 17 principal mouths, forming a delta of over 7,722 square miles, into the Atlantic Ocean. The length of the river is 1,475 miles, of which over 1,200 are navigable. As is evident, this is the principal waterway furnishing an outlet for the products of the country to foreign markets, and on it a regular import traffic is carried on to satisfy the necessities of that part of the Republic, and even of Colombia. Through Ciudad Bolívar, capital of the State of the same name and principal port of the Orinoco, are exported the gold from the rich mines of Guiana, all the products of the State, and a great part of those of the neighboring regions belonging to the States of Barcelona and Sucre, Zamora, Rivas, Miranda, and Guárico, and the Territory of Amazonas.

The Apure and Portuguesa rivers are plowed by steam and sailing vessels carrying on the trade between Ciudad Bolívar, Caicara, San Fernando de Apure, Nutrias, Arauca, Camaguán, and Baúl. Vessels also go up the Orinoco and reach Colombia by means of the Meta River.

The Guárico River, which is the principal stream of the former State of Miranda, rises in the interior mountain range and flows into the Orinoco. It has a length of 372 miles, over half of which are navigable. The source of the Orituco is in the same range; it is 250 miles in length, and 125 of them are navigable. The Tuy, which rises in the Coast Range, empties into the Caribbean Sea. Its course is navigable for more than 62 miles, and its extreme length exceeds 186. The Manapire, which rises in the inland range and empties into the Orinoco, has a length of 186 miles, 37 of which are navigable. The Tiznado, which flows into the Portuguesa River, is navigable during the rainy season for about 62 miles, its full course being nearly double this length.

The Tigre, Guanipa, Unare, and Guarapiche rivers, in the State of Bermúdez, are navigable in part.

In the State of Lara, the Tocuyo River, which rises in the snowy summit of the Cabimbú and empties into the Caribbean Sea, has a

length of 310 miles, 50 of which in this State and 93 in the State of Falcón are navigable. The Yaracuy, 31 miles in length, is navigable from the borders of the State of Carabobo. The Tocuyo as well as the Aroa flow through the State of Falcón in their course toward the Caribbean Sea, where they empty, and they are navigable in part.

The Catatumbo River, which comes from Colombia and flows into Lake Maracaibo, belongs to the State of Zulia. It has a length of 186 miles, 125 of which are navigable. The Zulia, which also has its source in Colombia, empties into the Catatumbo, and of its 186 miles of length 125 are navigable. The Motatán, Escalante, and Locúí are also navigable. The first of these three rivers rises in the eternally snow-clad peak of Mucuchíes, in the State of Los Andes, and flows into Lake Maracaibo. It is 186 miles in length, about 62 of which are navigable—6 in this State and 56 in that of Zulia.

The Portuguesa River, in the State of Zamora, has its source in the Lara Andes and discharges into the Apure. Its length is 310 miles, 186 of these being navigable. The Boconó, Guanare, Caparro, Suripa, Uribante, Santo Domingo, Pagüey, Canaguá, Masparro, and Cojedes rivers are also partly navigable, and many of them flow into the Apure.

There are in the State of Bolívar the Apure River, formed by the Uribante and the Sarare, which rise in the Andean Range (the first flows into the Orinoco); of its full course of 738 miles, 625 are navigable; the Meta and the Arauca, which rise in Colombia, are navigable, the former for 497 miles and the latter for 373 miles, the total length of each being 560 and 497 miles, respectively; the Caroní and the Caura, which empty into the Orinoco and which are navigable, the former for 497 miles and the latter for 373; the Cuyuni, 560 miles in length, of which 373 are navigable, flows into the Esequibo; the Paragua, navigable for 310 miles, and the Mazaruni, 310 miles in length and navigable for 186.

In the Territory of Amazonas there are the Orinoco and the Meta, already described, the Guaviare, the Guaima, which comes from Colombia and takes the name of Rio Negro upon joining the Casiquiare, flows on to Brazil and discharges into the Amazon; the Ventuario and the Casiquiare Creek, which, leaving the Orinoco, terminates in the Rio Negro.

From the foregoing it is seen that the fluvial system of Venezuela is the most important on the continent, and presents a wide field for the exploitation of the innumerable natural resources in which the country abounds.

CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

Nature seems to have been prodigal with Venezuela, for she has not only endowed her with great rivers, which bathe and fertilize her soil, with immense plains, where live stock flourishes; with extensive virgin forests, where may be found all kinds of cabinet and building woods, with minerals, etc., but she has given her a climate so benign that the inhabitants of any portion of the world may find in Venezuela the temperature best adapted to their necessities and modes of life, permitting them to cultivate the products of all the zones, from those of the cold climates of the north to those of the equatorial region. The territory of Venezuela is divided into three zones, the temperature of which varies in proportion to the elevation above the sea. Following the nomenclature of the country, these zones may be classified as the cold, temperate, and warm. Between the eighth and ninth degrees of latitude are the snow-clad elevations. At the height of 13,569 feet above the sea the snow line begins, although occasionally the snow thaws at a height of 14,848 feet, an elevation which is in the limits of perpetual snow, which is to be seen on the highest mountain peaks of Mérida, reaching an altitude of 15,026 feet above sea level. Above the level of 14,848 feet all vegetation ceases, and nothing is to be found but moss and weeds, covered with snow. The temperature of this region is from 2° to 3° C. above zero (35° to 37° F.). The temperate lands are situated at altitudes varying between 1,918 and 7,034 feet above the sea, the temperature being between 18° and 25° C. (64° to 77° F.). In this belt one may choose the climate best adapted to the health or the mode of life of each individual. The warm zone is to be found from the level of the sea to an elevation of 1,918 feet, the temperature here varying between $25^{\circ} 50'$ and $32^{\circ} 67'$ C. (78° to 90° F.).

The extremes of heat and cold of northern climates are unknown in Venezuela. The mountain or land breezes and the trade or east winds largely contribute to temper the atmosphere at the seaports and all points on the coast.

Neither the black vomit nor yellow fever is considered epidemic on the coasts of Venezuela, and although occasional sporadic cases of malignant fevers are not unknown, they are not frequent, nor do they assume the form and character of those known to New Orleans, Havana, and Vera Cruz.

The climate of Macuto, 2 miles distant from the port of La Guaira, and of Antímamo, 3 miles from Caracas, both places maintaining rapid and frequent communication by rail, is especially adapted to those

suffering with pulmonary complaints. El Valle, 2 miles from Caracas, whose streams run through the thick undergrowth abounding at their sources, is favored with an excellent temperature for stomach and liver complaints.

One of the most eminent physicians of Caracas considered the temperature of Macuto the best adapted to stay the course of lung troubles and the climate of Antímano as beneficial to asthmatics. The healthfulness of the climate of Venezuela may be evidenced by the number of persons reaching or passing the age of 100 years, as compared with the vital statistics of other countries.

Properly speaking, there are in Venezuela only two seasons—the dry and the rainy, or summer and winter. The former commences when the sun enters the tropic of Capricorn and the latter when it comes into the tropic of Cancer. Hence the rainy season is from April to October. During these months the temperature rises most. During the remainder of the year the air is fresh and the climate generally mild and agreeable. In the dry season, or summer, the prevailing winds are from the northeast, and they also blow freshly from the north and northwest, being more frequent in November and December than in February and March. Showers sometimes fall during these months also, not as heavy as in winter, known by the name of “nortes” (northers). The prevailing winds of the torrid zone blow over Venezuela, and vary between the south and east in winter.

Temperature of the principal cities and towns of Venezuela.

Cities and towns.	Maximum.		Minimum.		Mean.	
	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.
Federal District:						
Caracas	29	84.2	9	48.2	19	66.2
Macuto	32.50	90	26	78.8	29.25	85
Antímano.....	28	83.2	8.75	47	18.37	65
State of Miranda: ¹						
Ciudad de Cura.....	30.50	87	22.50	72	26.50	79
La Guaira	32.50	90	26	78.8	29	84.2
Los Teques	26	78.8	8.50	47	17.25	63
La Victoria	31.50	88	20	68	25.75	77
Petare	29	84.2	17	62.6	23	73.4
Asunción (Nueva Esparta)	30	86	23	73.4	26.50	79
State of Carabobo:						
Valencia	30.50	87	19	66.2	24.75	76
Montalbán	26	78.8	18.50	65	22.25	72
Bejuna	25.50	78	18.50	65	22	71.6
Nirgua.....	25	77	18	64.4	21.50	70

¹State of Miranda, now forming the States of Rivas, Guárico, and Miranda.

Temperature of the principal cities and towns of Venezuela—Continued.

Cities and towns.	Maximum.		Minimum.		Mean.	
	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.	Cent.	Fahr.
State of Bermúdez: ¹						
Barcelona	31.40	88	23.50	74	27.45	81
Cumaná.....	31.50	88.1	23.50	74	27.50	81.1
Maturín	30.50	87	24.50	76	27.50	81.1
State of Bolívar:						
Ciudad Bolívar	33	91.4	24	75.2	28.50	83
San Fernando.....	32	89.6	29	84.2	30.50	87
State of Zamora:						
Guanare	32.50	90	25	77	28.75	83
Barinas	31.50	88	24	75.2	27.75	81
San Carlos	32.50	90	24	75.2	28.25	82.6
Ospino	31	87.8	24.50	76	27.75	81
Araure.....	31	87.8	24.50	76	27.75	81
State of Lara:						
Barquisimeto	29	84.2	22	71.6	25.50	78
San Felipe	30	86	24	75.2	27	80.6
Tocuyo	28.50	83	23	73.4	25.75	78.4
Quibor	29.50	85	24	75.2	26.75	79
Yaritagua	30	86	24	75.2	27	80.6
State of Zulia:						
Maracaibo	32	89.6	23	73.4	27.50	81
Perija.....	31	87.8	44.25	76	27.62	81.1
State of Falcón:						
Coro	32.50	90	23.50	74	28	82.4
Cumarebo.....	29.50	85	23	73.4	26.25	79
State of Los Andes: ²						
Mérida.....	23.53	74	8.75	47	16.14	61
Mucuchíes.....	20	68	6.75	43	13.37	56
San Cristóbal	25	77	17	62.6	21	69.8
Lobatera.....	22	71.6	15	59	18.50	65
Ejido	20.89	69	-8.25	45	14.57	58
Bailadores.....	21	69.8	10	50	15.50	60
Trujillo	26	78.8	18.50	65	22.25	72
Boconó	21.50	70	15	59	18.25	64.8
Territories of Alto Orinoco and Amazonas:						
San Fernando de Atabapo.....	29	84.2	23	73.4	26	78.8
Yavita	28.50	50.83	23	73.4	25.75	78
Maroa.....	28.50	50.83	22.50	72	25.50	76
San Carlos de Rio Negro	20.50	85	23	73.4	26.25	79

¹State of Bermúdez, now forming the States of Barcelona and Sucre.²State of Los Andes, now forming the States of Los Andes and Trujillo.

AGRICULTURAL, GRAZING, AND FOREST BELTS.

At the beginning of this chapter the statement was made that the territory of Venezuela was divided into three zones or belts, the agri-

cultural lands, the grazing lands, and the forest or wild lands, thus described in the Statistical Annual for 1896:

In the agricultural belt, coffee, cacao, sugar cane, all kinds of cereals and edible tubers, such as the potato, yucca, yam, etc., grow in abundance over an area of 13,350 square miles, of which barely 600 are cultivated, according to the official statistics.

The forest lands are found from the Gulf of Paria, at the end of the eastern coast, up to Maracaibo, the westernmost point. Spacious and extensive fields lie uncultivated in the Yaracuy, Aroa, and Tucacas regions; the thick and far-reaching forests of San Camilo, in the vicinity of the Colombian frontier; the great Nutrias meadows; the Turen forest, almost in the heart of Venezuela, crossed by natural canals, affording easy access to the navigable rivers.

The grazing country, covered with a growth adapted to the profitable raising of cattle and domestic animals, reproducing itself in the most surprising manner, resembles the pampas of the rich and fruitful Argentine Republic. Justly praising it, Colonel Codazzi, cited by the *Anuario Estadístico*, says that "It looks like a great gulf which reaches into the interior of the land, or a sea of grass which forms the horizon on all sides, shut in by the high Cordilleras and the immense forests of Guiana. It is the true cattle range, where cattle multiply almost without the care of man. It is the great breeding ground which furnishes the agricultural lands the working animals and the beef for the food of their inhabitants."

The pastoral belt extends from the east to the west 600 miles, from the town of Barrancas, a settlement situated on the high western bank of the Orinoco River, apex of the delta, up to the savannas which the Sarare River overflows on the frontier of Colombia, formerly New Granada. In the south it covers an average area of 300 miles, from the vicinity of the Vichada river to the Pao mountain range in the State of Carabobo.

This belt covers an area of 27,000 square miles, whose savannas or pampas are distributed as follows: 5,937 square miles in the States of Barcelona and Sucre; 6,819 in the States of Rivas, Guárico, Miranda, and Carabobo; 3,900 in the State of Zamora, and 10,344 in the State of Bolívar.

The third belt—the forestal—comprises innumerable virgin tracts of timber growth, whose natural products are easily obtainable in quantity sufficient to accumulate wealth.

In certain localities of Guiana abound the *sarrapia* (*dipteryx odorata*), and the tree producing copaiba, or *cabimba*, and everywhere may be

found the sarsaparilla, precious woods for building and cabinet work, a diversity of balsams, gums, and medicinal plants. The mulberry, or *fustete*, Brazil and Campeche woods and other dyewoods are found in the forests in great abundance, as also the rubber tree, the *chiquichi*, which is the local name of a vegetable fiber the natives use in making rope. Several varieties of fibers abound. From the barks of several plants excellent fibers are extracted, such as the *majagua*, the native name applied to the tree whose bark is used for rope making and other purposes; the most abundant *gamelote*, or *gramalote*, as well as the fiber of the banana, which are profitably employed in paper making.

According to the most recent official data, the public lands in 1890 extended over an area of 226,102 square kilometers, from which should be deducted 33 square kilometers sold up to 1894, leaving a total of 226,069 square kilometers.

The grazing lands in 1890 had an area of 150,027 square kilometers, which in 1894 had been reduced to 148,143 square kilometers by the sale of 1,894 square kilometers.

The wild lands contained 785,591 square kilometers.

The total amount of land held by private parties is as follows:

In the agricultural section, 123,419 square kilometers; in the grazing section, 257,180; and in the wild section, 12,349.

II.

HISTORICAL SKETCH—LA NUEVA CADIZ.

Although it is beyond doubt that the discovery of a part of the coast of Venezuela toward the east, between Point Araya and Boca de Dragos, was made by Christopher Columbus on his third voyage in 1498, there is no evidence of any landing prior to that made in 1510 on the small island of Cubagua, situated in the channel between the island of Margarita and the mainland, where was founded the first settlement known as New Cadiz. In the course of time it became a place of rendezvous and a nest of pirates, who persecuted the natives and sold them as slaves on the neighboring islands. A short time afterwards New Cadiz disappeared and Cubagua was abandoned, remaining uninhabited to the present day.

Ten years later, in 1520, the city of Cumaná was founded on the southern coast of the Gulf of Cariaco, and it is the oldest city on the American Continent.

THE ISLAND OF MARGARITA.

Subsequently, in 1825, Asunción, the capital of the Island of Margarita, was founded. It was so called owing to the quantity of pearls that were found on its coast.

The eastern part of the Venezuelan coast, opposite the Island of Margarita, where Cumaná was established, was called New Andalusia by its first colonizers. Although it has been thought that Coro and its port (La Vela) were the most ancient settlements on the mainland, there is no doubt that at the time of the discovery and foundation of both, in 1527, there had been three settlements founded two years before in New Andalusia.

THE CITY OF CORO.

It is incontrovertible, however, that the colony of Coro, founded by Ampués, was from its very beginning the most important, and continued to be so for many years. Coro was the starting point for the several expeditions of Spira and the Welsers, or Bélzares, to the interior of Colombia, as well as of Venezuela, in search of gold and of the "El Dorado."

It being unnecessary to give a lengthy account of the Spanish conquest and the subsequent history of the country, the following brief historical sketch has been prepared covering the main points in the life of the once colony of Spain, now an independent State.

Spanish domination once established in the city of Caracas, now the capital of the Republic, the construction of high roads and other improvements was commenced with the aid of the Indians as laborers.

The importance of Caracas, together with the exceptional advantages of climate and fertility of soil, brought about the transfer of the seat of the colonial government from Coro to Caracas, where it remained until the War of Independence broke out, and the Republic was proclaimed upon the basis of the declaration of the rights of man by the United States in the last century, and by the adoption of the principles of its Constitution and ideas of liberty and order.

The absolute lack of cohesion and stability in the Spanish colonial government in Venezuela is easily comprehended and explained when one considers that the basis of its acts was the political disfranchisement of the natives, the prevailing maxim and practice being that only Spaniards had the right to elect and to be elected to public offices, civil and military, with very rare exceptions.

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

The first efforts of the people to free themselves from the Spanish yoke were not successful. After the landing at Coro, in 1806, of Gen. Francisco Antonio Miranda and his unfortunate advance into the interior of the country, he was obliged to retreat and to postpone to a later date the war of independence, owing to the want of concert and organization in the opposition to the dominant colonial power with all its resources and ramifications, aside from the fanaticism among the masses, which had been studiously taught to look upon the Spanish crown as of divine origin and to give blind and absolute obedience to the civil, military, and ecclesiastical authorities established in its name as matters of religion and conscience.

The events which followed the abortive attempt of 1806, accentuating the dominating oppression, sowing discontent and disseminating it, gave impulse and form to the revolutions of April 19, 1810, and July 5, 1811, which began with the deposing of Governor Amparan, and the independent civil and military organization which, after the varying and numerous fortunes of the most ferocious and bloody war imaginable, ended finally with the triumph of republican arms on the memorable field of Boyacá, in the territory of the viceroyalty of New Granada, now Colombia, and later, on June 25, 1821, on the field of Carabobo, in the central part of Venezuela, where the independence of the two Republics was sealed forever. These two later united to themselves Ecuador after the victory in Bomboná of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, at the moment when his worthy emulator and lieutenant, Gen. Antonio José de Sucre, gave the coup de grace to the colonial power on the field of Pichincha through the occupation of Quito, the present capital of the Republic of Ecuador.

BOLIVAR SECURES THE INDEPENDENCE OF PERU AND BOLIVIA.

The Republic of Colombia, freed and organized under the presidency of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, the latter did not deem independence assured so long as Peru, Bolivia, and the other southern republics remained under Spanish rule through failure to cement their own freedom.

At the request of the Congress of Peru, Bolívar sent the necessary reinforcements, under command of Sucre, and immediately betook himself to the theater of action, leaving the presidency of Colombia in the hands of the vice-president, Gen. Francisco de Paula Santander.

On his arrival at Lima, where he reorganized the army, he assumed

the presidency, while there were still enemies to fight and to conquer. He finally triumphed over them at Junín and Ayacucho, at which latter place the republican forces, under the great Marshal Sucre, captured the Viceroy Laserna, the General in Chief Aymeric, and other Spanish generals, commanders, and officers, who were granted full liberty to return to Spain.

There the independence of the two Republics of Peru and Bolivia was permanently secured. To the latter was given the name of its liberator in place of its former designation of Upper Peru.

SURRENDER OF PUERTO CABELLO AND MARACAIBO.

Although the battle of Carabobo, June 25, 1821, had been decisive as regards the independence of Colombia and Venezuela, neither the castle of Puerto Cabello, nor that of San Carlos, at the entrance of Lake Maracaibo, nor the city of the same name and vicinity, were liberated thereby. These surrendered successively. Puerto Cabello, after a desperate struggle, capitulated to Gen. José Antonio Páez, and Maracaibo was attacked and vanquished by the fleet under command of the great sailor, José Padilla, who forced the bar, entered the lake, and, opposite the plaza of Maracaibo, fought the Spanish squadron which was superior in number and size to that of Colombia.

SEPARATION OF VENEZUELA AND DEATH OF BOLIVAR.

The independence of both having been indisputably assured, the Liberator returned to Colombia, where he exerted the greatest efforts to maintain the "Union" between the three sections composing it; but he was unsuccessful, and finally resigned his command, disconsolate, and died broken-hearted in November, 1830, at his country seat of San Pedro Alejandrino, near the port of Santa Marta, at the moment that Colombia, the creation of his genius and of his sword, was being dismembered and divided into the three Republics known to-day as Venezuela, Colombia (formerly Nueva Granada), and Ecuador.

RECOGNITION OF VENEZUELA BY SPAIN.

Although, in fact, the three Republics of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia became independent of Spain and the first was divided into three other republics, *i. e.*, Venezuela, New Granada (which later assumed the name of Colombia), and Ecuador, it was natural to seek to obtain from the mother country the treaty of peace with the recognition of the new order of things. All of them have succeeded in securing this. The

treaty of peace, on the part of Venezuela, was signed at Madrid on March 30, 1847, her independence being formally recognized, together with the possession of all rights of the Crown to the territory previously belonging to Spain, within the jurisdiction of the Captaincy-General of Venezuela.

POLITICAL CONSTITUTION OF VENEZUELA.

The final separation of Venezuela from the rest of the original Colombia having been resolved by its Congress, that body assembled in Valencia, promulgated the constitution of 1830, which, as subsequently amended, is the one now in force since June 21, 1893. According to the constitution, the national territory was divided into nine States, under the name of United States of Venezuela. Their limits are established and the right is granted to two or more of these States to combine or unite into one, providing their respective legislative assemblies shall so decide. They may also conversely ask for their separation, provided two-thirds of their districts assent to it, whenever their population exceeds 100,000 inhabitants. Besides the above-mentioned nine States, the constitution creates and brings under the Government of the Union the territories of Colón and Amazonas, and reincorporates the two Territories of Delta and Zulia, respectively, as they were formerly owned by Spain, within the jurisdictional limits of the Captaincy-General of Venezuela, dependent upon the viceroyalty of Santa Fe de Bogotá.

BOUNDARIES OF THE REPUBLIC.

The exact boundaries of the Republic of Venezuela were not definitely established upon its separation from the Great Colombia, hence the subsequent controversies to establish those between the State of Zulia and the neighboring Republic of Colombia, submitted to the arbitration of the King of Spain and settled by the award of the Queen Regent. The boundaries between the Goajira and the Territory of Amazonas, on the Upper Orinoco, have been the subject of diplomatic negotiations and appear in the present treaty between the plenipotentiaries of Venezuela and Colombia, the ratification of which by the respective congresses is still pending.

MEDIATION OF THE UNITED STATES WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The vexatious and ancient Guiana boundary dispute with Great Britain, whose constantly advancing aggressions are held to be scarcely compatible with the declarations of the British Government, made at the time of the exploration by Robert Schomburgk in 1841,

and of the claims of Venezuela through her minister in London, Dr. Alejo Fortique, has been submitted to an arbitral tribunal which is to meet in Paris within the shortest possible time pursuant to the treaty concluded on February 2 of the year 1897 between the plenipotentiaries of Venezuela and Great Britain, after prolonged resistance on the part of the latter to accepting this peaceful means of settling the difficulty, constantly proposed by Venezuela for many years, and successfully maintained by the United States and their high national authorities to the extent of appointing a commission to determine the divisional line, with the firm purpose not to permit to be wrested from Venezuela by force territory which rightfully and lawfully may belong to her through the title of first occupant, and the other evidence which was adduced in the old disputes with Holland, grantor to Great Britain, and many other documents that are to be found in the archives of the Indies in Spain.

SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF ARBITRATION IN WASHINGTON.

Diplomatic relations having been severed because of these controversies, the Congress of the United States resolved to request Great Britain to accept arbitration which had been rejected previously, and which was agreed to finally, after a diplomatic correspondence highly honorable to the United States, through whose mediation and good offices the arbitration treaty was concluded in the terms following:

The United States of Venezuela, and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being desirous to provide for an amicable settlement of the question which has arisen between their respective governments concerning the boundary between the United States of Venezuela and the Colony of British Guiana, have resolved to submit to arbitration the question involved, and to the end of concluding a Treaty for that purpose have appointed as their respective Plenipotentiaries:

The President of the United States of Venezuela, Señor José Andrade, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Venezuela to the United States of America;

And Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honorable Sir Julian Pauncefote, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath and of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States;

Who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed to and concluded the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

An arbitral Tribunal shall be immediately appointed to determine the boundary line between the United States of Venezuela and the Colony of British Guiana.

ARTICLE II.

The Tribunal shall consist of five Jurists; two on the part of Venezuela nominated, one by the President of the United States of Venezuela, namely, the Honorable Melville Weston Fuller, Chief Justice of the United States of America, and one nominated by the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States of America, namely, the Honorable David Josiah Brewer, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America; two on the part of Great Britain nominated by the members of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, namely, the Right Honorable Baron Herschell, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath; and the Honorable Sir Richard Henn Collins, Knight, one of the Justices of Her Britannic Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature; and of a fifth Jurist to be selected by the four persons so nominated, or in the event of their failure to agree within three months from the date of the exchange of ratifications of the present Treaty, to be selected by His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway. The Jurist so selected shall be President of the Tribunal.

In case of the death, absence or incapacity to serve of any of the four Arbitrators above named, or in the event of any such Arbitrator omitting or declining or ceasing to act as such, another Jurist of repute shall be forthwith substituted in his place. If such vacancy shall occur among those nominated on the part of Venezuela the substitute shall be appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, acting by a majority, and if among those nominated on the part of Great Britain he shall be appointed by the members for the time being of the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council, acting by a majority. If such vacancy shall occur in the case of the fifth Arbitrator, a substitute shall be selected in the manner herein provided for with regard to the original appointment.

ARTICLE III.

The Tribunal shall investigate and ascertain the extent of the territories belonging to or that might lawfully be claimed by the United Netherlands or by the Kingdom of Spain respectively at the time of the acquisition by Great Britain of the Colony of British Guiana—and shall determine the boundary line between the United States of Venezuela and the Colony of British Guiana.

ARTICLE IV.

In deciding the matters submitted, the Arbitrators shall ascertain all facts which they deem necessary to a decision of the controversy, and shall be governed by the following rules, which are agreed upon by the high contracting parties as rules to be taken as applicable to the case, and by such principles of international law not inconsistent therewith as the Arbitrators shall determine to be applicable to the case.

Rules :

(a) Adverse holding or prescription during a period of fifty years shall make a good title. The Arbitrators may deem exclusive political control of a district as well as actual settlement thereof sufficient to constitute adverse holding or to make title by prescription.

(b) The Arbitrators may recognize and give effect to rights and claims resting on any other ground whatever valid according to international law and on any princi-

ples of international law which the Arbitrators may deem to be applicable to the case and which are not in contravention of the foregoing rule.

(c) In determining the boundary line, if territory of one party be found by the Tribunal to have been at the date of this Treaty in the occupation of the subjects or citizens of the other party, such effect shall be given to such occupation as reason, justice, the principles of international law and the equities of the case shall, in the opinion of the Tribunal, require.

ARTICLE V.

The Arbitrators shall meet at Paris, within sixty days after the delivery of the printed arguments mentioned in Article VIII, and shall proceed impartially and carefully to examine and decide the questions that have been or shall be laid before them as herein provided on the part of the Governments of the United States of Venezuela and Her Britannic Majesty respectively.

Provided always that the Arbitrators may, if they shall think fit, hold their meetings or any of them at any other place which they may determine.

All questions considered by the Tribunal, including the final decision, shall be determined by a majority of all the Arbitrators.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall name one person as its agent to attend the Tribunal and to represent it generally in all matters connected with the Tribunal.

ARTICLE VI.

The printed case of each of the two parties, accompanied by the documents, the official correspondence, and other evidence on which each relies, shall be delivered in duplicate to each of the Arbitrators and to the Agent of the other party as soon as may be after the appointment of the members of the Tribunal, but within a period not exceeding eight months from the date of the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty.

ARTICLE VII.

Within four months after the delivery on both sides of the printed case, either party may in like manner deliver in duplicate to each of the said Arbitrators, and to the Agent of the other party, a counter case, and additional documents, correspondence, and evidence, in reply to the case, documents, correspondence, and evidence so presented by the other party.

If in the case submitted to the Arbitrators either party shall have specified or alluded to any report or document in its own exclusive possession, without annexing a copy, such party shall be bound, if the other party thinks proper to apply for it, to furnish that party with a copy thereof, and either party may call upon the other, through the Arbitrators, to produce the originals or certified copies of any papers adduced as evidence giving in each instance notice thereof within thirty days after delivery of the case; and the original or copy so requested shall be delivered as soon as may be and within a period not exceeding forty days after receipt of notice.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Agent of each party, within three months after the expiration of the time limited for the delivery of the counter case on both sides, to

deliver in duplicate to each of the said Arbitrators and to the Agent of the other party a printed argument showing the points and referring to the evidence upon which his Government relies, and either party may also support the same before the Arbitrators by oral argument of counsel; and the Arbitrators may, if they desire further elucidation with regard to any point, require a written or printed statement or argument, or oral argument by counsel, upon it; but in such case the other party shall be entitled to reply either orally or in writing, as the case may be.

ARTICLE IX.

The Arbitrators may, for any cause deemed by them sufficient, enlarge either of the periods fixed by Articles VI, VII, and VIII by the allowance of thirty days additional.

ARTICLE X.

The decision of the tribunal shall, if possible, be made within three months from the close of the argument on both sides.

It shall be made in writing and dated, and shall be signed by the Arbitrators who may assent to it.

The decision shall be in duplicate, one copy whereof shall be delivered to the Agent of the United States of Venezuela for his Government, and the other copy shall be delivered to the Agent of Great Britain for his Government.

ARTICLE XI.

The Arbitrators shall keep an accurate record of their proceedings and may appoint and employ the necessary officers to assist them.

ARTICLE XII.

Each Government shall pay its own Agent and provide for the proper remuneration of the counsel employed by it and of the Arbitrators appointed by it or in its behalf, and for the expense of preparing and submitting its case to the Tribunal. All other expenses connected with the Arbitration shall be defrayed by the two Governments in equal moieties.

ARTICLE XIII.

The High Contracting Parties engage to consider the result of the proceedings of the Tribunal of Arbitration as a full, perfect, and final settlement of all the questions referred to the Arbitrators.

ARTICLE XIV.

The present Treaty shall be duly ratified by the President of the United States of Venezuela by and with the approval of the Congress thereof and by Her Britannic Majesty; and the ratifications shall be exchanged in Washington or in London within six months from the date hereof.

In faith whereof, we, the respective Plenipotentiaries, have signed this treaty and have hereunto affixed our seals.

Done in duplicate at Washington, the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

For several years Great Britain had disregarded the proposals of Venezuela, and subsequently those of the United States to submit the question of the Guiana boundary to arbitration.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT HARRISON.

President Harrison, in his annual message to Congress in December, 1891, expressed himself as follows:

I should have been glad to announce some favorable disposition of the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela touching the western frontier of British Guiana, but the friendly efforts of the United States in that direction have thus far been unavailing. The Government will continue to express its concern at any appearance of foreign encroachment on territories long under the administrative control of American States. The determination of a disputed boundary is easily attainable by amicable arbitration, where the rights of the respective parties rest, as here, on historic facts readily ascertainable.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

Great Britain remaining impassive to the constant efforts of Venezuela and of the Government and Congress of the United States, President Cleveland finally sent his memorable message of December 17, 1895, to Congress, four years after the one above mentioned.

The firm and decided stand of the United States produced alarm in both, intimating as it did in unequivocal terms the resolve of the United States to solemnly recognize the rights of Venezuela despite the resistance of Great Britain to the adoption of pacific means to settle the boundary in question.

THE AMERICAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Consequently the Congress of the United States authorized the President to appoint a commission, which was in fact done, composed of competent persons, which, during the greater part of 1896, was engaged in the investigation of the disputed points; and when it had concluded its labors the Governments of the United States and Great Britain came to an understanding as to the necessity of concluding a treaty that should prevent the conflicts which would necessarily arise in case the territory appropriated by Great Britain, notwithstanding the opposition and repeated protests of the Government of Venezuela, between Point Barima and the Esequibo River, in the auriferous belt in the interior of the country, had been held by the commission to be included within the Venezuelan territory.

After the concluding of the convention submitting the determination of the Guiana boundary to the arbitrators named in the respective protocol, the Boundary Commission terminated its labors. The documents presented by Venezuela, together with those requested and obtained of Great Britain by the Department of State of the United States, and such as were collected by the agents of the commission in Holland, Great Britain, and the Vatican at Rome, will be submitted to the arbitral tribunal, according to the terms of the treaty, to throw light upon the question until finally decided.

III.

THE GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE REPUBLIC.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The constitutional convention of the new Republic of Venezuela promulgated in 1830 the constitution of the State at the time of its separation from the other sections. That organic law, although not providing the federal form for the government of the provinces into which the national territory was divided, was patterned after the Constitution of the United States, with the modifications demanded by the incipient condition of the new political entity, the intellectual state of the people, their habits and customs during the three centuries of Spanish rule, assuredly very different from those prevailing in the United States at the time of their political transformation.

Other constitutions were framed later, introducing the federal system for the regulation of the States composing the Republic. The last, now in force, was ratified by the national congress in Caracas, capital of the Republic, on June 21, 1893, by the representatives of the States of Bolívar, Miranda, Carabobo, Los Andes, Bermúdez, Falcón, Lara, Zulia, Zamora, and the Federal District, which is entitled to representation in Venezuela.

This constitution establishes the boundaries of the States, following those laid down in the previous constitution of April 28, 1856, except as regards the Territory of Nirgua, which forms part of the Territory of Carabobo and not of that of Lara, which was the case formerly.

The constitution also grants to any two or more of the States to unite and constitute one State whenever the legislatures thereof shall so

decide by a two-thirds vote; and also authorized the sections of territory formed into States by the constitution of April 27, 1881, to again become such whenever two-thirds of the districts thereof shall so request, provided the population exceeds 100,000 inhabitants.¹ as before stated.

CITIZENSHIP AND ITS REQUIREMENTS.

Citizenship is conferred by the fact of birth on the national territory, and is also acquired by naturalization.

Children of a Venezuelan father or mother, even though born abroad, become Venezuelans by birth upon declaring before competent authority, on entering Venezuela, that such is their desire.

For those born abroad of a Venezuelan father or mother, and those born in Spanish-American countries or the Spanish Antilles, it is only necessary to declare their intention to become naturalized to acquire citizenship.

ALIENS ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS.

Foreigners enjoy the same civil rights as Venezuelans. The Government of Venezuela can not conclude treaties with nations that do not recognize that while their citizens in Venezuela enjoy the same civil rights as natives of the country they are also subject to the same obligations.

BASES OF THE UNION AND GUARANTEES.

Title III of the Constitution establishes the bases of the Union, the form of the federal government of the States, and its jurisdictional limits.

It likewise guarantees, before the law, the inviolability of life and the home and the free expression of thought. It declares property to be inviolable save where needed for public purposes, through indemnity and other legal formalities. It also provides for the inviolability of correspondence. It prohibits conscription for the military service.

No passport is required to travel within the Republic or depart from the same.

¹ In accordance with this provision, the States of Miranda, Bermúdez, and Los Andes have lately separated in sections which form the following new States: The State of Miranda forms at present the three separate States of Rivas, Guárico, and Miranda; the State of Bermúdez is divided in the States of Barcelona and Sucre, and the State of Los Andes into Los Andes and Trujillo.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

The Congress and legislative chambers.—The Congress is the legislative body and is composed of two chambers—the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies or Representatives.

Each State names three senators and three alternates through its legislature. The requirements for a senator are to be a natural-born Venezuelan and 30 years of age. The term of office of senators is four years, and one-half of them are removable every two years.

The Chamber of Deputies is composed of representatives of the States and of the federal district elected for four years, upon the basis of one deputy for every 30,000 inhabitants and one for every excess over this number which shall not fall below 15,000.

The legislatures of the States are empowered to regulate the manner of electing their deputies and the alternates to fill temporary or permanent vacancies.

Deputies to the Congress must be Venezuelans by birth.

The federal Congress meets at the capital, without previous notice, on February 20 of each year.

The regular sessions last seventy days, and may be extended to ninety.

The chambers have, approximately, the same powers as in the United States.

The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies choose their respective presidents. The presiding officer of the Senate presides over joint sessions of the chambers.

EXECUTIVE POWER.

The executive power is exercised by the President of the Republic, and in his absence by the President of the Council of Government jointly with the ministers of the several branches of the public administration and the Council of Government, in all cases and with all the attributes defined by the Constitution.

The President of the Republic has the same powers as the President of the United States, with little differences, but his nominations do not need the approval of the Senate, although they do require the approval of the Council of Government, which is also required for the exercise of certain powers prescribed by the Constitution, among which is the power to prohibit aliens not domiciled and notoriously prejudicial to public order from entering the territory of the Republic, and to expel them from the same.

THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT.

The Council of Government divides with the executive the exercise of the more important among the functions in the administration of public business.

It is composed of nine councilors, named by the Congress every four years within the ten days next following the election of the President of the Republic. The alternates who are to fill temporary or permanent vacancies in the council are also elected in like manner.

The council chooses its president and vice-president from among its members; also a secretary and other necessary officers.

It meets as often as its rules require, and for the conduct of business the presence of at least two-thirds of the members is required.

MINISTERS OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The ministers of the executive power have the right to participate in the discussions of the council, and the obligation to appear when called upon for information. In the deliberations on matters within its jurisdiction a majority vote of those present will prevail.

The President appoints the ministers (called secretaries in the United States) of the several branches of administration. These ministers must be natural-born citizens and over twenty-five years of age. All administrative acts of the ministers, save such as are of a financial nature, must be submitted for approval to the Council of Government. The ministers are obliged to report to Congress every year as to the conduct of their ministries within eight days after the opening of the regular sessions. They have a seat and voice in the legislative chambers, as also the obligation to appear when called upon and furnish the information requested.

The Venezuelan cabinet is composed of the following ministers:

Minister of Interior Relations.

Minister of Foreign Relations.

Minister of Public Credit.

Minister of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.

Minister of Mails and Telegraphs.

Minister of Public Works.

Minister of War and Navy.

Minister of Public Instruction.

JUDICIAL POWER.

The judicial power of the nation is exercised by the High Federal Court, the court of cassation, and the other tribunals and courts created by law, which defines their jurisdiction and organization.

HIGH FEDERAL COURT.

The High Federal Court is composed of nine members, whose default is supplied by as many alternates appointed with the same formalities as the regular members.

The legislative assembly of each State sends to Congress a list of nine persons from among whom the councilor and alternate from the State such assembly represents are to be selected. At the same session when the councilor and alternate are chosen Congress classifies the seven remaining candidates in numerical order as first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh alternate, to fill in the order named the absences of the councilor and alternate.

Members of the High Federal Court are appointed every six years, and this supreme tribunal chooses two clerks pursuant to the Constitution.

The attributes of that court are similar to those of the Supreme Court of the United States. They have, moreover, the extraordinary power to try the President of the Republic, diplomatic officers, and other high functionaries of the Council of Government, ministers, members of the High Federal Court, and the court of cassation for treason, violations of the Constitution, or for common crimes.

It takes cognizance of cases growing out of contracts made by the President of the Union and of the constitutionality of legislative acts.

COURT OF CASSATION.

The supreme tribunal of the States is the court of cassation, which under the Constitution must be composed of one member for each State, if the number of these is less than nine. Should the States aggregate more than nine, the court shall not exceed this number. The rule as to the alternates and the designation of six or more to fill temporary or permanent vacancies is the same as that governing alternates in the case of the High Federal Court. The legislatures can not choose judges of the court of cassation from their own membership. These judges must be lawyers who have practiced for at least six years, and they can not accept office under the Executive even by resigning.

ARMY AND NAVY.

The national forces are both land and naval, and are made up of the militia organized by the States pursuant to the laws.

LIMITATIONS OF AUTHORITY.

No one can exercise both civil and military authority at the same time. The National Government can not place in any State military forces of the same State or of any other without permission of the governor of the same.

The Constitution prohibits the levying of any duty or other tax on exports from the country.

Every expense not approved in the appropriation act is expressly prohibited.

National employees can not accept any gift, office, title, or remuneration from foreign nations without the consent of the senate.

COMPACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF AMERICA.

The national Executive is empowered to treat with the governments of America regarding compacts of alliance and confederation.

The assignment, in whole or in part, to foreign governments of contracts with the National Government or with the State governments is prohibited. Doubts and controversies growing out of such contracts shall be submitted to the courts of the Republic, and can in no case be the subject of diplomatic claims.

OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

The provisions of international law are adopted by article 150 of the Constitution as part of the Venezuelan laws, especially in civil wars and treaties of peace; human life, in every case, being considered inviolable.

PRESIDENTIAL TERM AND CONSTITUTIONAL DATES.

The Presidential terms are reckoned from February 20, 1892.

In all public documents and acts the date of independence, July 5, 1811, and of the federation, February 20, 1859, when the federal system was adopted, are cited.

GOVERNMENT OF THE STATES, TERRITORIES, AND COLONIES.

Each of the States forming the Venezuelan confederation is governed by a president chosen by direct vote of the legislature thereof for a term of four years.

The laws of each State determine the manner and time of electing the several officers.

The executive power is vested with the necessary constitutional authority for the better organization of the federal district. The President exercises therein his authority through a governor of his own exclusive choosing.

Besides the thirteen States and the Federal District, which resembles that of Columbia in the United States, there are the two Federal Territories of Colón and Amazonas, governed by special enactments and dependent upon the Federal Government, forming a part of the national territory.

The two colonies of Independencia and Bolívar, founded in 1874 for the purpose of inaugurating the colonization system under the ministry of agriculture, industry, and commerce, also form a part of the nation.

IV.

POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC INTO STATES, COLONIES, AND TERRITORIES.

The territory of the Republic is divided into thirteen Federal States, as follows:

Rivas, Miranda, Los Andes, Trujillo, Barcelona, Sucre, Bolívar, Carabobo, Falcón, Guárico, Lara, Zamora, and Zulia; two Federal Territories, Colón and Amazonas; two agricultural colonies, Bolívar and Independencia, and the Federal District, seat of the supreme national authority.

Each State has its president and legislature. The former is elected by direct vote every four years. Each State, by special law, determines the form and conditions for the election of the members of its legislature.

The Federal District is dependent upon the President of the Republic, who exercises his authority therein through a governor of his free selection.

The two territories of Colón and Amazonas are also directly dependent upon the Government and are governed by special laws.

THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

The Federal District is composed of the eight parishes of the city of Caracas, the capital of the Republic, i. e., Catedral, Altigracia, Santa

Teresa, Santa Rosalía, Candelaria, San Juan, La Pastora, and San José. The six suburban parishes, separated from the capital, are: El Valle, Antímamo, La Vega, El Recreo, Macuto, and Macarao. The total population of the district, including the suburban parishes, is 90,959 souls.

THE CAPITAL.

The capital of the Republic, seat of the national government, is the city of Caracas, founded in 1567 by Don Diego de Lozada, a Spanish captain, who gave the city the name of Santiago de León, which it still retains in old and modern public documents. Seven years before the arrival of Lozada, Don Francisco Fajardo had made an unsuccessful attempt to found the capital; his failure was due to the warlike character of the indigenous tribes.

The geographical position of Caracas is $67^{\circ} 4' 45''$ west of the Greenwich meridian, or $69^{\circ} 25'$ east of the Paris meridian, and occupies an area of 4,272,000 square meters. Its altitude above the sea level has been calculated to be 3,018 English feet at the base of the cathedral tower. The city, including the six outlying parishes, forms the Federal District, and is situated in the beautiful valley of Caracas, 12 miles in length and somewhat over 3 miles at its widest part. The climate and atmospheric conditions are admirable, owing to the mildness of the temperature, the pale blue skies, almost always unclouded, and the varied and smiling surroundings, from the lofty and broken heights of Avila to its slopes covered with high and leafy trees, its thick forests, and the peaceful plains from Chacao to La Vega, bathed by the Guaire River, and its smaller tributaries, the Caroata, Catuche, Ñaraulí, and Gamboa. The high hills to the south of the Guairè inclose the plateau on that side.

The temperature never rises above 82° F., nor has descended lower than 65° F. save occasionally, and then only for a few hours, toward the end of December, when the temperature is the lowest. The highest temperature is felt from June to September.

According to the census of 1891, Caracas had a population of 72,429 inhabitants and 10,379 houses, without including the six suburban parishes making up the Federal District. With the inclusion of these, the total population becomes 90,000, rather more than less. In 1810 Caracas had 50,000 souls. The increase to-day is relatively small, owing to the devastations of the war of independence, which was maintained until 1824, the earthquake of 1812, and after that date the cholera epidemic, which caused great ravages. From 1880 to the completion

of the census of 1896 the increase has been comparatively greater, and it is but natural that it should continue to swell by reason of the normal conditions and the peace which reigns throughout the country generally and the incomparable climate the locality enjoys.

The streets of Caracas cross each other at right angles, and run lengthwise from east to west and from north to south. The cross streets, the principal streets of the city, are made of paving stones, the sidewalks being in cement, while the less prominent thoroughfares are paved in rough stones, the sidewalks being either in cement or large smooth slabs. The system employed for the nomenclature of the streets and the numbering of the houses is easy. Taking as a center the intersection of the streets where the tower of the cathedral stands, the street running north from that point to the National Pantheon is called North avenue (*Avenida Norte*); from the same intersection south, to the river Guaire, runs South avenue (*Avenida Sur*), and from the same starting point, east to the central railway station, and west to the old high road to La Guaira, run the East and West avenues (*Avenida Este y Avenida Oeste*), respectively. The streets parallel to these are numbered, even to the west, and with odd numbers to the east, and are called *calles*, for instance, *Calle Norte 1*, *Calle Sur 10*, *Calle Este 4*, *Calle Oeste 3*, etc.

The houses are all numbered with even numbers on one side and odd numbers on the opposite side. Notwithstanding this, the inhabitants use still the old system. There are, beside these streets, several alleys, and the three passages called *Pasaje Linares*, *Pasaje del Centenario*, and *Pasaje de Altigracia*.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS.

Among the most notable buildings of Caracas is the Capitol, which occupies an entire square, or an area of more than 2 acres. Within this building are the two halls where both chambers of the national congress hold their sessions, and rooms for the secretaries' offices and committees, facing on the south the spacious Central University, the National Museum and Library, and the old temple of San Francisco, while on the north it is annexed to the Federal Palace, having an elliptical hall devoted to public receptions on ceremonial occasions. Here are hung the portraits of the Presidents of the Republic, commencing with the Liberator Simón Bolívar, followed by the heroes of the independence and statesmen, and ending with the military champions who most distinguished themselves in the defense of the liberty of the country. The great battle of Carabobo, fought on June 25, 1822, which

secured the victory of the arms of the Republic and its separation from the Spanish power, is beautifully represented in the rotunda of the elliptical hall. It is the master work of the inspired Venezuelan artist, Martín Tovar y Tovar, who is also the author of the admirable painting representing the memorable session when the representatives of Venezuela signed and proclaimed to the world the declaration of independence. The artistic merit of the work is generally recognized, and the artist has been subsequently engaged in drawing the great battle of Ayacucho, fought on Peruvian territory.

In the spacious galleries on the east and west sides of the capitol which connect this building with the Federal Palace are the rooms of the High Federal Court and the departments of public instruction and the interior. The archives of these departments are kept in the lower floors. The interior courtyard of the capitol contains in the center a beautiful fountain with several jets of water, and at the sides a variety of ornamental flowers and plants. The arches at the east and west entrances are constructed with considerable taste, as are also the façades of the elliptical hall on the north and the halls of Congress on the south of the building. "La Casa Amarilla" (The Yellow House), official residence of the President of the Republic, is situated west of the Bolívar Square (Plaza Bolívar). It is an old building, two stories high, with beautiful interior gardens and arcades in both stories. On the south side of this building is situated the department of foreign relations (Pabellón de Relaciones Exteriores).

On the north side of the Bolívar Square is the building devoted to the main post-office (Administración General de Correos); the Cathedral lies to the east, and to the south are situated the Archbishop's Palace and the Municipal Palace, where the office of the governor of the Federal District is located; this building also contains several other judicial and executive offices and the police headquarters. In one of its principal halls civil marriages are performed. This hall is decorated with several pictures of prominent historical men, but the principal picture is the oil painting which occupies the entire side of the hall, representing, life size, the act of the signing of the act of independence and mentioned above.

Opposite the southern façade of the Capitol are the buildings devoted to the University, the so-called Exposition Palace, and the old temple of San Francisco. The University (Ilustre Universidad Central de Caracas y Venezuela) is a beautiful gothic building, with interior courtyards or gardens, having the statues of Dr. José Vargas, ex-President of the Republic, the founder of medical studies in Venezuela, and Don

Juan Manuel Cagigal, a prominent Venezuelan mathematician. The western wing of this building, called the Exposition Palace, contains a museum devoted to the exhibition of Bolívar's relics, and the headquarters of the Academy of History, and the corresponding branch of the Spanish Royal Academy of the Language. The National Library and the Museum are situated in the building of the University.

The National Pantheon is a building dedicated to guarding the mortal remains of the great men of Venezuela. The present edifice is raised on the site of the old Trinidad temple. It was dedicated on January 27, 1877. It has three naves, and at the head of the central nave is placed the magnificent marble monument of the celebrated sculptor Tenerani, erected to the memory of the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, and which contains his ashes. In the center is his statue, on one side the statues of Justice and of Innocence, and on the other a lion guarding the treasure, with this inscription: "Cineris hic condit honorat grata et memor patria.—1851."

The Masonic Temple of the city of Caracas is considered as the best of its kind in all South America. In the front of the building there are four salomonic columns at the sides of the principal entrance. On entering there is a small garden. The interior is elegant and spacious and contains large halls richly furnished. Foreign Freemasons are well received by the Grand Lodge of Venezuela. The building is located near the end of Calle 3^a Este, between Jesuitas and Maturín, according to the old nomenclature of Caracas.

Other public buildings worth mentioning are the three markets, called the "Principal," the "San Pablo," and the Cattle ("Ganado") markets, or stock yards, the slaughterhouses, the National Benevolent Institute (Casa Nacional de Beneficencia), the National Arsenal (Parque Nacional) the Institute of Arts and Trades, the public jail, several hospitals, the Municipal Theater, a handsome building principally devoted to grand opera by companies usually receiving a subsidy from the Government. This is one of the handsomest theaters in South America, with a seating capacity for 2,000 persons. There is another called Caracas Theater, devoted to light comedy, etc., and the bull ring.

PUBLIC SQUARES AND PROMENADES.

The principal squares of Caracas are the Plaza Bolívar, in front of the Cathedral, with a beautiful garden of ornamental plants and flowers, having in the center an equestrian statue of the Liberator Simón Bolívar; the Plaza Washington, alongside of the Basílica of Santa Teresa,

also ornamented with plants like that of Bolívar, has in its center a statue of George Washington, the founder of the Republic of the United States. Here all the great public meetings are held, and the citizens show their gratitude for the part taken by the United States in the defense of the rights of Venezuela and of her territorial integrity threatened by Great Britain by floral offerings to this statue.

The Pantheon Plaza is also set out with ornamental trees. In its center rises the statue of the great General Miranda, martyr of the independence.

The square separating the Capitol from the University is called Plaza de 5 de Julio. Like all the other squares in Caracas, it has beautiful gardens. The other squares are the Plaza de Abril, having a statue of Gen. Ezequiel Zamora; Plaza Falcón, with the statue of Marshall Falcón; Plaza de Carabobo, with the statue of Gen. José Gregorio Monagas, the Lincoln of Venezuela; the Plaza del Venezolano, having a statue of Col. Antonio Leocadio Guzmán, and the Plaza de Ricaurte y Girardot, containing a group representing both Colombian heroes who lost their lives for their country during the war of independence on the fields of San Mateo and Bárbula respectively.

The Calvario or Independencia (the official name) promenade is located on the hill fronting on the stations of the La Guaira and the Valencia railroads. On the stair-like approach at the western entrance of the city is the statue of Christopher Columbus, and farther on the arch of the federation and the statue of Bolívar, there being a symmetrical distribution of walks between gardens. On the small esplanade on the top of the hill are a number of plants and a collection of different fowls and tropical birds of many kinds, properly separated. This hill is traversed by two underground passages, one to connect the La Guaira Railroad station with the street which ends at the stairway, and the other, 285 meters in length, connecting the Valencia Railroad station with that of the La Guaira road.

The two other principal promenades are the Iron Bridge (Puente de Hierro) over the Guaire River, leading from Caracas to the cemetery and to the Valle Railroad. On either side of the bridge groups of palm trees rear their lofty heads, making the vista most attractive; and the new Avenida del Paraíso, extending as far as the iron bridge, follows the banks of the river. On the sides of this avenue there are several villas. This avenue was opened at the time of the exhibition of agricultural and industrial products during the apotheosis of General Miranda in 1895.

TEMPLES.

With the exception of the "Basílica de Santa Aña," also called "Templo de Santa Teresa," and the Santa Capilla (Holy Chapel) the churches in Caracas belong to the old Spanish style of building. The principal churches in the city are the Metropolitan Cathedral, erected about 1614, which is a large building, with several naves and chapels handsomely decorated; the Basílica de Santa Ana, the largest of the churches in the city; the Santa Capilla, and the parochial churches of Altigracia, las Mercedes, San Francisco, Santa Rosalía, Candelaria, San José, and la Pastora.

PUBLIC PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

Besides the theaters and the other public places of amusement already mentioned there are in Caracas the bull ring, the race track of Sabana Grande (where races are held annually under the management of the Caracas Jockey Club), baseball and bicycle parks and grounds, etc.

HISTORICAL OBJECTS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.

In the halls of the National Museum, in the northwestern angle of the building, is a section devoted to the care and exhibition of the historical objects and articles used by the Liberator and other heroes of the independence. Among these may be found some decorations and gold and silver medals given to the former. The miniature of Washington, painted by Stuart after the great portrait by Field is there; the "Sol del Peru," which is a medal in the figure of a sun mounted with diamonds, presented in 1825 by the Republic of Peru to General Bolívar; the sword which was presented to the same general by the city of Lima, with its solid gold hilt and 1,430 diamonds; the saddle cloth, embroidered in raised gold, also a gift from Peru, are all here. Here also is preserved the coffin in which he was buried in Santa Marta.

In the same hall are preserved relics of General Miranda and General Páez, and some old standards from Caracas, the coat of arms of Charles V, which was placed over the door of the municipal building of the destroyed city of Nueva Cadiz. A painting of Caracas prior to the earthquake of 1812, the collar of a Peruvian cacique, a knife and fork of the Emperor Maximilian, and many other objects of interest, are also preserved.

CLUBS.

There are several clubs in Caracas, the principal being the Union Club, which occupies a large building elegantly furnished, and balls and receptions are held in its rooms. Besides this club there are the German, the Italian, the Agricultural, the Chess, the Bicycle, and other clubs. In harmony with the universal custom, introduction by a member entitles a person to visit each of these clubs for a limited time.

HOSPITALS.

The Gran Hospital Vargas, supported by the Government, is one of the most notable establishments of the capital, conducted by the Sisters of Charity and provided with whatever befits its best service. The Linares Hospital is intended for children and supported by private contributions.

HOTELS.

The principal inns of the city are the Gran Hotel on Comercio street (sur 4, No. 50), near the Federal Palace; the Saint Amand Hotel, to the east of the boulevard del Palacio Federal; the Gran Hotel Americano, a little further on, sur 2; The Hotel Klindt, on Avenida Este, No. 37; and the Gran Hotel Venezuela, on the Plaza Bolívar. The rates at these hotels are from ten to twenty bolivars a day (\$2 to \$4), according to the location of rooms, including meals and ordinary wine.

There are, besides, other hotels where lodging and meals may be obtained for five bolívares a day (\$1.00), or more, such as the hotels known as La Francia, Los Andes, El León de Oro, Paris, Bolívar, etc.

CITY TRAFFIC FACILITIES.

There are in the city two companies of horse cars, called the Caracas tramway and the Bolívar tramway, controlling several lines. One line connects the respective stations of the La Guaira and the Grand Venezuelan Railroad, on the western extremity of the city, with the station of the Central Railroad on the east side. The other line starts from the Iron Bridge (Puente de Hierro) and runs through several principal streets to the East boulevard, opposite the capitol; another line starts from Palo Grande and runs to the Plaza de Candelaria, and the other car line runs from Bolívar Square, opposite the Cathedral, to the Plaza de la Pastora.

Besides these car lines there is an excellent and numerous service of public conveyances, such as cabs, victorias, etc., regulated by special laws. The schedule of rates is from 30 to 40 cents a drive, according to distance; 80 cents per hour for the first hour and in proportion for the second hour, excepting the "cóches de lujo" or first-class conveyances, which are authorized to charge at the rate of 2 pesos (\$1.50) per hour.

BANKS:

There are two banking institutions in Caracas. The Bank of Venezuela, with a capital of 8,000,000 bolívares and a reserve of 974,753.39 bolívares, collects drafts in all points of the Republic, charging a small interest. It also collects dividends and interest on capital invested. It pays moderate interest on deposits, and undertakes the purchase and sale of public securities. It carries running accounts and makes loans on good security.

It is located in a handsome building of its own on Calle 4 al Este, between La Sociedad and Traposos.

The Bank of Caracas is the other. It is a joint stock company with a capital of 6,000,000 bolívares and a reserve fund of 345,928 bolívares. It was established in 1890 as a bank of deposit and discount. It carries running accounts, makes drafts and remittances by cable; collects bills of exchange, accounts and coupons; issues letters of credit; buys and sells public securities on commission. Its offices are in a new building owned by the bank.

Both banks are private institutions, doing a large business in the country and abroad.

They each issue notes payable to bearer, which are redeemable at sight on presentation at the principal office, and have branch offices in other parts of the Republic.

TELEPHONES, TELEGRAPHS, AND RAILROADS.

There are two telephone companies in Caracas. The service is cheaper than in the United States. The Government owns all the telegraph lines throughout the Republic. The submarine cables connecting Venezuela with the Antilles, the United States, and Europe, respectively, belong to foreign companies having contracts with the Venezuelan Government establishing the conditions of the service.

Four railway lines start from Caracas. The line to Port La Guaira is a bold undertaking because of the height of Mount Avila and the

sinuosities of the land for the 37 kilometers it runs. The other lines run toward the interior over the Petare line, but it has barely been carried a few miles beyond this town in the direction of the rich valleys of Tuy. The line has been contracted and paid for as far as Santa Lucía.

The Valle line is only built for 2½ miles. The longest line goes to Valencia and Puerto Cabello, crossing the high cordilleras surrounding Caracas and dropping into the valleys of Aragua.

The La Guaira and Caracas railroad station, and that of the Caracas and Valencia Railroad, are both in the northeastern part of the city. The station of the Central Railway from Caracas to Petare is in the eastern part at the head of the Avenida Este. The station of the Valle Railroad is located where the Iron Bridge crosses the Guaire River, south of Calle, whence starts the branch going to the General Cemetery.

Caracas is the residence of the Archbishop of Venezuela, the dioceses suffragan to it being those of Ciudad Bolívar, Calabozo, Barquisimeto, and Mérida, and that of Maracaibo.

The city is lighted by both gas and electricity.

V.

STATES OF THE UNION.

Until recently Venezuela was divided in nine self-governing States, subdivided into sections and municipalities. The former nine States were Los Andes, Bermúdez, Bolívar, Carabobo, Falcón, Lara, Miranda, Zamora, and Zulia. At the present time three of these States, by virtue of a constitutional prerogative, have separated into their respective sections, thus forming new federal States, as follows:

The former State of Los Andes, having a population of over 365,000 inhabitants, composed of the sections of Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira, forms at present the new States of Los Andes and Trujillo.

The former State of Bermúdez, consisting of the sections of Barcelona, Cumaná, and Maturín, with a population of over 325,000 inhabitants, forms at present the States of Barcelona and Sucre.

The old State of Miranda, the largest of the Republic, having an area of 72,490 square miles, and a population of over 500,000, formerly composed of the sections Aragua, Bolívar, Guárico, and Nueva Esparta

(the important island of Margarita), has separated to form the new States of Rivas, Miranda, and Guárico.

The other States are the following:

The State of Bolívar (capital, Ciudad Bolívar) has only 135,232 souls in its two sections—Guayana and Apure—and ten districts. Each district has the municipalities assigned to it.

The State of Carabobo (capital, Valencia) has a population of 210,665 souls, and only one section, comprising seven districts, divided into municipalities.

The State of Falcón, whose capital is the ancient city of Coro, has no sections. It has a population of 141,689, and eleven districts, divided into fifty-three municipalities.

The State of Lara (capital, Barquisimeto) has a population of 262,411, and is divided into two sections, Barquisimeto and Yaracuy, and these into ten municipalities.

The capital of the State of Zamora is the city of Guanare, and it embraces the former provinces of Barinas, Portuguesa, and Cojedes. It comprises three sections, namely, Portuguesa, Zamora, and Cojedes, consisting of twenty-one municipalities.

The State of Zulia, with a population of 151,800 souls, has as capital the city of Maracaibo, but has no sections, only eight districts, known as Maracaibo, Miranda, Perijá, Urdaneta, Mora, Colón, Sucre, and Bolívar, containing in all twenty-nine municipalities.

The Bolívar and Independencia colonies and the territories of Colón and Amazonas are under the National Government, as before stated.

The capital of the Independencia colony is still a small town, bearing the name of Taguasita. It has barely 300 inhabitants. It is 37 kilometers from Altigracia de Orituco, a great agricultural center.

The seat of the Bolívar colony is called Araira, 7 kilometers distant from Guatire.

The total population of the thirteen States of the Confederation, including the Federal District, reaches, according to the last census, 2,507,345 inhabitants of both sexes and all ages.

LONGEVITY.

It is a curious fact that in the Federal District, with its 90,959 souls, there are 20 persons over 100 years of age, of which 6 are men and 14 women.

The States of Los Andes and Trujillo, with a cool and even cold climate, have 68 persons more than 100 years old; those of Barcelona

and Sucre have 35; Bolívar, 11; Carabobo, 27; Falcón, 19; Lara, 13; Rivas, Guárico, and Miranda, 29; Zamora, 3; and Zulia, 1; which gives a total of 226 persons who have passed their one hundredth birthday in an aggregate population in the Republic of 2,444,816.

STATES OF LOS ANDES AND TRUJILLO.

(Formerly State of Los Andes.)

The boundaries of the old State of Los Andes (now Los Andes and Trujillo), formed by the sections of Trujillo, Mérida, and Táchira, are the following: On the north the States of Zulia and Lara; on the south and east the State of Zamora; on the west the Republic of Colombia and a portion of the State of Zamora.

The population of the State numbers over 365,000 inhabitants, and its area is 14,719 square miles.

The range of the Venezuelan Andes runs across the entire State, affording exceptional facilities for all kinds of agricultural work, as on account of its high mountains having numberless snow-capped peaks (páramos) the products of all the zones can be cultivated.

The fluvial system of the State, although not abundant in navigable rivers, has a great number of streams from the mountains which either empty into Lake Maracaibo or flow to the neighboring States. The principal river is the Motatán, being nearly 300 kilometers in length, over 100 of which are navigable. Of these, 10 kilometers belong to the State of Zulia. The Motatán empties into Lake Maracaibo.

Overland communication in the State is by means of highroads and mule paths. There is a regular system of mail and telegraph communication with the rest of the Republic. The rivers afford the means of communication and traffic with the neighboring States and the Republic of Colombia. Trade is carried on through the centers of San Cristóbal and San Antonio, where the Government has established a national custom-house.

There are three railroad lines under construction—one between La Ceiba and Trujillo, a second line from San Carlos del Zulia to Mérida, and another line from Encontrados to San Juan de Colón.

The climate is exceptionally fine and healthy. In the State are found the climates of all the zones—warm, temperate, and cold—so that in one day all the temperatures may be experienced, from an oppressive heat in the lower valleys to an intense cold at the top of the mountains.

The agricultural products of the State are mainly coffee, in large quantities, cocoa, sugar cane, wheat, cotton, tobacco, indigo, and all

kinds of vegetables. Cattle breeding is rather neglected. The State possesses a fine variety of rich and useful woods, and also several minerals, among others the urao, or sesquicarbonate of soda, and coal, which in some regions is found in the shape of surface croppings. A full list of the mineral wealth of the State will be found in the chapter of the handbook devoted to the mineral wealth of the Republic.

The industrial products of the State are cotton and woolen fabrics, sacks, and sackcloth made of the fiber of the "cocuiza" and the "cocuy," hammocks, vegetable oils, woolen mats, dyed in vegetable colors in the country, flour, and other articles of consumption.

The principal cities are:

Mérida, capital of the old State, founded by Rodríguez de Suárez in 1558. It has a population of 6,000, occupying an eminence forming one of the most beautiful valleys of Venezuela, on the right bank of the Chamas River, which flows at the foot of a great range of mountains that are snow-capped at all seasons of the year. It is 310 miles from Caracas, 5,303 feet above sea level.

From the bottom of the San Juan lagoon, 15 miles from Mérida, is extracted natron, which is employed to soften the asperity of a certain kind of tobacco reduced to a black pulp, vulgarly known as *moho* or *chimoho*, which is used by the poorer classes in the place of chewing tobacco.

The University of Los Andes is in Mérida. It was founded in 1810 for clerical education in the branches of ecclesiastical history and sacred theology, branches of civil and canonical law being added subsequently. Mérida also has a National School for Girls, several other educational institutions, a public library, newspapers, hospitals, etc. The city is the mercantile center of a great region.

In 1778 His Holiness Pius VI issued the bull creating the bishopric of Mérida.

Trujillo, the old capital city of the section bearing its name, was founded by Paredes in 1565, two years before Caracas. It is 1,485 feet above tide water. The mean annual temperature is $22\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ C., the minimum $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and the maximum 26° . The population is 3,000 souls. The town was looted and burned by the French pirate Grammont, who landed on the coast 240 miles away. This is the commercial center of the Trujillo region, whose principal products are an excellent quality of coffee, sugar cane, wheat, and timber. There are in the section mines of sulphur and antimony. The city of Trujillo has some fine public buildings, churches, a federal college of the first class, a National School for Girls, other institutions of learning, newspapers, etc.

San Cristóbal is an old and flourishing city of the Táchira section, with a population of 6,000 inhabitants, 42 miles distant from the Táchira River, which forms the boundary line between Venezuela and Colombia. It is bathed by the Torbes River, and lies in a rich valley 3,000 feet above the sea, enjoying a mild and cool temperature of an annual average of 70° F. Within its jurisdiction are produced excellent coffee, sugar, tobacco, and vanilla, the latter growing wild in all the woods and forests of Venezuela. There are several industries established in the city.

Not far off is the prosperous and flourishing town of Rubio, in the neighborhood of which oil is struck at relatively small depths below the surface, sometimes 100 feet. The product is refined on a small scale for the local consumption. The sample sent to the New Orleans Exposition in 1884 was analyzed and showed the superior quality of the article. Coal deposits are also to be found, but they have not yet been worked.

San Antonio is the name of the Venezuelan town on the frontier which served as the seat of the national custom-house for goods which, after entry in the Maracaibo custom-house, came here in transit to pay duties, or to be withdrawn for consumption in the neighboring Republic of Colombia. This custom-house was abolished in October, 1897, and now the import duties and the transportation to Colombia must be paid and arranged for at Maracaibo, the railway line, 125 kilometers long, from Lake Maracaibo to La Fría having been established. This line is to be carried forward, touching at San Cristóbal and striking inland as far as Rubio.

The other principal towns are the capitals of the several sections of the State, all engaged in agriculture.

STATES OF BARCELONA AND SUCRE.

(Formerly State of Bermúdez).

The old State of Bermúdez, now divided into the States of Barcelona and Sucre, was formed by the so-called sections of Barcelona, Cumaná, and Maturín. The State is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the south by the State of Bolívar, on the east by the Gulf of Paria and the Delta of the Orinoco, and on the west by the former State of Miranda. The area of the State is over 80,000 square kilometers, and its population reaches over 300,000 inhabitants. The State is divided in 22 districts, formed by municipalities.

Two branches of the coast range, called the litoral range and the interior range, run through the State and meet on the Meapire Moun-

tain. Several arid lands, as well as cultivated valleys, among others Cumanacoa, Carúpano, and Rio Caribe, are found in these ranges.

The highest and largest table lands or mesas in Venezuela are found in this State, starting at the southern extremity of the mountain range and extending as far as the neighborhood of the Orinoco basin. The largest and highest table land is the Mesa de Guanipa, nearly 4,000 kilometers in extent and about 400 meters above the level of the sea. All these table lands are surrounded by large lagoons, thick forests, large rivers, and swamps. The table lands are barren. The plains are covered during the entire year with fine grazing pasture.

The principal rivers in the State are the river Tigre, 300 kilometers in length, of which over 200 are navigable; the Guanipa River, about 300 kilometers in length, and navigable for about 100; the Unare and the Guarapiche, both navigable for about 100 kilometers. There are in this State, besides the above-mentioned rivers, over 20 rivers and streams, most of them navigable, and about 200 small streams. The Neveri River, on whose bank the city of Barcelona is built, is also partly navigable, as well as the Manzanares, the river of the city and port of Cumaná.

There are a great many small lakes or lagoons in the State, the principal being the Guasonica, used as a means of communication with the plains of Maturín; the Unare, in the vicinity of which are found excellent salt deposits, and the Putucual, near which the thermal waters of Putucual are found, and several sulphur mines.

The celebrated Guacharo Cave, the most remarkable of its kind in the world, is found in this State. The cave is situated at about 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, has several tunnels and three main galleries. One of these galleries, about 6,000 feet in length, is inhabited by *Guacharo* birds, a species of sea gull; in the other gallery, about 600 feet in length, no animals are found, and through it runs a beautiful brook. The blind gallery, over 300 feet in length, is of surpassing beauty. The width of the galleries varies from 24 to 75 feet, and the height from 9 to 100 feet. The *Guacharo* feeds on certain fruits, called by the natives *mataca* and *covadonga*, and it is said that the seeds of these fruits, after having undergone the process of digestion by the birds, acquire great medicinal properties. The birds' manure is as good as guano. The natives preserve the fat of the young birds, from which they make an excellent quality of lard.

The Guacharo tobacco, which grows limitedly in the vicinity of the cave, is famous among the native smokers on account of its peculiar

and delicate aroma. Foreigners who have smoked this tobacco have pronounced it as remarkably good, comparing favorably with the best in the world.

The coast of the former State of Bermúdez is on the Caribbean Sea and has gulfs, islands, peninsulas, and seaports, some of them ranking among the principal ports of the Republic. The principal gulfs are the Paria or Triste Gulf, to the east; the Cariaco, to the north, and the small Santa Fe Gulf, near Barcelona. The peninsulas are: Paria, a very fertile body of land, irrigated by several streams, and Araya, arid and dry, where the inexhaustible Araya salt mines, the property of the National Government, are found. The principal islands are Píritu, Borracha, Chimanas, Picudas, and Caracas, in the Caribbean Sea, and Brea, Vagre, Venado, and Guanipe, in the Gulf of Paria.

The most important seaports are Guanta, which is the port for Barcelona; Cumaná and Carúpano, on the Caribbean Sea; Güiría, on the Gulf of Paria, and Caño Colorado, near the same gulf. The foregoing are all ports open to foreign commerce, while the ports of Píritu, Clarines, Rio Caribe, and Cariaco are only open to the coastwise trade. The principal river ports are Barrancas and Soledad, on the Orinoco.

The only railroad in the State is the one from the Narical coal mines to Guanta, passing through Barcelona. There are also wagon roads and mule paths in the State, which maintains regular communication with the rest of the Republic by means of a well-regulated system of mails and telegraphs.

The climate is generally warm, with exception of the mountain ranges, where there are several cool places. The region is generally healthy, excepting some few localities, where malaria is prevalent on account of the swamps produced by the overflow of the rivers.

The State is remarkable for its agricultural wealth, which consists mainly in the cultivation of cotton, tobacco, corn, cocoanuts, and all kinds of produce. Cacao, coffee, and sugar cane are also cultivated, but the lack of good roads to the coast has confined the raising of these products to the actual necessities of the home consumption. Coffee for export is cultivated near the coast. There was a time when cattle breeding was the principal and richest industry in the State, the abundance of cattle being such that beef cattle were sold at \$2 each, and packing houses were established for the exportation of salt beef to Buenos Ayres and the West Indies. The best grazing lands are situated in the vicinity of the Orinoco, and cattle are exported through the ports of Barrancas and Soledad to the West Indies.

Game and fish are also abundant and the subject of profitable industries. The State exports a large quantity of deer skins.

The principal mineral wealth of the State consists of the inexhaustible Araya salt mines and the coal mines of Naricual. There are several other minerals, which will be mentioned in the chapter devoted to this subject.

There are several industries established in the State, among others the manufacture of sugar and brandies, soap and candles, cocoanut oil mills, pottery works, etc.

The following are the principal cities in the State:

Barcelona, capital of the old State of Bermúdez (now capital of the State of Barcelona), founded in 1617. At the beginning of the century its population numbered 16,000 inhabitants, while at the present time it only has about 9,000 inhabitants. This decrease in population is due to the hardships suffered by this city during the war of independence, being on five consecutive occasions the theater of the most bloody battles fought during the war. Barcelona is 19 kilometers distant from the port of Guanta and 4 kilometers from El Rincón. The city is situated on the banks of the river Neveri, at the border of the richest and most extensive plains of the State, which are considered the best pasture land of Venezuela. The streets in the city are wide and straight. There are several fine buildings, among others the Government House, the theater, market, two hospitals, the Masonic Temple, and several churches and educational institutions. The Guanta and Naricual Railroad passes through the city. Barcelona is an important commercial market and maintains valuable trade relations with foreign countries.

Cumaná, capital of the new State of Sucre, is the oldest city in America. It was founded by González Ocampo in 1520, forty-five years before St. Augustine, Florida, and eighty-seven years before the landing at Jamestown, Virginia. Cumaná is 53 feet above the sea, 1 mile from the Gulf of Cariaco, on the banks of the Manzanares River, the most important in that region. The population is estimated at 10,000 souls. Communication with the gulf is by means of a tramway. Cumaná is a seaport, and has a flourishing foreign commerce.

Although the climate is warm it produces excellent grapes, which are barely cultivated now, but which ought to be a veritable source of wealth, as this branch of production has a good market, not only at home but also in the adjacent Antilles and the United States. Competent persons who have studied the Cumaná grapes consider them superior to those of Málaga in Spain, or, at least, as good as the best of the Peninsula.

The special quality of the grapes is noted in the pineapples, which are delicious. The whole surrounding land is fertile and adapted to the culture of tropical fruits and plants, such as coffee, cacao, bananas, oranges, etc.

The mean annual temperature of Cumaná is 27.45° C., the minimum $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and the maximum 31.40° . The city, being situated on ground of volcanic formation, is exposed to frequent earthquakes.

Cumaná is the birthplace of the grand marshal of Ayacucho, Antonio José de Sucre, who, after the memorable campaign of Peru, became the first President of the nascent Republic of Bolivia, from which position he retired to private life. He was assassinated on the mountain of Berruecos, in Colombia, on his way from Bogotá to his residence in Quito.

Carúpano, one of the principal ports of the eastern coast of Venezuela, enjoying an extensive foreign commerce, is a city of 8,000 inhabitants. Its principal industry is the manufacture of the famed Carúpano rum, and also of straw hats and other articles made of native fibers. There are some mineral deposits in the vicinity of the city, mainly sulphur and coal. The region is mainly agricultural. Carúpano has a foreign consular corps and a chamber of commerce.

Maturín has over 4,000 inhabitants. It is one of the most important cities in the State, situated on the Guarapiche River, 22 miles from the port of Caño Colorado. Maturín is an important market for the interior trade, traffic being over wagon roads, while through the port of Caño Colorado and Cumaná its foreign commerce is done. The district is rich in agricultural products and cattle.

The other important towns are Rio Caribe, a seaport and growing town; Guiria, also a seaport of a certain importance; Aragua de Barcelona; Cumanacóa, famed for its tobáceo, and other minor towns.

STATE OF BOLÍVAR.

The boundaries of the State of Bolívar, situated in the southern portion of the Republic, are as follows: On the north, the old States of Bermúdez and Miranda and the State of Zamora; on the east, the Atlantic Ocean and British Guiana; on the south, the Territory of Amazonas and the United States of Brazil, and on the west the Republic of Colombia. The State numbers over 85,000 inhabitants, among them being numerous Indian tribes dwelling on the banks of the large rivers. The State is divided into ten districts.

A branch of the Andes chain, the Imataca and the Parima ranges, runs through the State in an easterly, westerly, and southeasterly

direction. The region west of the mouth of the Apure River embraces vast plains, covered with fine pasture, where large cattle herds graze. The eastern region contains several mountain ranges separated by prairies, large and numerous streams, thick forests, and the many creeks or caños forming the Orinoco Delta.

The principal river in the State, which is also the largest in Venezuela and the third in size of the continent, is the Orinoco River, whose head waters are in the Parima Range, has a length of 2,374 kilometers, 2,000 of which are navigable. The Orinoco has 458 affluents and empties through 17 mouths, which form its delta with an area of 20,000 square kilometers. The other principal rivers in the State are the Apure, formed by the Uribante and the Sarare rivers, 1,187 kilometers in length, of which 1,043 kilometers are navigable. It empties into the Orinoco, as do the rivers Meta and Araure, both rising in Colombia; the Caura and Caroní, all partly navigable. The other rivers are the Cuyuni, emptying into the Esequibo; the Paragua, flowing into the Caroní, and the Mazaruni, emptying into the Cuyuni. All these rivers are navigable in part.

The river ports doing the largest commerce are Ciudad Bolívar, the capital of the State, on the Orinoco, and San Fernando de Apure, on the river of the same name. There are other river ports of lesser importance on the rivers Orinoco, Apure, and Arauca.

The principal islands in the State are Tórtola, Imataca, and Cangrejo. Among the many lagoons of the State the principal are Término, near the Colombian frontier; Cabullarito, near the mouth of the Apure River; Sarare, and Casacoima.

Interior communication is effected by the several waterways of the State, by highroads and mule paths, which connect Ciudad Bolívar with Guacipati and San Félix. With British Guiana, Trinidad, and other West India islands and foreign countries, as well as with the ports on the Venezuelan coast, communication is established by sea. Several steamboats plow the Orinoco, the Apure, and the affluents of the State of Zamora. A Colombian steanboat connects Ciudad Bolívar with the Meta River of Colombia; an American company has a regular line of steamers running between Ciudad Bolívar and the British colony of Trinidad. A French steamer carries cattle from the Orinoco to the neighboring foreign colonies, and a Venezuelan line has established communication between Ciudad Bolívar and several points on the coast. There are, besides these steamers, several sailing vessels and large canoes employed in this traffic.

The climate is generally warm. The regions covered by the thick forests or subject to inundation are unhealthy.

The agricultural products are reduced to the cultivation, on a small scale, of coffee, sugar cane, and produce. Tonka beans, rubber, and several medicinal plants, gums, and oleaginous plants grow wild. The main agricultural wealth of the State is cattle breeding.

Game is so abundant that the "llaneros," or plainsmen, live on it, and rarely, if ever, kill their cattle for food. There is a species of white heron, whose plumage is in great demand abroad. Special game laws have been passed in order to preserve these birds. Fish are also most abundant.

The richest mining region in Venezuela is the Yuruari, in the State of Bolívar, where gold mines abound. The celebrated "Callao" mine might be mentioned, among others, as only a few years ago it astonished the world by its enormous production. There are also other mines and minerals which will be mentioned in the chapter devoted to the subject.

The principal cities are:

Ciudad Bolívar, capital of the State. Up to the year 1846 it was known as Angostura, which name was given it because that was the narrowest part of the Orinoco River, it being scarcely 800 feet wide at this point. It was founded by Mendoza, in 1764, on the right bank of the river, 373 miles from the mouth, at an elevation of 187 feet above the sea. Its population numbers over 15,000 inhabitants. The climate is warm, though healthful. It is a great commercial center for the whole Guiana region, and the port through which all the gold is exported. It maintains steamship communication with the neighboring English island of Trinidad which is the point of connection for the steamship lines for Europe and the United States and the Venezuelan ports east of La Guaira. Ciudad Bolívar is the starting point for the steamers furnishing the mail, passenger, and freight service to all points on the upper Orinoco and between Apure and Nutrias. It will also be the starting point for the line which has been projected for some time past, and which will have to be established eventually to communicate with the Meta River and ports of the great valley of Casanare, as far as Cabuyaro, above the confluence with the Upía River, distant 120 miles in a straight line from Bogotá.

Ciudad Bolívar has a university, the college of the first class formerly there having been raised to the dignity of a university many years ago. The market, cathedral, Masonic temple, custom-house, and theater are the most important buildings.

By the bull of His Holiness Pius VI the bishopric of this city was created, and to-day a bishop governs the diocese with the corresponding chapter.

During the war of independence a newspaper was always maintained in Ciudad Bolívar in the interest of the country.

In 1813 the first republican congress met in Angostura, creating the Republic of Colombia. The city has all modern improvements.

San Fernando de Apure has over 3,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the Apure River and maintains an important river and land traffic, mainly in cattle. This city is the stopping point of all the steamers plying between the Orinoco and the Apure. This is the largest cattle-producing district.

Guacipati and Upata, having about 1,300 inhabitants each, are noteworthy on account of their gold mines and the former from the fact that the school of mining is established there.

STATE OF CARABOBO.

This State bears the name of the celebrated battle of Carabobo, which insured the triumph of the cause of Venezuela's independence. The State is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by the former State of Miranda, on the south by the State of Zamora, and on the west by the State of Lara. Its population exceeds 200,000 inhabitants. The State is composed of seven districts divided into municipalities.

The Coast chain crosses the State and branches off into two ranges, forming the littoral or coast range and the interior range. There are several noteworthy peaks, varying in altitude from 3,000 to 4,500 feet. Beautiful valleys rich in cultivated areas are found in these ranges; among the largest and most fertile are the valleys of Nirgua, Montalbán, Chirgua, and Ocumare.

The largest portion of the Valencia or Tacarigua lake is situated within the boundaries of this State. The altitude of the lake above the sea is about 1,200 feet, its area being 66 square miles, and contains 22 islands, 15 of which belong to this State and 7 to the former State of Miranda. Twenty-two rivers empty into the lake. The waters of the lake are brackish. Fish are abundant, but they are insipid. Formerly the waters of the lake came very near Valencia, the capital of the State, but they have receded about 10 kilometers, on account of evaporation and the destruction of the forests where the rivers feeding it have their head waters.

There are no navigable rivers in the State. The longest rivers are the Paito, Chirgua, Ocumare, Cata, and Cuyagua. The Yaracuí River, which is the boundary between Carabobo and Lara, is navigable for steam launches, light-draft and flat-bottom steamers.

The coast of the State is on the Caribbean Sea. The principal open port is Puerto Cabello; the ports for the coasting trade are Turamo and Ocumare de la Costa. There are on the coast four large coves, an equal number of islands, and numerous small islands.

The means of communication are various. There are in the State over 100 kilometers of railroads, over 500 kilometers of highroads, and over 900 kilometers of mule paths. Valencia, the capital city, is connected by rail with its principal port, Puerto Cabello, and with the capital of the Republic. It is also connected with Caracas, Puerto Cabello, San Carlos de Cojedes, Nirgua, and Güigüie by wagon road.

The climate of the State is generally healthful. It is temperate in the mountains, where a perpetual spring is enjoyed. There are unhealthy places near the coast and in the vicinity of the lake.

The principal source of wealth of the State is agriculture—coffee and cacao being the main products. Sugar cane, cotton, tobacco, and produce are also cultivated. In the neighborhood of Lake Valencia excellent grazing and well-cultivated lands are found, the quality of the sugar cane produced in this section being remarkably fine. Various fine woods, medicinal plants, and game are found in the mountains.

The State also possesses several renowned thermal springs, among others the Trincheras springs, the hottest in Venezuela and recognized as the best of their kind in the world.

The principal minerals are gold, copper, iron, coal, marble, and others mentioned in the chapter devoted to the subject.

The principal cities are:

Valencia, capital of the State and the second city of Venezuela in point of importance, population (30,000 inhabitants) special central location and fertile surroundings, was founded in 1555, twelve years before Caracas, by Alonzo Díaz Moreno. It is 2 miles from Lake Tacarigua. It lies 472 meters above sea level, in an extensive valley, circumscribed by hills of greater or less height, which within a short distance join the chain of the Andes, to which they belong, and from which, in reality, they start. The temperature, though warm, is nearly always equable and mild. The annual average is 24.75° centigrade. It is well provided with excellent water, brought from a distance through pipes.

A street-car line traverses the city in all directions, starting from the Camoruco station, the station of the Puerto Cabello Railroad, on the outskirts of the city. This road runs a distance of 54 kilometers to Valencia. It there unites with the line for the capital, passing by the towns of Guayos, Guacara, San Joaquín, Maracay, and the celebrated and pleasant valleys of Aragua, Turmero, San Mateo, Victoria, and Consejo, thereafter climbing the high mountains of the cordillera, passing by the towns of Teques and Antímano, until it enters the great valley of Caracas, the seat of the capital and of the Government of Venezuela.

In the environs of Valencia are to be found under cultivation the most fertile lauds of the country. The layer of vegetal soil around Lake Tacarigua is very deep and productive. The use of the plow is barely necessary to clear the weeds and turn the soil, and for modern methods of cultivation.

The electric light and telephonic communication have been introduced in Valencia of late years.

The city of Valencia is a great commercial center. Houses engaged in the exporting and importing trade of Puerto Cabello have transferred their warehouses to the former place, leaving agencies to receive and ship imported merchandise and the domestic articles sent in exchange to their foreign correspondents.

Halfway on the railroad between Valencia and Puerto Cabello are the famed thermal springs, popularly called *Aguas calientes* (hot water), at the station of Las Trincheras, whence go guests from all parts of the country and even from the neighboring colonies, owing to the medicinal qualities of the waters. They rise to 206° F., perhaps the hottest in the world save those of Urijino, Japan, which reach 212° on the same scale.

There is a bathing establishment here, managed by competent parties, and guests desiring to remain for a season will find commodious quarters and a good table.

The city has some handsome buildings, among others the Cathedral, the Capitol, the Municipal Theater, the University, several educational institutions, hospitals, etc.

The city has many rich and important business houses, cotton mills, sawmills, foundries, etc.

Puerto Cabello, perhaps the second port of the Republic, excepting Maracaibo, is situated on the Caribbean Sea, about 45 miles from Valencia and 65 miles from La Guaira. Population, over 15,000 inhab-

itants. Its bay is calm and so safe that the discoverers gave it the name of Puerto Cabello (literally Port of the Hair), meaning that vessels might be considered so safe against the dangers of wind and sea that a hair was enough to hold them. The largest ocean steamers can come alongside the piers. Puerto Cabello is connected by rail with Valencia and Caracas. The city has some handsome buildings, among others the Custom-house, the City Hall, the Theater, the Hospital, the railroad depot, two fine churches, and several beautiful private residences. The city also has all modern improvements. Its climate is warm and healthy. Sea bathing is excellent. In the vicinity of the city many beautiful cottages and fine plantations are found.

Montalbán, capital of the district of the same name, is a flourishing town, remarkable on account of the excellent quality of its coffee. Has some fine buildings and a population of 4,000 inhabitants.

Ocumare de la Costa, on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, has a prosperous trade with Puerto Cabello and La Guaira. Agriculture is its main source of wealth, the Ocumare cacao being an excellent product, commanding the highest prices in foreign markets. Population, over 2,000 inhabitants.

Guacara has a population of over 3,000 inhabitants, and is connected by rail and by wagon roads with Valencia, only about 7 miles distant. There are some fine buildings in the town. The district is noted for its fine coffee and sugar-cane plantations, although its principal products are tobacco and cotton. Cattle breeding is also one of the principal industries, the Mariara grazing lands being considered the best in the State.

The other principal towns are the capitals of the several districts.

STATE OF FALCÓN.

The State of Falcón, situated in the northwestern portion of Venezuela, has the following boundaries: on the north and east the Caribbean Sea; on the south the State of Lara, and on the west the State of Zulia. Population, over 140,000 inhabitants. The State is divided into eleven departments, made up of municipalities.

The Coast range or chain, whose highest peak is on the San Luis range, measuring 3,600 feet in height, runs through the State. The most fertile lands in the State are situated in its eastern portion, but on account of the thick forests and swampy lands of that region the climate is unhealthy. This accounts for the small population of such a rich region. There are found, toward the coast, fine grazing prairies.

The western portion of the territory contains an immense barren plain or savanna, extending along the coast as far as Lake Maracaibo. Notwithstanding this, the principal mass of population in the State is found here, engaged in the raising of goats, sheep, mules, and donkeys, which feed on the few products of the soil, breeding so rapidly that this has come to be the main source of wealth of that vast territory.

The principal rivers are the Tocuyo and the Aroa, both emptying into the Caribbean Sea. The Tocuyo River has in this State about 70 miles of navigable course, and the Aroa about 40 miles of navigable waters. The latter at certain seasons of the year is not navigable on account of the scarcity of its flow. There are, besides these rivers, about thirty others of little or no importance, with the exception of the rivers Mitare and Güeque. The inhabitants of the coast, from Cumarebo to the State of Zulia, dig pools, where water is deposited during the rainy season to be used for all purposes during the dry season.

The coast of the State of Falcón runs from the mouth of Caño Oribono, on the west, to the mouth of River Yaracuy, on the east. The coast is generally clean and contains numberless anchorages.

The most remarkable peninsula of Venezuela, the Paraguaná, is found in this State; the main gulf of the coast is the Coro Gulf, the third in size in the Republic. There are ten large and a great many small islands, and many rocks or keys off the coast. The largest islands are the keys near the mouth of the Aroa River, in the Gulf of Coro.

The means of communication in the State are, besides the mail and telegraph systems, the railroad from the State of Lara to Tucacas, the highway from Coro to La Vela, a tramway running to and from these two cities, the waterways of the rivers Tocuyo and Aroa, and a great number of mule paths.

The climate of the State is generally healthful. The temperature is cool and the climate salubrious in the high ranges of mountains, while it is warm and unhealthy in the regions bathed by the Tocuyo and Aroa rivers. The lower ranges are warm and healthful.

The principal agricultural products of the State are coffee, cotton, sugar cane, cacao, and tobacco. Cochineal is abundant in some places. The breeding industry numbers several herds of goats, sheep, donkeys, mules, and some heads of beef cattle.

Pearls, turtle shell, and beautiful snail shells, which have a certain demand, are found on the western coast of Paraguaná. There are also fine fish.

The State has some rich salt, coal, iron, and copper mines.

The industries of the State are represented by the products of sugar cane, goat cheese, hammocks, straw hats, etc.

The principal cities are the following:

Coro, capital of the State, with a population of about 9,000 inhabitants. This is the oldest city in the continent, excepting Cumaná. Coro was founded by Ampués in 1527, and for many years was the seat of the captaincy general of Venezuela—up to 1776, when it was transferred to Caracas. Coro is 108 feet above the level of the sea, and contains some fine buildings, among others the government building, the church, which is the oldest in Venezuela; the market, the old Episcopal palace, and the old convent of the Franciscan Friars; several public squares, colleges, hospitals, etc., and a splendid aqueduct for the water supply of the city.

La Vela, capital of the District of Colina, with a population of over 2,000 inhabitants. This is the principal port of the State, through which very valuable commercial relations are maintained with foreign countries. Traffic through this port is very active with the Dutch Colony of Curaçao, and with the Venezuelan ports of Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, and La Vela.

Cumarebo, an important port for the coastwise trade. Population, 2,000 inhabitants.

Capadare, a small town whose inhabitants are devoted to the cultivation of the Capadare tobacco, one of the best products of its kind in South America.

Tucacas, a small but important port, outlet for the products of the State of Lara, and shipping port for the copper ore from the celebrated Aroa mines.

There are several other towns of lesser importance.

STATE OF LARA.

The boundaries of the State of Lara are as follows: The State of Falcón on the north; the States of Carabobo and Zamora on the east; the States of Zamora and Los Andes on the south, and on the west the States of Zulia and Falcón. The only point of this State on the coast is the mouth of the Yaracuy River, through which a large traffic is done in steam and sailing vessels, to and from Puerto Cabello. The population of the State is about 250,000 inhabitants.

Two of the Venezuelan chains of mountains run across the State, the Andes chain and the coast chain, which meet at the Altar Moun-

tain. The highest points in the State are on the Andes chain, the peaks or "páramos" of Cambimbú, Jabón, and Rosas, each rising over 9,000 feet and forming the boundary line with the former State of Los Andes. Among the valleys formed by this range the following are noticeable on account of their astonishing fertility: San Felipe, Yari-tagua, Tocuyo, and Curarigua.

The principal rivers in the State are the Tocuyo and Yaracuy rivers. The former has its head waters in the Cambimbú Peak and empties into the Caribbean Sea. Its course is over 230 miles long, 45 of which are navigable in this State and about 70 in the State of Falcón. The Yaracuy River has its head waters in the Nirgua range and empties into the Caribbean Sea, being navigable from the boundary with the State of Carabobo. The other important rivers in the State are Acarigua, Barquisimeto, Rio Claro, Sarare, and Chabosquén. The only lake worth mentioning in the State is the Cabra, between Carora and Barbacoas, about 12 miles in circumference.

The means of communication in the State are, besides mail and telegraph facilities, the railroads from Barquisimeto and from Aroa to Hacha, where they connect, a single line going to Tucacas; the highroads from Barquisimeto to Tocuyo, San Felipe, La Luz, Duaca, San Cárlos de Cojedes; several mule paths, which cross the State in all directions, and the Yaracuy and Tocuyo waterways.

The climate of the State is generally healthful. Malaria is prevalent in the swampy districts. Cold is excessive in the "páramos" and very warm in the lower districts.

Agriculture and stock raising are very productive, as irrigated lands and natural pasture grounds are abundant. The principal agricultural products are coffee, wheat, sugar cane, cacao, indigo, tobacco, cotton, barley, and several others. The production of goats, sheep, mules, and doukeys is remarkable and the trade profitable. The number of beef cattle raised in the district is considerable.

The richest mines in the district are the celebrated copper mines of Aroa, which have been profitably exploited for many years. The mineral is transported by rail to the port of Tucacas, thence to Puerto Cabello on steamboats. There are also several other minerals in the State, as mentioned in the chapter devoted to the subject.

The principal industries of the State are the manufacture of morocco leather, coarse cotton cloth, woolen blankets, hides and skins, hammocks, flour, sugar-cane products, etc.

The State is divided into eleven districts, formed by municipalities.

The principal cities are:

Barquisimeto, capital of the State, which has about 40,000 inhabitants. It was founded in 1552 by Don Juan Martínez de Villegas, in a great open valley, 1,711 feet above the level of the sea. It is an important commercial center, having great facilities for communication with the States of Carabobo, Zamora, and Falcón. It is also connected by rail with the important port of Tucacas, thus enjoying great trade relations with Puerto Cabello. The city is the seat of an episcopal chair, has many colleges and schools, both public and private, hospitals, etc.

The main buildings are the Government Palace, the barracks, the market, the cathedral and several other churches. Water reaches the city through an excellent system of tubing.

Agriculture and stock raising are the main industries of the district.

San Felipe has over 7,000 inhabitants, several fine public buildings, schools, and other educational institutions. The district of the same name, of which this city is the capital, is noted for its production of coffee, cacao, its grazing lands and minerals.

Tocuyo, capital of the District of Tocuyo, on the river of that name, is one of the oldest and most important cities in the State, with a population of 6,000 inhabitants. It has some fine public buildings and private residences. The district of Tocuyo is the largest wheat-growing country in Venezuela, its other principal products being coffee, sugar cane, cacao, and stock.

Carora is the capital of the Torres district. Its elevation is 1,132 feet, resting on the river bearing its name, and with a population of 6,000 souls. The climate is warm, but healthful. The raising of goats and other domestic animals is carried on very generally. The inhabitants are laborious and supply the neighboring towns and plains with shoes and leather goods in general—such as sole leather, kids, sheepskins, the product of their tanneries—fishing nets, and hammocks. They also supply salt goat meat, beef and mutton and excellent cheese, carrying on an active trade with the other towns of the State and the neighboring districts.

Yaritagua, capital of the Yaritagua district, is 18 miles from Barquisimeto, in a beautiful and extensive valley 1,037 feet above the sea, with a population of 12,000, and is an industrial and commercial center. Coffee, sugar cane, cacao, and above all, tobacco of an excellent quality, which is manufactured by the residents for the trade and consumption of the surrounding towns, are cultivated. There are at least sixteen shops where tobacco is manufactured and prepared for the market.

There are also several other cities and towns of lesser importance.

STATES OF RIVAS, GUÁRICO, AND MIRANDA.

(Formerly State of Miranda.)

This section, the most important in the Republic, embraces an area of 90,000 square kilometers, with a population of over 500,000 inhabitants. Its limits are as follows: It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by the former State of Bermúdez, on the south by the State of Bolívar, and on the west by the States of Carabobo and Zamora.

The Coast range crosses the State from west to east, forming two almost parallel ranges, the littoral range that runs along the coast as far as Cape Codera, and the interior or inland range, which, coming south of Lake Valencia, breaks off at Ciudad de Cura and then continues toward the former State of Bermúdez. These two ranges meet at Tucuragua Mountain in the State of Carabobo, and at Meapire in the former State of Bermúdez. Lake Valencia is inclosed between these two ranges, as also are the Aragua and Tuy valleys, the richest and most fertile of the country, and the Caracas Valley. In all these valleys, and on the slope of the mountains, rich cultivated lands, pasture grounds, and forests are found. In a line parallel to the interior range the Galéra chain extends, its highest points being the Morros de San Juan, and the Morros de San Sebastián, both over 3,000 feet high. The highest points in the interior range are Platilla and Guairaíma, over 3,000 feet high, and in the littoral range, the highest being the Naguayatá peak, over 8,400 feet high, the "Silla de Caracas" (Caracas Saddle), nearly 8,000 feet, and Cares and Cálculo, both over 6,000 feet high.

The southern portion of the State is composed of extensive plains where small hills of earth, called "médanos," extensive table-lands, forests, and mountains are found. These plains are covered with grass which is used for pasture for all kinds of live stock. The table-lands afford protection to cattle during the rainy season when the rivers overflow. These inundations are due to the affluents of the Orinoco, which, when it overflows, can not withstand the power of such a strong current, and being unable to empty into the Orinoco, overflow the surrounding country. The "Estero" (marsh) of Camaguán becomes so inundated that a lake over 200 kilometers in circumference is formed, it being necessary then to employ boats for the traffic with the interior and neighboring States. During the dry season the rivers dry up almost completely, while the small streams disappear. When this occurs, cattle are driven to the grazing lands, where there is no scarcity of

water. The highest table-lands in the State are the Santa Clara, Mereyal, Barineses, Aracay, and Requena, and the principal forests Guarive and Tamanaco.

The principal rivers in the State are the Guárico, the most important of all, having its headwaters in the interior range, and emptying into the Orinoco; it is over 300 miles long, over one-half of this course being navigable. The Orituco, over 200 miles in length, navigable for about 130 miles, has its source in the interior range and empties into the Guárico River. The Tuy River, whose head waters are in the Coast range, empties into the Caribbean Sea, has over 180 miles run, and is navigable for about one-half of its course. The Manapire comes from the interior range, flows for over 150 miles, 40 of which are navigable, and empties into the Orinoco. The Tiznado comes from the same range and enters the Portuguesa River; it is partly navigable during the rainy season, and its course is about 125 miles. Besides these and other rivers which form the boundaries of the State, there are 200 more rivers and about 300 streams.

The eastern section of Lake Valencia, between Cabrera and Yuma, belongs to the former State of Miranda. There are several other lakes and lagoons, the principal being the Tacarigua, near Rio Chico, over 100 square miles in extent, and the Arestinga, in Nueva Esparta, about the same size. Fishing is excellent and abundant in both lakes, especially in the Tacarigua.

The coasts of the old State of Miranda are on the Caribbean Sea, from Point Aroa, on the west, to the mouth of Uriche River on the east. There are two capes worthy of notice on this coast—Cape Codera, near Carenero, and Cape Blanco, near La Guayra. The islands on the Caribbean Sea are Margarita or Nueva Esparta, Coche, Cubagua, and Tortuga.

The principal seaports are La Guayra, Rio Chico, Higuerote, and Colombia, on the mainland, and Juan Griego, Porlamar, and Pampatar, on the island of Margarita or Nueva Esparta. The principal river ports are Calabozo, on the Guárico, Camaguán, on the Portuguesa, and Cabruta, on the Orinoco. Lake Valencia has two ports, Punta Larga and Arenal.

The old State of Miranda had over 125 miles of railroads, over 150 miles of highroads, over 500 miles of telegraph wires, over 60 miles of telephone wires, and innumerable mule paths.

The climate is generally healthy. Malaria and other kindred diseases are common in the swampy region, but in the high region of the ranges the climate is most healthful and the temperature more or less cool, according to the different altitudes.

Agriculture and cattle breeding are the principal sources of wealth in the State. The valleys of Aragua and Tuy give excellent coffee, cacao, indigo, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, precious woods, etc., and have fine pasture lands. There are numberless herds of cattle on the plains, and in the vicinity of the rivers agricultural lands are abundant. The woods and forests are full of game and precious woods, while the lakes give a large variety of fine fish.

There are also minerals to be found in the State, as detailed in the chapter on this subject. Thermal waters are likewise found, the most noteworthy being the springs of San Juan de los Morros, Orituco, Chichiriviche, and Batatal, the latter being boiling water.

The manufacturing industries of the State are several, among others, sugar-cane products, starch, soap, candles, earthenware, etc. Some of the products of the State are exported through the States of Carabobo and Bolívar. The annual exportation of these products amounts to about \$5,500,000, while the imports almost equal this amount.

The following are the principal cities:

Maracay, until recently the capital of the State of Miranda, with a population of over 5,000 inhabitants. It is one of the most important towns of the fertile valleys of Aragua, the founding of which in the seventeenth century is due to Pérez de Almarza. The river bearing its own name supplies it with an abundance of water. It is a short distance from Lake Valencia, 1,479 feet above the sea and 56 miles by rail from Caracas. It is surrounded by rich plantations of sugar cane and other products, besides extensive live-stock ranges.

Stock raising and agriculture are the main industries of the district. The Maracay cheeses are considered the best in the State, and the cacao produced in the district near the Choroní coast is the finest and richest in Venezuela. The principal buildings in the city are the arsenal, the church, and several public buildings and private residences. The city has to-day a fine system of waterworks for the supply of the population, and in its principal square, called Plaza Girardot, a monument has been erected recently in memory of the ten American officers who, under the orders of General Francisco Miranda, left the city and port of Baltimore in an expedition to help in the war of independence against Spain, and were shot by the Spaniards in Puerto Cabello in 1806. The monument is erected on a broad three-step base and is in the form of a quadrilateral obelisk, surmounted by a beautiful bronze eagle with spreading wings. On the eastern and western sides of the monument stand respectively the arms of the United States and of

Venezuela. On the northern side are inscribed the names of the following heroes: Capt. Thomas Donohue, Lieut. Thomas Billop, James Garner, Gustavus Burguel, Charles Johnson, Paul George, Daniel Kemper, Miles T. Hall, John Ferris, and Sublieut. Francis Farquharson. On the southern side is the following inscription: "The Government of the State of Miranda erected this column in 1898."

Ciudad de Cura, generally known by the name of Villa de Cura, which it bore prior to assuming the dignity of a city, is situated 56 miles west of Caracas, a short distance from Lake Valencia. It was founded in 1730 by Don Juan Bolívar y Villegas, and its site is in a beautiful and extensive valley, formed by the spurs of the mountain range encircling it. Two small streams water it. It is 1,600 feet above the sea at the foot of a rocky and precipitous hill. Its temperature is ordinarily between $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to $26\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ C., although on rare occasions it rises to $30\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ or descends to 22° C.

According to the last census the population is over 10,000 souls. Its proximity to the savannas of the Guárico and the surrounding agricultural and grazing sections make of the city of Cura a great commercial and industrial center. At a short distance from it are to be found plantations of sugar cane, coffee, cacao, indigo, cotton, and minor products, as well as herds of cattle, whose produce, such as cheese, hides, etc., are brought to the city for sale.

La Victoria, capital of the new State of Rivas, has, according to the last census, 7,800 inhabitants, and in reality probably many more. It was founded by Francisco Loreto in 1593. It was the theater of several engagements during the war of independence, and is situated in a very advantageous position on excessively fertile soil, 1,500 feet above sea level, 37 miles southeast of Caracas, in the midst of very important plantations of coffee, sugar cane, and minor products. It is one of the most important commercial centers of the Aragua Valley. It has good public and private institutions of learning, and no lack of industrial establishments for the manufacture of cigars, liquors, hempen shoes, carts, soaps, etc.

The telegraph and telephone services are regularly conducted. The railroad from Caracas to Valencia has in this city one of its most important stations. Highroads and mule paths leave the city in all directions. The city is the main market for the products of the fertile Aragua valleys and the mountainous regions surrounding them north and south, the traffic to and from the center and the west of the Republic contributing to its value as a distributing market.

La Guayra, the principal seaport of the Republic, on the Caribbean Sea, was founded in 1588 by Osorio Villegas. The climate of La Guayra is rather warm.

The view of the town from the sea is beautiful. Baron Humboldt compares it with that of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, in the Canaries. Perhaps there is no other place in the world presenting the phenomenon of a mountain like the Avila, rising perpendicularly above the town to a height of over 8,000 feet above the sea.

Formerly the roadstead of La Guaira rendered the loading and unloading of vessels difficult and unsafe because of the constant heavy swell and the lack of proper wharves where vessels might moor without having to anchor at a great distance from shore, loading and discharging cargo and passengers by means of lighters, until the construction of the sea wall, built under contract by an English company. Work was begun in December, 1885. Experience very soon demonstrated the error in the original plans through the new works being destroyed by the heavy seas. The engineer, Mr. J. S. Houston, assumed charge of the work in 1888, finishing it in 1891. The foundations rest upon masses of concrete, each weighing 150 tons.

The port of La Guayra is connected by rail, by a highroad and a mule path with the capital, Caracas. Among the principal buildings in the city the most noteworthy are the custom-house, the city hall, the theater, the market, etc.

Less than 3 miles east of La Guayra is the town of Macuto, a bathing and pleasure resort, where the sea breeze and the waters of a stream affording an abundant supply of the aqueous element may be enjoyed. Its climate affords those suffering with lung affections the best temperature. The residents of the capital and other places resort here at all times. Aside from the baths in running water beneath arbors formed by magnificent hoary trees, there are public sea baths for the sexes separately, maintained at the expense of the Government. The President of the Republic and his ministers are wont to make short stays here in search of a change of air and release from official cares. Macuto, La Guayra, and Caracas are connected by rail, telegraph, and telephone lines.

Two miles east of La Guayra, on the Caracas railroad, is the town of Maiquetía, having a small stream affording conditions identical with those of Macuto, and with facilities for sea bathing. There the residents of the capital needing a change of air and climate spend periods of recreation. The panorama from the sea is picturesque and most

interesting by reason of the variety of plants, palms, hills, and mountains presented to the view.

Calabozo, capital of the new State of Guárico, is the principal city of the great plains; population, 4,000 inhabitants. It was founded by a company from Guipuzcoa in 1730, to serve as a barrier and protection against the incursions of the Indians, who were wont to invade the missionary settlements in those regions intended to carry the gospel and Christian civilization among them. It is located in the southern corner of the savannas on the left bank of the Guárico River, 327 feet above sea level and 124 miles from the capital. It has a temperature like that of Villa de Cura, or, perhaps slightly warmer, though the difference is hardly perceptible. The mean annual temperature is $26\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ C. (80° F.). Its trade with other towns is not wanting in importance, being carried on by the Portuguesa, Apure, Apurito, and Orituco rivers. The city has a sufficient number of public and private schools, and some printing offices and periodical publications. Its trade is principally in cattle, cheese, hides, skins, horses, mules, woods, and liquors.

Petare is the capital of the new State of Miranda. It is situated to the east of the valley of Caracas at the foot of the Silla del Ávila, 7 miles by rail from Caracas. The climate is mild and similar in every way to that of the capital, without the disadvantage of the moist winds from the Catia side. Its founder was Don Cristóbal Gil, in 1704. It has good schools and all the advantages accruing from its proximity to the capital of the Republic. It is encircled by plantations of sugar cane, coffee, and minor products. Its population is 3,000, engaged in farming, trade, and domestic industries.

The town of Rio Chico lies 4 miles from the Caribbean Sea, near the Tuy River; its climate is warm and the surrounding lands quite fertile. A great part is under cultivation, producing cacao, coffee, corn, and minor products. The population to-day exceeds 4,000 souls. It is in communication with La Guayra by steamers, making three trips a week. It is only 20 miles from the large harbor of Carenero, with which it connects by rail. The two deposits of coal it contains have not been worked as yet. It is joined by telegraph with the other points of the Republic, and is destined to participate in the bright future which doubtless awaits the region in which it lies.

The other principal cities are the capitals of the several districts.

The island of Margarita, or Nueva Esparta, forms the Margarita section of the new State of Rivas, with an area of 1,000 square kilometers. Macanao and Copei are the highest peaks in the island, both about

3,000 feet high. The island was discovered by Columbus, and settled by Marcelo de Villalobos in 1524.

The name Margarita was given it by the discoverers, owing to the abundance of pearls found there. The titiaros, or minute bananas, of the island are the best of the species. Fish abound around Margarita, and the neighboring islands of Coche, etc. Fishing constitutes one of the principal branches of industry and trade among the natives. Goats and sheep breed admirably on the island, as also the other domestic animals, turkeys, chickens, etc. The latter, as well as eggs, and excellent hammocks, hats, needlework and embroidery, the product of local industry, are brought to the port of La Guayra.

The varieties of fish and shellfish at Margarita and the adjacent islands are astonishing. The view of Margarita from the sea at a certain distance is very interesting. Mount Macanáo, 2,000 feet high, is the first object noticed. A sort of maritime canal, 24 miles wide, separates it from the mainland, which has the best harbors on the east of Venezuela.

The island has three harbors. Pampatar, on the southeast coast, is the best; the other two are Porlamar and Juan Griego. The population of 20,000 souls inhabits the two sections of territory, joined by an isthmus 150 feet wide and 10 feet above the sea. The soil is arid and water scarce. The climate is all that could be desired in point of healthfulness.

The city of Asunción, capital of the island, is situated on the largest of the three small streams it possesses, and which flows in a bed of lamellar amphibole, impregnated with sulphate of iron and magnesia. Its population is about 2,000 inhabitants. The city has some handsome buildings, colleges, schools, etc., and in its vicinity numerous plantations of sugar cane, cocoanuts, etc., are found.

STATE OF ZAMORA.

The State of Zamora, occupying an area of 25,212 square miles, is bounded on the north by the State of Carobobo; on the south by a portion of the State of Bolívar; on the east by the former State of Miranda, and on the west by the former State of Los Andes and the State of Lara. Its population is about 250,000 inhabitants.

The largest portion of the State is composed of vast plains, irrigated by a number of rivers, thus affording excellent lands for cultivation. West of the State runs the chain of the Andes, whose slopes are covered with extensive forests and rich valleys. The highest points in this chain are the peaks or "páramos" of Granate, Santo Domingo,

Apure, and Caldera, ranging from 9,000 to 12,000 feet. The State has three large forests—San Camilo, Ticoporo, and Turén—where all classes of woods are abundant. Mahogany is most abundant in the Turén forest, while cacao grows spontaneously in the Ticoporo forest, on which the wild animals feed.

The principal rivers in the State are the Portuguesa River, which has its source in the Andes of the State of Lara, and empties into the Apure River, having a course of over 250 miles, nearly 180 of which are navigable; the Boconó River, which also comes from the Andes, and is about the same length of the Portuguesa, its navigable waters being about 150 miles; the Guanare and the Caparro, emptying into the Portuguesa and the Apure, respectively, having both about the same length, 230 miles, a half of which is navigable. The other rivers, all partly navigable, are the Suripá, Uribante, Santo Domingo, Pagüey, Canagua, Masparro, and Cojedes. Fishing is most abundant in all these rivers. The river ports having the largest traffic are Nutrias, on the Apure; Baúl, at the confluence of the Cojedes and Tinaco rivers, and Torunos, on the Santo Domingo.

The means of communication in the State are the highway leading to Valencia and the highway to Barquisimeto; some mule paths leading to the former State of los Andes; the river Uribante, flowing into this State, and several other navigable rivers flowing into the Apure, thence to the Orinoco. Several steamboats carry the traffic from the river ports of the State of Zamora to Ciudad Bolívar, touching at the intermediate points. Sail and row boats are also employed in navigation.

The climate of the State is either warm, temperate, or cold, according to the altitude above the sea. The forests and the swampy lands are unhealthy. The high places are cool and healthful. The savannas covered with pasture are also healthful, excepting at the points exposed to the breezes from the marshy regions.

Cattle breeding is the main industry of the State, but there are some districts devoted to agriculture. In the districts of Ospino and Araure swine breeding is of considerable importance, the stock being the best that is raised in Venezuela, and constitutes a trade of considerable magnitude with the State of Carabobo and Caracas. The agricultural products are coffee, cacao, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, indigo, wheat, and produce of all kinds, and fine woods.

The State has several mines and thermal springs.

The manufacturing industries of the State are sugar-cane products, straw hats, hammocks, earthenware, etc.

The principal cities are:

Guanare, capital of the State, with a population of 5,000 inhabitants, about 3 miles from the river Guanare, through which communication is effected with Ciudad Bolívar and other towns on the borders of the Orinoco and the Apure rivers. The city has some handsome buildings. The waterworks of the city are very fine. The principal commerce of Guanare is with Valencia, Puerto Cabello, and Ciudad Bolívar. The city is 469 feet above the level of the sea, and 218 miles distant from Caracas. It was founded in 1593 by F. de Leon.

San Carlos, capital of the San Carlos District, has a population of about 3,000 inhabitants. It became famous during the war of independence, being one of the cities that suffered more the ravages of the war. It is 384 feet above the sea, has some fine buildings, and occupies an excellent position as a commercial center.

Barinas, capital of the district of the same name, has about 2,500 inhabitants, and is situated on the Santo Domingo River, which serves as a means of communication with Ciudad Bolívar. It is to-day in a prosperous condition, due to its excellent position as a commercial town and to the fertility of its grazing lands, where cattle are abundant.

Ospino, capital of the district bearing the same name, has about 3,000 inhabitants. It is an agricultural town, swine breeding being its principal industry. It has good roads leading to Valencia, Guanare, and other towns.

Acarigua, the capital of the Acarigua District, has over 3,000 inhabitants, and is noted for the manufacture of straw hats, called "jipi-japa," which are exported in large quantities to foreign lands. Not far from this city is the town of Araure, with about 200 inhabitants. Both towns, before long, will form only one city.

Nutrias, capital of the Sosa District, is on the Apure River, being the most important river port in the State.

There are, besides these cities, several others—Tinaco, Tinaquillo, Pao, Baúl, and others of lesser importance, all noted for agricultural products.

STATE OF ZULIA.

The State of Zulia is situated in the northwestern part of Venezuela. It is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by the States of Falcón and Lara and part of the old State of Los Andes; and on the south by the old State of Los Andes and a part of the Republic of Colombia. It covers a superficial area of 70,000 square kilometers.

Including 60,082 Goagiro Indians still independent and uncivilized. The population is 157,800.

A part of the lands of the State of Zulia are covered with extensive forests of precious woods and mountain ranges, where all kinds of tropical plants may be cultivated.

The Perijá and Siruma range belong to the State of Zulia. The former is a prolongation of the Pamplona range in Colombia, which ends in the Peninsula of Goagira. It has an elevation of over 1,000 meters at its highest point. The Siruma range at the eastern end of the State of Zulia, where it touches that of Falcón, forms a series of branches down to Lake Maracaibo. The Empalado Mountain, which is the highest point, is 700 meters high.

It is estimated that more than 200 rivers and smaller streams water the State and empty into the lake. The principal streams contributing their waters to the lake are the Catatumbo, Zulia, Motatán, Escalante, and Socui. The Catatumbo is over 300 kilometers in length and navigable for more than 200. On the left bank are plantations of cacao and lesser products. Domestic articles and foreign goods imported through the Maracaibo custom-house are transported by the Zulia and the Catatumbo rivers.

At the point where the Zulia flows into the Catatumbo is observable the phenomenon of incessant lightning, which the natives call the Maracaibo beacon, and which at times may be seen from the Gulf of Maracaibo at sea, before crossing the bar.

The Motatán River rises in the wilderness of Mucuchíes, and runs a distance of 300 kilometers, of which 100 are navigable from the lake up. It affords a means of communication with the Trujillo section of the State of Los Andes.

The Escalante River is also navigable. It rises in the snowy height of Yegüines in the section of Táchira, State of Los Andes, being navigable for more than 100 kilometers.

The Socui has its source in the Perijá range, and is called the Limón near its entrance into the Sinamaica lagoon. It has a length of 200 kilometers and is navigable for half that distance. Coconut palms and corn plantations abound on the meadows of this river.

The Tarra and Chamas rivers are also navigable in part and tributary to the lake.

Lake Maracaibo, the largest in Venezuela, covers an area of over 125 miles in length by about 80 miles in breadth, and is surrounded by mountain ranges. The lake receives the waters of 500 and more rivers

and rivulets, over 500 creeks, and communicates with the sea through 13 mouths, which allow the discharge of a large quantity of the waters of the lake into it, while permitting the inrush of the salt water with the tides and the winds. The inward and outward rush of the waters of the sea and the lake is done with great violence. By reason of this inrush into the lake, the water is brackish from its mouth to the city of Maracaibo and sometimes farther in. The rest of the lake is fresh water, which, although not as sweet as river water, is, however, used for domestic consumption and for drinking purposes. During the rainy season all the body of water of the lake is fresh, due to the overflow of the rivers emptying into it, and to the rain falling directly in the lake.

At the entrance to the lake there are several islands formed by the earth and sand dragged by the current of the waters, which have been accumulating for centuries. The principal islands are San Carlos, Bajo Seco, and Zapara, the first mentioned being the largest, and the second the most recently formed. San Carlos is about 25 miles in length by about 2 miles in breadth, having at its southern extremity the Fortress of San Carlos. The island of Toas and several other small islands are inside of the lake.

The principal lagoons in the State are the Zulia lagoon, the Laguneta, and Sinamaica, all navigable for small craft. The Sinamaica lagoon has some Indian towns whose huts are built on piles above the water, communication being made in canoes. The Indians live thus to be free from the mosquitoes and to be able to fish with more ease.

Between the islands of Bajo Seco and Zapara lies the Maracaibo bar, and between San Carlos and Bajo Seco is the old bar. The entrance to the lake is generally called the Sack of Maracaibo, and lies between Point Espada in the peninsula of Goagira, and Point Macolla in the Paraguaná Peninsula. The mouths of the lake are south of the Gulf.

The principal ports are Maracaibo, Altagracia, Gibraltar, and La Ceiba, the latter belonging to the old State of Los Andes. The Gulf ports are Tucacas and Cojoro, in the peninsula of Goagira. The principal river ports are San Carlos del Zulia, on the Escalante River, and Encontrados, on the Catatumbo.

The means of communication with the interior are the navigable rivers, the lake, the mule paths leading to all points in the interior, a few miles of railroad from Encontrados to La Fría, and from San Carlos del Zulia to Mérida.

The climate in the State of Zulia is generally healthful, excepting such regions as are covered with thick forests or marshy lands. Heat is constant, though mitigated by the north and south winds.

Game and several species of fish abound in the lakes and rivers, forming a part of the industry and trade of the country.

Sugar cane, cocoanuts, bananas, corn, and a great variety of tropical fruits are produced in the State. The annual product of 74 sugar plantations in the State, 50 of which have iron sugar mills and 24 wooden, is estimated at 800,000 bolívares (about \$160,000).

The production of cocoanuts is estimated at 17,250,000, with a total estimated value of 5,000,000 bolívares (about \$1,000,000). This nut grows on the banks of the lake, where its oil is extracted and the refuse used for fattening swine.

The annual production of corn is calculated to be 86,000 fanegas; of bananas, 11,000,000 bunches; of cacao, 102,000 kilograms; of rice, 100,000 kilograms; of tobacco, 9,000 kilograms, and of cotton, 4,000 kilograms.

The coffee exported from Maracaibo is produced in Los Andes and Colombia, the production of the State not being great. Besides the articles named there are others which contribute to the trade of the State, such as beans, yucca and its products, squashes, etc.

Among the products of spontaneous growth, freely exploited without cultivation, the following must be mentioned, viz, divi-divi (*cæsalpinia cor.*), fustic, mangrove wood, and copaiba, which yield over 750,000 bolívares (about \$150,000) annually.

Cattle breeding produces over 30,000 heads of cattle and nearly 200,000 "arrobos" (about 5,000,000 pounds) of cheese per annum. Goats and poultry are also raised in large numbers.

Fish and game, as already stated, are most abundant, the yearly product of the fishing industry being calculated at 150,000 bolívares (about \$30,000), and hunting yields about 300,000 bolívares (about \$60,000).

The State of Zulia is also rich in mineral products; among others asphalt, coal, and petroleum. There are several salt beds in the State; the principal being Salina Rica, Sinamaica, and Oribor. Further information on the subject will be found in the chapter devoted to mines.

The State has 8 districts, divided into municipalities.

Maracaibo, capital of the State, is one of the most important and progressive cities in the Republic, with a population of over 35,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the western shore of Lake Maracaibo and was founded in 1571 by Alonzo de Pacheco, who gave it the name

of Nueva Zamora. Its harbor is extensive and safe, and is visited daily by a large number of steam and sail vessels, carrying the products of the several districts of the State, and from Los Andes and the State of Santander in Colombia. Maracaibo maintains most valuable commercial relations with foreign markets, with the interior, and with Colombia, it being the port of transit for goods intended for Colombia. The Red "D" Line Steamship Company, of New York, has a steamer making regular trips from its home port direct to Maracaibo.

From Maracaibo hundreds of small craft, suitable for shallow water, daily start and carry on the trade on the coast and rivers tributary to the lake.

It is the starting point also for passenger and freight steamers and the railroad lines of the Trujillo and Táchira sections of the State of Los Andes, which are gaining ground and extending rail communication with the remotest regions in the interior of the country.

According to data received from the Venezuelan Legation in Washington, the number of schools supported by the State of Zulia is now 56, attended by 1,879 pupils, at a yearly expense of 38,496 bolívars.

Of the other schools, 45 are national, supported by the Federal Government. They are attended by 2,114 children. There are 36 private schools, some only preparatory, with an attendance of 720 pupils.

The University of Zulia and the Bolívar, Cagigal, and Sacred Heart of Jesus colleges, the Commercial Institute of Zulia, and Academy of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Immaculate Conception, and San Luis Gonzaga are not included among the schools mentioned.

Six hundred pupils receive instruction in these latter institutions.

The State supports a public library; the University of Zulia another, and there are besides the libraries belonging to the mutual aid and members' aid societies.

The revenues of the State during the fiscal year 1894-95 reached 2,219,177.10 bolívars; the expenditures during the same period were 2,209,279.62 bolívars.

There are two clubs in the city, 5 hotels, 17 inns, and 24 restaurants.

The most important buildings of the city are the public market, the Executive Mansion, Legislative Palace, municipal building, the Baralt theater, University, new jail, and the six churches—the Parochial, la Concepción, San Juan de Dios, San Francisco, Santa Ana, and Santa Lucía.

In the two public plazas of the city are several statues of General Rafael Urdaneta, one of the most conspicuous champions of the war of independence, and of Don Rafael María Baralt, an eminent litérateur,

born in Maracaibo, who wrote the history of Venezuela, and died in Madrid, being a member of the Royal Spanish Academy.

During the year 1895, 4,191 passengers landed at the port of Maracaibo, and 4,164 sailed from it.

There were entered and cleared at the custom-house 21 steamers, 25 schooners, 5 barks, 8 brigantines, and 1 sloop, all from foreign ports. These figures do not include the lake and river steamers, nor the schooners and small craft engaged in the coastwise trade.

There is in Maracaibo a dockyard for the construction of sailing vessels. The city has a well-established foreign consular service, and all modern improvements, such as electric lighting, telegraphs, telephones, submarine cable, tramways, etc.

Altagracia, capital of the Miranda District, has over 7,000 inhabitants, and is built on the eastern shore of the lake, almost opposite to Maracaibo. It has valuable commercial relations with its own State and towns in the States of Lara and Falcón. The district has coasts on the lake and on the gulf. Its principal sources of wealth are agriculture, fishing, and commerce.

San Carlos del Zulia, capital of the Colón District, is on the Escalante River, which serves as the natural channel for communication with the lake on the north and the interior country on the south, by means of both steam launches and sailboats. Fishing and agriculture are the main industries of the district.

Santa Rita, capital of the Bolívar District, is on the lake southeast of Maracaibo. The town has two fine bridges. The principal industries of the district are the cultivation of cocoanuts and the breeding of goats.

Sinamaica has over 1,000 inhabitants, among them some Indians, who preserve yet their primitive habits and customs, and live on the products of game and fishing. There are three salt deposits in its vicinity.

There are also other towns of more or less importance.

TERRITORIES AND COLONIES.

TERRITORIES.

It has been stated that Venezuela is divided into two Territories, besides the thirteen States already mentioned, and two large colonies. The Territories are the following:

The Amazonas Territory is situated in the region of the forests, its boundaries being as follows: The State of Bolívar on the north, the

Republic of Colombia on the west, and east and south the State of Bolívar and the Republic of Brazil. The population of the Territory is estimated at about 46,000 inhabitants, divided as follows: 12,000 civilized Indians, 33,000 uncivilized, 200 natives of other States of the Republic, and about 700 foreigners. The Indians are grouped in several tribes, the principal being the Maquitaras, the Vanivas, the Puinabos, the Guahibos, the Piaroas, the Macos, and the Vares. The Territory is divided into four districts.

San Fernando de Atabapo is the capital of the Territory.

The eastern portion of the Territory comprises large forests, with rivers, ranges, plains, and savannas. The Orinoco River bathes the central portion, dividing the Territory into two parts. On the western portion great plains are found extending as far as Colombia. The ranges in the Territory belong to the Parima system, its highest peaks being Macaragua, 7,524 feet altitude; Duida and Zamuro, over 6,000 feet each. The navigable rivers in the Territory are numerous, the principal being the Orinoco, Meta, Ventuario, Guaviare, and Vichada, Irurida, and Guainía from Colombia. The last river mentioned takes the name of Rio Negro upon its entering the Casiquiare, and running through Brazil, empties into the Amazonas. The most remarkable lagoon in the Territory is Vasiva, where turtles are abundant.

The Indians have several plantations and a few beef cattle and goat herds. Trade consists in the exchange of cloths and provisions from Ciudad Bolívar and Brazil for the natural products of the Territory and those of the Indian industry. The natural products, in which the trade is larger, are rubber, sarsaparilla, copaiba, tonka beans, tar, and wild cacao; and those of the Indian industry are "chiquichique" (*attalea funifera*) cords and ropes, hammocks, launches, fermented drinks, etc.

Traffic is more active through the region around the Guainía and Casiquiare rivers, and portions of the Orinoco and Atabapo rivers. Communication with Ciudad Bolívar is effected by the Orinoco; with Brazil by the Rio Negro and affluents and by land, and with British Guiana by the waterways of the rivers Padamo, Cuyuni, and Esequibo.

The climate is warm, and unhealthy at certain points.

The Colón Territory embraces the Venezuelan islands on the Caribbean Sea, excepting those belonging to the State of Rivas (old Miranda), to wit: Nueva Esparta, Coche, Cubagua, and Tortuga. The islands forming the Territory are Blanquilla, Los Hermanos, Frailes, Sola, Testigos, Esmeraldas, Venados, Caracas, Picudas, Chimanas, Borracha,

Arapos, Monos, Píritu, Farallón, Ocumare, Orchila, Los Roques, Aves, Los Monjes, and several small islands.

The natural products of the Colón Territory are phosphate of lime, guano, lime, woods, and fish. In Orchila a plant is found by the same name which is exported in large quantities for industrial purposes. There are salt deposits and mangrove groves in Los Roques.

Gran Roque, in the Roques group, is the capital of the Territory. Almost all the islands are uninhabited.

COLONIES.

The two colonies existing in Venezuela were established in 1874, with the object of encouraging immigration. The lands are fertile and the climate very healthful, foreigners enjoying perfect health. The colonies are:

Colonia Bolívar, in the Sucre District of the old State of Miranda, 22 square kilometers in extent, about 30 miles from Caracas, and 5 miles from Guatire. The principal town is Araira. The territory is irrigated by several streams and the Araira River. The main products of the colony are coffee, produce, and starch.

Colonia Independencia, in the Altigraciac district of the old State of Miranda. Its area is 555 square kilometers, its altitude 5,400 feet above the level of the sea, and it is about 70 miles distant from Caracas. The lands are mountainous and excellent for agricultural purposes, the main products being coffee, sugar cane, yucca, and cacao. There are extensive forests where woods for building purposes are most abundant. The territory is irrigated by two rivers and five creeks, which form the Taguaza river, navigable for canoes as far as the Tuy, opposite Aragüita, thence by steamboats to the sea.

Taguacita is the principal town in the colony.

VI.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture and cattle breeding are the two industries forming the most solid base for the wealth of Venezuela, and although it has other resources and rich mines, to which space is given later, it may be set down that it lives off them almost exclusively. Agriculture and stock breeding sustain the foreign commerce of the Republic and attract the immigration which already begins to flow in, and which the Govern-

ment protects through special laws which will be cited hereafter. Venezuela, by reason of her topographical conformation, her climate, and the richness of her soil, enjoys conditions exceptionally favorable to the agricultural and live-stock industries.

The extent of the public lands in the agricultural belt of Venezuela is estimated, according to official statistics, to be 308,004 square miles. The area of the grazing region is said to be 156,450 square miles. Applicants for the purchase of public land must bind themselves, within the three years next following the grant, to cultivate at least one-half of the land sought, and should it be stock land, applicants must occupy it and establish themselves thereon within one year from the date of the grant. The sale is based upon the appraisement made by law, and the price is paid into the office of public credit. The price for public lands is calculated at the following figures: Acre of land suitable for cultivation, on an average, \$3.10 per acre; grazing lands, per square mile, on an average, \$65.50.

The cultivation of coffee, cacao, and sugar cane constitutes the principal agricultural industry in Venezuela. The two products first named are constantly exported, above all coffee, the principal source of the country's wealth. In any agricultural region of the Republic edible grains of different kinds, edible roots of an infinite variety, cotton, tobacco, and all the other products peculiar to hot lands, are easily raised. One-fifth of the population of Venezuela is engaged in the tilling of the soil. According to the latest statistics there are in Venezuela 328,188 persons engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Coffee.—This plant was introduced in Venezuela about the year 1784, in the vicinity of Caracas, where the seed was secured for planting it in the rest of the country. To-day it constitutes the principal wealth of the Republic. In 1839 it was estimated that there were 5,000 fanegadas¹ of land in Venezuela planted in coffee, and in 1888 it was calculated that there were 140,000 hectares of 1,200 trees each, or a total of 168,000,000 coffee trees in the country. The latest statistics show that there are now in the Republic over 32,266 coffee plantations.

Referring to the cultivation of this plant, the pamphlet "The United States of Venezuela in 1893," published by order of the Government, says as follows:

The best coffee is grown in the tierra templada and the lower part of the tierra fria, where the vegetation is refreshed throughout the whole year by dense and cool morning fogs. Experience has proved that the coffee tree thrives best under the shade of other large trees. For this purpose in the warmer parts the "saman" (*Pitheco-*

¹ One fanegada is equal to 1.78 acres.

lobium saman) and the "orore" (*Pithecolobium hyuenæfolium*) are used; in the temperate belt the principal shade tree is the "bucare" (*Erythrina corallodendron* and *E. mitis*), and in the colder region the coffee tree is sheltered by various species of "guamo" (*Inga fastuosa*, *I. vera*, etc.). Of all these shade trees the bucare is the best, as it makes a high clear trunk with a rather light crown, and sheds its leaves in December and January, so that the coffee tree gets an abundance of air and light precisely in the time just before flowering.

The coffee tree gives a first crop when four to five years old, crop time beginning generally in September or October. In well-managed estates there are no more than 1,000 trees per fanegada of land. It may be assumed that every tree yields three-fourths almudes (7.5 liters, or 7 quarts) of berries, which make 750 almudes per fanegada. Thirty-six almudes of fresh berries make 1 quintal of merchantable coffee; a fanegada produces, therefore, about 20 quintals of the latter, which, at the actual price, \$17 per quintal, are worth \$340, one-half at least of this amount being net profit.

The ripe coffee berries look very much like small cherries, and grow in clusters close to the bases of the leafstalks. After being picked they are thrown into the *descerezador*, or coffee pulper, in order to take off the fleshy outer part. This is done by pushing the fruits through a wedge-shaped slit against a rotary cylinder sheathed with a plate of copper which has a great number of little blunt bosses. After this manipulation the berries are left for about twenty-four hours in a brick-work tank with water, where the first fermentation helps to wash them more perfectly, and then they are spread out to dry in a large court, either paved with bricks or made very smooth with mortar. When perfectly dry they are taken to the *trilla*, which consists of a heavy wood or stone wheel, moved either by water power or animal force, and running in a circular bed or channel, wherein the parchment-like covering of the grains is crushed and broken, so that the clean grains can afterwards be separated from the chaff by means of the *venteador* or fanning machine.

Coffee prepared in the manner described is called *café descerezado* (washed coffee), while *café trillado*, which is of an inferior quality, is made by drying the berries without their fleshy pulp being taken off first, and then crushing the husk in the *trilla*.

In first-class coffee the grains ought to be of equal size, light-greenish color, and have a special and pleasant aroma; they should, moreover, be all of the same color after being roasted. All these properties are combined in coffee from Venezuela, which, therefore, unquestionably belongs to the very best kind known to commerce.

Coffee is to-day the most important product of Venezuelan agriculture, and will certainly continue to hold its prominent rank, the more so as the culture of the tree is comparatively easy, and not exposed to any great hazards from the attacks of injurious animals and parasitic diseases. Of the latter there are two, though neither frequent nor very damaging. One is called *mancha de hierro* (i. e., iron rust), due to the ravages of the larva of a microlepidopteron insect (*Cemistoma coffeellum*); the other is known under the name of *candelillo* (i. e., little fire), and is produced by the growth of a fungus (*Pellicularia Koleroga*).

The first exportations made of this product were in 1789, amounting to 23,700 pounds. In 1893 over 102,000,000 pounds were exported, the total crop yield being estimated at 132,500,000 pounds. The exports of coffee in the year 1895-96 reached 52,224,525 kilograms (nearly

113,520,700 pounds), valued at 85,766,157 bolívars. The total production is at the present time (1899) estimated to be over 132,000,000 pounds. The greater part of this product is shipped to Germany and France, and a considerable quantity to the United States, although not so much as appears from the export statistics of the Venezuelan seaports, since much of the coffee which appears as exported to this country is only in transit to Europe. The finest grades of Venezuelan coffee go to Europe.

The average bearing term of the coffee plant is estimated at thirty years in the warm regions and sixty in the cold regions. The average annual yield under ordinary circumstances is calculated to be one-half pound per plant.

Coffee is cultivated throughout nearly the whole Republic; that produced in the temperate regions, where there is less heat, is superior in quality and price to the hulled kinds produced in the hot lands.

It may be said that the greater part of the territory of Venezuela is adapted to the cultivation of coffee, but the uplands are without doubt those producing the best kinds, in proportion to their elevation above the sea. On the heights of Avila and of Caracas, as on all the Andean slopes, the best coffee is produced at the present time. Besides the regions named, lands in the western, central, and eastern States and the valleys of Aragua and Tuij are adapted to coffee raising.

Very good coffee is raised in the sections of Trujillo, Mérida, and Táchira, especially in the high lands of such sections.

Coffee trees are first planted in nurseries, being removed at the end of a year, when they have attained a good size and vigor, to be transplanted at convenient distances where the shade of the proper trees is securable.

The Venezuelan coffee is known in the markets of the United States by the names of "Caracas" and "Maracaibo." The first class embraces the coffees from the interior exported through the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and Cumaná, and the second class the product of the States of Zulia and Los Andes.

Cacao.—Cacao, from which the chocolate of commerce is made, is the seed of a tree (*Theobroma cacao*) indigenous to several countries in tropical America. It grows to an average height of 18 feet, with a trunk from 5 to 8 inches in diameter. It is produced largely in Venezuela, the most famed of the domestic cacaos being those of Chuao, Orituco, Valles del Tuy, Barlovento, Barquisimeto, Trujillo, Mérida, Táchira, Zulia, and Gulf of Paria. In 1833 Codazzi estimated that there were in Venezuela 11,000 fanegadas of land devoted to cacao cul-

ture, with 8,000,000 trees. In 1888 there were 25,000 hectares of 625 trees each, or a total of 15,125,000 trees. According to the latest statistics of Venezuela there are now in the country 7,037 cacao estates. The tree requires for its full development a mean temperature of 25° to 26° C. (80° F.), a moist soil, and a humid atmosphere, and so the lands along the Caribbean coast, moistened by the vapors rising from the sea, and irrigated by the numerous rivulets that course down the mountain valleys, are found to be in all respects well adapted to the profitable cultivation of cacao. The tree yields profitably, according to calculations, for nearly 40 years. A cacao plantation is laid out in quite the same manner as an apple orchard.

No particular preparation of the soil is necessary and no manures are applied. One acre of land will accommodate about 150 trees, which must be protected from the sun by shade trees. While they are young the banana is used for this purpose, and afterwards a species of bucare (*Erythrina umbrosa*). Seven or eight years after planting the cacao trees begin to bear two crops per year, ripening in June and December. The average age of the tree is about thirty-five years, during which time the crop will yield 600 to 700 pounds of merchantable cacao annually per acre. The fruits are oval shaped with longitudinal ribs, and similar in appearance to muskmelons. Some are of a yellowish color, but generally they assume a dark reddish hue on ripening. Each fruit contains some 60 or 80 seeds embedded in a slimy pulp. After being taken out they are either cleaned and gradually dried or previously spread out on large courtyards covered with a kind of red earth or brick dust, which adheres to the seeds and gives them their red color. It is generally believed that cacao treated in this manner keeps longer and is much less exposed to the attacks of insects. In properly prepared cacao the parchment-like seed coat will burst easily when the grain is broken, and the interior, consisting of the cotyledons, or seed leaves, is of a uniform, dark-brown color without any whitish spots. There are several varieties of cacao in cultivation, the two principal ones being the *cacao trinitario* and the *cacao criollo*. The former is more vigorous, yields larger crops, and resists better any unfavorable weather as well as the attacks of insects. But the grains are smaller, harder, and more flattened than those of the *cacao criollo* or native cacao, and have, moreover, a more bitter taste. The best and finest *cacao crillo* comes especially from the coast east and west of Puerto Cabello, though it goes in commerce generally under the name of "Caracas cacao." It is undoubtedly superior to most other kinds of cacao, and so much esteemed that seeds have been solicited repeatedly

for the Government plantations of cacao in Ceylon, Java, and other East Indian islands. Cacao is sold in Venezuela by the fanega, a measure equivalent to 1.6 bushels, weighing 50 kilograms, or 110 pounds. Venezuela exports annually from 18,000,000 to 20,00,000 pounds of cacao, of an approximate value of \$2,000,000. Most of the exportation goes to Spain, France, and Germany. In the United States the demand is steadily increasing. The use of cacao is indeed becoming everywhere so extensive that it must soon be as universal a staple article of consumption as coffee and tea. The exports of cacao in 1895-96 were estimated to be 19,646,449 pounds, valued at \$1,947,570.

The native cacao (*cacao criollo*) yields 10 fanegas of 110 pounds for each 1,000 trees. The Venezuelan cacao enjoys an excellent demand in Europe and in the United States, being known in the latter markets under the names of "Caracas" and "Maracaibo." To the first class belong the products from Rio Caribe, Güiria, Carúpano, Rio Chico, Higuerote, and other places on the eastern coast, while the Maracaibo class embraces the products from the States of Zulia and Los Andes.

Sugar cane.—The cultivation of sugar cane is the second in rank in the agricultural wealth of Venezuela, where four kinds of cane are grown: The creole or domestic; the Otahiti, imported from Trinidad in 1798; the purple Batavia or Guinea, adapted to the production of rum or spirits, and the Salangore, introduced in 1869. All these kinds grow well. In 1839 Codazzi estimated that there were 2,500 fanegadas of land planted in cane; in 1888 there were 98,800 acres under cultivation, and now it is calculated that there are 11,061 sugar-cane plantations in the Republic. It is estimated that 1 hectare (2.411 acres) of good land produces about 15,000 canes, weighing about 13,000 pounds, which ought to produce 6,500 pounds of *papelón* (a common brown sugar) and 480 gallons of rum, of a total value of about \$1,000. The exports of sugar reached some importance in former years. In the year of 1842 182,641 pounds were exported, valued at \$148,154.10. In 1873 the exports were 5,217,465 pounds, valued at \$237,157. Owing to the sugar crisis in the markets of the world, the exports of this product have diminished and almost disappeared in Venezuela.

Up to a short time ago the importation of sugar into the Republic was prohibited; to-day it may be introduced by paying a heavy duty. Sugar is manufactured in the country for domestic consumption. It is of a fair quality, but not refined, as no refineries exist there. The most renowned sugars are those from Guatire and Zulia. The cane product having the greatest consumption, as it is the easiest elaborated, is the *papelón* or *pavela*, the exports of which have also dimin-

ished, for while they were in 1887-88 1,102,290 pounds, valued at 136,358 bolívares, the exports in 1895-96 only reached 4,052 pounds, valued at 417 bolívares.

These are, as has been said, the three principal cultures of the Venezuela of to day, although by reason of the fecundity of her soil and her varied climate the products of nearly all the zones are grown.

Among the cultivations which at one time were very general in Venezuela and which have now fallen away for various reasons is that of cotton, which gave a considerable impulse to the country, and from 1864 to 1866, owing to the high price which the article reached because of the war in the United States, large capitals were invested in cotton fields and machinery; but the conclusion of the war brought about a great crisis, which ruined many planters and merchants.

The cotton growers and traders having been accustomed to getting—the former up to \$6 for each quintal of cotton, in the seed, and the latter up to \$60 for each quintal after seeding and packing—they could not accommodate themselves to the prices at which the article was quoted later in the United States, without calculating that if the production in Venezuela can now be offered in the market for twelve strong dollars or fifteen short dollars, there is no insurmountable reason why Venezuela, which pays lower wages, can not, by making the effort, compete with the United States, when the Americans also export the greater part of their crop to England. The cultivation of this plant is sufficiently well known in the country by the natives, and while they are engaged in it they can be benefited by cultivating other plants, such as the yucca, corn, tobacco, etc. On the other hand, the cultivation of cotton is not endangered, like that of other plants, by irregularities in the rains. The plant was mostly cultivated in the Barcelona section up to 1885, when a locust plague destroyed the fields. The seed cultivated was that of the sea island cotton, imported from the United States. Pursuant to the new tariff law of Venezuela, raw cotton, the importation of which was formerly prohibited, may now be introduced. The cotton which goes to Venezuela from the United States is for the Valencia mills, which manufacture principally canvas and wicking.

Indigo, the seed of which was imported from Guatemala in 1777, became one of the most flourishing industries of the country before the cultivation of coffee became general. Now, although the plant grows wild, it is not believed that its cultivation will be revived.

Tobacco is produced abundantly in the country. It is estimated that nearly 17,297 acres of land are devoted to the cultivation of this plant in Venezuela, and as each hectare yields an average of 15,000 plants,

producing 1,650 pounds per year, valued at \$160, the total production is 11,550,000 pounds, with an estimated value of \$1,120,000. Only 12 per cent of this amount is exported, principally to Germany. The remainder is consumed at home. The Capadare tobacco enjoys the distinction of being the best (price \$40 per quintal), and gets its name from a locality situated between Puerto Cabello and Coro. Excellent tobacco is also raised in Guácharo, Yaritagua, Mérida, Cumanacóa, and other points. Havana seed tobacco has lately been cultivated with success. The exports of tobacco in 1895-96 were 26,796 pounds, valued at \$17,686.

The cocoanut is also cultivated in Venezuela, where there are 1,223 plantations of this nut, which is consumed in the country and largely exported. In Barceloná, Maracaibo, and Cumaná there are mills for extracting the oil from the nut, which oil is the subject of considerable domestic trade. Cocoanuts are exported from Venezuela to the Antilles and the United States.

Notwithstanding the fact that wheat, which was brought by the Spaniards from the beginning of the conquest, has been cultivated in the vicinity of Caracas, the Valles de Aragua, Barquisimeto, Trujillo, Mérida, and Táchira, it is now cultivated in the State of Los Andes, where the milling industry has assumed great importance. Good flour mills exist in the sections of Trujillo, Mérida, and Táchira; but the production is very limited and does not supply the local demand. Wheat flour is one of the United States products most largely exported to Venezuela.

All kinds of tropical fruits and vegetables grow in the country. Among the fiber plants is the *cocuiza* (pita hemp), whose fibers at times reach a length of 1 meter, and which are used for making bags, hammocks, etc. Other fiber plants are the majagua, moriche, spiny-silk cotton tree (*Eriodendron anfractuosum*).

VII.

LIVE STOCK RAISING.

With the exception of the Argentine Republic, no other country of South America possesses greater advantages than Venezuela for the raising of cattle and domestic animals of all kinds. The grazing region, made up of immense fertile meadows, extends from the interior of the

old province of Guiana to the confines of the province of Casahare, in Colombian territory.

Horned cattle are raised admirably here. It may be said that the raising of fine grades of sheep has not yet been undertaken, although the ordinary classes are not wanting in the country.

When Merinos and other better classes of sheep are introduced for slaughter and the production of valuable wools, the splendid facilities for selecting proper land will be apparent.

Stock raising has considerably increased in Venezuela during recent years. In 1888 the figures comprising the preceding fifteen years of raising, according to the official work, "The United States of Venezuela in 1893," already cited, were as follows:

Stock.	Head.	Increase.	Stock.	Head.	Increase.
		<i>Per cent.</i>			<i>Per cent.</i>
Cattle	8,476,291	900	Horses	387,646	400
Goats and sheep	5,727,517	400	Mules	300,556	600
Hogs	1,029,693	500	Donkeys.....	858,963	300

There are to-day in the country 7,654 herds of cattle, 10,407 flocks of sheep, goats, and swine, and 8,906 ranches.

According to the opinion of Humboldt, Codazzi, and other writers, the Barcelona section is the best adapted to cattle raising, not only because of the fine breed of its live stock, but also because of the nearness of its cattle ranches to the shipping points, and its abundant pasture and water. The Barcelona section should be divided, from the live stock breeder's point of view, into three regions—first, the grazing region; second, the grazing and breeding region; and third, the breeding region. The principal shipping ports for live stock on the hoof in the State of Bermúdez are the magnificent bay of Guanta, connected by rail with the capital of the State, and the port of Soledad, on the Orinoco, both in the Barcelona section; in the Maturín section, Caño Colorado and Uracoa; and in the Cumaná section, Puerto Sucre and Guiria. The most convenient port for cattle shipments to the English island of Trinidad is Caño Colorado (Maturín) owing to its proximity to the island and the ranches.

The next in importance to the Barcelona section, as live stock breeding localities, are the sections of Apure, Guárico, Portuguesa, and Barinas, and the States of Bolívar, Miranda, and Zamora.

In the State of Los Andes the cattle industry is assuming large proportions, and in that of Zulia some important herds exist, but the future of this industry in Venezuela is to be found on the Orinoco, the coast, however, retaining some importance—a future which will not materialize while the banks of that river still furnish poor pasture. Ciudad Bolívar, on the Orinoco, is the port of the Republic exporting the most cattle on the hoof, shipping to the British, French, and Dutch Guianas, the Antilles, and Brazil.

To form an idea of the rapid propagation of live stock in Venezuela, it suffices to observe that after the civil wars, from 1848 to 1873, the horned cattle were reduced in 1873 to 1,389,802. By the year 1876 they had increased to 2,158,267 head; in 1883 there were 2,926,733 head; in 1886, 5,275,481; in 1887, 6,687,041, and in 1888, as has been already said, there were 8,476,291. What has been noted regarding the increase in horned cattle is equally applicable to other live stock.

The increase in the number of heads of all kinds of cattle from 1876 to 1888 was estimated at about from 14 to 26 per cent, which has since suffered a decrease of about 25 per cent.

According to the latest statistical data, the other classes of live stock in Venezuela amount to the following numbers:

	Head.
Horses.....	208, 790
Goats.....	1, 560, 956
Sheep.....	134, 014
Mules.....	89, 186
Hogs.....	1, 618, 214
Donkeys.....	382, 810

Especially marvelous are the facilities for the reproduction of goats, it being incomprehensible that no efforts have been made to improve the different breeds by introducing such as will bring more profit to the owners. The extensive regions of the State of Falcón, of Lara, and a great part of the State of Zulia are especially adapted to the raising of goats, these animals being bred with the greatest ease and demanding the slightest labor in their care. Goat meat in the interior of Venezuela is almost on a par with mutton.

The cattle industry offers in Venezuela good opportunities for the investment of foreign capital.

The delta territory and the lands in the vicinity of the great fluvial artery of the country, the Orinoco, are inviting the colonizers to bring their great enterprises, which will insure handsome returns to the promoters. To give an idea of the importance the cattle industry may

acquire in those regions, let us copy what Señor Miguel J. Romero, sr., says, with respect to the estate known as "El Tigre," in the paper he wrote on cattle raising, published in 1884:

This estate (El Tigre) enjoyed great fame by reason of the number of cattle thereon, estimated at 1,000,000. Along about the years immediately preceding 1859, the product of this great estate was being reduced from 8,000 to 10,000 hides a year—hides taken from cattle that died and were skinned, and from a few bulls (perhaps not reaching 1,000) that were converted into steers and inclosed for fattening, then killed and skinned. By 1857 the beef cattle for salting (from 3 years upward, all kinds) had gone up to \$10 and \$12, and began to increase, notwithstanding the large herds from the south, and the meat-salting business was coming to a close; and, in fact, it died out from October, 1857, to April, 1858. About this time there came recommended to Messrs. Manuel Sanchez y Ca. a European, surnamed Elizondo, a very intelligent man in business and the preparation of jerked beef. This gentleman represented the interests of a wealthy Buenos Ayres house, which, in partnership with a Havana firm and Manuel Sanchez y Ca., desired to found in Barcelona an establishment for the preparation of jerked beef equal to the best of Buenos Ayres. The El Tigre estate was thought of; the basis of 50,000 head of cattle, at the rate of 20 reales per head for beef cattle, was accepted, the establishment to be set up on the estate at a port where seagoing vessels could enter—that is to say, that the cattle of the El Tigre, although not burdened with moving expenses, were worth one-quarter of the value of those from the central part of Barcelona. Suppose that this establishment were to be founded at this time, with the experience and knowledge of the day. El Tigre possesses lands on the delta; it has deep waterways flowing parallel from the west to the east to the sea; irrigable land where the paez grass grows perfectly; the cost of fencing would be insignificant. The important expense would be the cultivation of the grass; inclosures could be built for fattening 5,000 steers per year, which, destined to exportation, either alive or as fresh meat, would bring a gross revenue of 2,000,000 pesos per annum. The conditions prevailing at El Tigre are repeated at Rio Claro Hernandero, on the banks of the Orinoco, and at many other places.

The paper on cattle raising to which reference has been made opens with this paragraph:

The cattle industry begins to break the bonds of routine. Steam, that lever of progress, gives it a powerful impulse, and it will soon reach its true pinnacle of grandeur and will occupy a high place as an element of public wealth. No bordering country can compete with Venezuela as an exporter of live cattle. Panama, Jamaica, Cuba, St. Thomas, the Windward Islands, Demerara, Paramaribo, and Cayenne—that is, 2,000,000 souls—make up the natural markets for our cattle, and even Europe herself, where they could be taken either alive or as fresh meat frozen, as it is exported from Australia and Buenos Ayres. The places that are called upon to figure in the front ranks in this economic revolution, which will bring to the country a wealth which will reimburse it for the losses it has suffered through the fall in coffee, are the ports of Guanta (Barcelona), Puerto Cabello, Ciudad Bolívar, and Caño Colorado (Maturín).

The exports of cattle are now about 10,000 head a year, shipped to the Antilles, the British, Dutch, and French Guianas, and Brazil. Formerly the exportation was greater; for instance, in the year 1844 it was 17,661 head, and in 1855 13,920 head. According to the latest information, a contract has been signed in Venezuela for the exportation to Cuba of 2,000 head of cattle monthly for one year. The exports of live cattle to Cuba from Puerto Cabello, from October 6 to December 4, 1898, amounted to 4,724 head.

The exports of hides and skins are as follows: Cattle hides, 3,520,000 pounds; goatskins, 1,540,000 pounds; deerskins, 220,000 pounds. The exports of cattle horns exceed 66,000 pounds.

The Government of Venezuela has enacted several measures looking to the development of agriculture and cattle raising. Among others the more noteworthy were the creation of a Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, and of the Superior Council of Agriculture, a body essentially consultative and instructive, which is composed of nine members or councilors—three graduate agronomists, three agriculturists, and three cattle breeders. Gen. I. Andrade, the present president of the Republic, who, as a farmer and cattle raiser, is interested in the promotion of the agricultural and cattle industries, is a member of this council. The establishment of agricultural schools and experimental stations has also been decreed. The class in agronomy of the Central University of Venezuela has been showing very good results. The Government, in 1895, sent to the United States a member of this class in order that he might study the American system of agricultural education and farming methods. Venezuela, ever attentive to the invitations of the United States, has always sent representatives to the International Agricultural Congress of the United States.

The enthusiasm awakened in Venezuela for the development of its agriculture is due to the initiative of private parties. The decided support of the Government is being sought. Agricultural societies have been formed throughout all the country. The Stock Raisers' Guild of Apure has been organized. Papers devoted to agriculture and stock raising are being established and also bureaus of information. At the initiative of the Agricultural Club of Caracas there met, on February 2, 1898, the first congress of agriculturists of Venezuela, which studied important plans for the establishment of a territorial credit bank, the founding of cooperative societies, and the payment of premiums to farmers.

VIII.

FOREST PRODUCTS.

By reason of the fertility of her soil, the great wealth of her forests, and the variety of her climate, Venezuela is of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere perhaps the greatest among the producers of lumber of all kinds, dyewoods, and medicinal plants. A detailed study of the Venezuelan flora would be necessarily too long, so that this section will be limited only to giving the names and properties of some of these products. The business of exploiting timber has not yet reached the degree of development that it should, due, among other causes, to the fact that, owing to the abundance of the forest growth, those trees which have been felled have not been replaced and to the very injurious custom of making clearings and fires for charcoal and to prepare the land for other cultivations, which has been the cause of the destruction of many of the best forests of the Republic. Besides these causes, others exist which present obstacles to the development of the commerce in exporting Venezuelan woods. The most extensive forests, where the best woods are to be found, are almost all far in the interior, removed from the shipping points, and the nearest forests to these outlets lack roads and means of transportation for carrying large logs and heavy timber. It may be said that the lumber business is limited to local consumption either in the way of building or cabinet-work.

The State of Zulia is perhaps at the present time that which offers the greatest advantages for the establishment of a direct trade in woods with the United States, since its forests are the best preserved and furnish woods which are already known in this country. On the other hand, the frequency of direct communications by steamer between Maracaibo and New York would greatly facilitate this trade. Under date of March 2, 1890, Mr. Plumacher, United States consul at Maracaibo, in a report published by the Department of State (Consular Reports, May, 1890, No. 116), said:

I beg to call attention to the great and unappreciated wealth of valuable woods of different classes found in the forests of this district.

For many years a somewhat brisk trade has been carried on in timber and dyewood between Maracaibo and the United States and Europe. By far the greater quantity has been, and still is, shipped to European markets, but within the past three or four years American importers are taking a more likely interest in the matter. For this reason I desire to make known the fact that in this section of Venezuela, within easy

reach of convenient shipping points on the lake, there exist hundreds of species of most valuable woods, the majority being entirely unknown in foreign markets. Notwithstanding the traffic in this branch of commerce that has for years been carried on, the different classes of woods as yet exported form a most insignificant list as compared with the great number of different species, nearly all of which are quite as useful as, or even more so than, those with which foreigners are already acquainted. Hitherto only the following woods have been exported from this district: Fustic, boxwood, and cedar, together with small quantities of the different species of *lignum-vitæ*.

Divi-divi, of which comparatively large shipments are made to the United States and Europe, is a bean, and can not, therefore, be included in the list of woods, although the tree from which this product is taken gives a most excellent and durable timber.

Consul Plumacher followed the above with a list of 78 kinds of wood "noted as being serviceable for constructions, as they are hard, close-grained, and almost imperishable." After expressing other views, the report ended as follows:

It is to be regretted that, considering the present passion for exploration and travel, some competent explorers do not find their way to Maracaibo. A botanist would find much of interest and do incalculable service by examining and reporting upon our forests. At present, out of hundreds of species of most valuable woods, all of which would be in great demand in foreign markets, only two or three classes have as yet been thought of for shipment. This state of affairs can not always exist, and there are fortunes awaiting those who may determine to bring to light and introduce to the world the treasures hidden in the forests of Zulia. Probably no part of South America of equal area can make a showing in this line equal to this section, and the list I give, meager and incomplete as it is, may at least serve as a hint of what careful investigation might discover.

At the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 Venezuela exhibited 145 kinds of wood and 20 of dye and tanning woods. Among the former are included the following:

Acapro (Tecoma spec.).—From 20 to 25 meters high. It is almost indestructible, but difficult to work.

Aco (Lonchocarpus punctatus).—Height of tree, 10 to 15 meters. The wood is strong and tough, of a darkish color, with some lighter veins; it keeps well under water.

Aguaatillo (Persea spec.).—The wood is used in boat building and for making furniture. Logs of 16 inches square are not uncommon.

Ajicito (Capparis pachaca).—A small tree, with a light-colored wood of not much hardness, used for cabinetwork.

Albaricoque (botanical name not known).—A fine-grained wood, not very hard, used for cabinetwork.

Algarrobo (Hymenox courbaril).—A very hard and heavy wood, so that it can be easily worked. It is especially used for crushing wheels and similar things in coffee estates. Height of tree, 20 to 25 meters.

Araguaney (Tecoma spectabilis).—The heartwood is of great hardness, of a dark olive color. Height of tree, 20 to 25 meters.

Aspai (*Myrodia turbinata*).—A fine-grained and light-colored wood, easy to work, and used by cabinetmakers.

Balaustre (*Centrolobium robustum*).—Wood red-colored, with dark veins; it is easily worked and takes a good polish. Much used for cabinetwork; also for house and ship building. Height of tree, 25 meters. The tree is also known by the name of *cartan*.

Borracho (*Piscidia erythrina*).—A light wood, which, however, resists the attacks of insects, on account of a poisonous substance contained in the sap. It is used for ordinary cabinetwork.

Caoba (*Swietenia mahagoni*).—The well-known mahogany wood.

Caóbano (*Brunella comocladifolia*).—Wood somewhat similar to mahogany, though of inferior quality. It is principally used for boards and sheathing.

Caóbano Blanco (*Guarea ruagea*).—Wood yellowish white, rather light, and of little hardness; used especially for boxes.

Cedro Amargo (*Cedrela odorata*).—The bitter cedar wood is perhaps the one which is more frequently used for ordinary cabinetwork than any other, owing to its being so very easily worked and proof against the attacks of all kinds of insects.

Cedro Dulce (*Bursera altissima*).—Wood somewhat resinous, light, and rather spongy. It is used for boards, sheathing, etc. The tree is of very large dimensions.

Ceibo (several species of *Bombax* and *Eriodendron*).—All are very large trees, growing very fast. The wood is soft and light, and used especially for making large dugout canoes.

Cuspa (*Galipea cusparia*).—Of whitish yellow color, rather heavy and strong; specific weight, 0.90.

Durote (*Bocoa proracensis*).—A high tree with a very hard and fine-grained wood of a beautiful reddish color, which takes a splendid polish. It is one of the finest cabinet woods.

Dividire (*Casalpinia coriaria*).—A large tree, reaching sometimes a height of 30 meters. It yields a fruit used for tanning leather. The wood is very heavy, strong, and fine grained; the heartwood black and almost as hard as iron. It is used for wheels in mills and turnery ware.

Ebano (*Casalpinia ebano* and *C. punctata*).—Wood black, with some veins of other colors, very strong and fine grained.

Gateado (*Astronium graveolens*).—The tree is also known by the names of *dionate* and *tibigaro*, especially in the western part of Venezuela. The wood is dark colored, very strong and hard, and takes a fine polish, so that it ranks among the best cabinet woods.

Granadillo (*Brya ebenus*).—Very hard; the heartwood brownish.

Guáimaro (botanical name not known).—A large tree known under the name of *charo*. A fine-grained wood and takes a beautiful polish, so that it is very desirable for fine cabinetwork.

Guayacán (*Guayacum officinale*).—Wood exceedingly hard and tough, the fibers crossing each other, so that it does not split. It is used for turnery work, cart axles, teeth of indented wheels, etc.

Guayabo de Montaña (*Eugenia moritziana*).—A good-sized tree growing frequently in mountain forests. The wood is hard and heavy, of a yellowish color, highly elastic, and very durable. It is especially used for rafters, on account of its great traverse resistance.

Laurel (*Nectandra laurel*).—*Laurel blanco* (*Oreodaphne leucorylon*).—*Laurel capuchino* (*Aydendron laurel*).—*Laurel negro* (*Nectandra turbacensis*).—The wood of all these trees is strong, though not very heavy, fine grained, and more or less aromatic. The color is variable. It is very durable and easily worked, and much used for cabinetwork; also for boats and larger river vessels.

Mora (*Dimorphandra excelsa*).—The wood is heavier than water, dark red, close grained, and rather hard. It is used in boat building.

There are many other varieties of woods most useful for building and cabinetwork.

Among the dye and tanning woods there are the mulberry, Brazil wood, the amarillo (*Aspidosterma vargasti*), the onotillo (*Vismia ferruginea*), the annatto (*Bixa orellana*), the indigo, the bark of the red mangrove, the divi-divi, and many others.

IX.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

If the agricultural and cattle wealth of Venezuela is great, no less great is her mineral wealth. Notwithstanding this, it may well be said that little, if anything, has been done in the country for its exploitation and development. There are rich gold mines in Yuruari (State of Bolívar), the most celebrated of which is the Callao mine, whose auriferous product gained for it the first place among those of its kind. The gold exported from this mine from 1886 to 1890, according to official data, reached 6,983.87 kilograms, or nearly 15,180 pounds. The product of the other mines of the Yuruari district, according to the same data, was as follows:

Companies.	Kilos. ^a	Grams.
Chile	731	273
The Union	583	749
Callao Bis.	58	133
Cicapra		893
Chocó		155
Venezuela Austin, Limited	1,108	959
Gold from several companies	225	231
New Potosí	202	686

^a A kilo is equal to 2.20 pounds and a gram 15 grains.

The total product of the mines of this district from 1866 to 1895 is estimated at over 70,000 kilograms, or about 322,000 pounds. The total exports of gold bars, gold ore, and gold concentrates in general from

Ciudad Bolívar, between July 1, 1875, and June 30, 1896, according to the latest official data, amounted to 67,987 kilos, valued at 170,646,740 bolívares. From July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1898, the total exports of gold through the same port amounted to 73,741 kilos, valued at 185,321,156 bolívares. There are also other gold mines in Chacao and Baruta (State of Miranda), in the mountainous regions of the Yaracuy River, in the cities of San Felipe and Nirgua, and still others near Carúpano, which have yielded as high as 7 ounces per ton.

In the same localities there are silver, copper, and lead mines. Seventy miles east of Puerto Cabello are situated the valuable Aroa copper mines, which have been worked for a long time by an English company, and owing to the rapid increase of the production a railroad was built which carries the ore to Tucacas, from which place it is shipped in steamers to Puerto Cabello. These mines yield red copper, which is preferred in the markets of Europe to the Swiss and Chilean copper. Along the line of the Cordillera red hematite and magnetic iron are found. These metals also exist in the mountains of Coro, Barinas, Barcelona, Cumaná, and Parima; but one of the richest deposits is near the Imataca River, an affluent of the lower Orinoco. From the neighborhood of Tocuyo specimens of lead have been obtained which promise a rich ore. This mine is not yet worked. The Pedernales asphalt, from its vitreous aspect and hardness, seems identical with the Egyptian refined, or "Épuré." Coal deposits exist at Nacional, State of Bermúdez, and there have been explored in a small area over one hundred beds, varying from 4 to 7 inches in thickness. This coal is of the bituminous kind, burns easily, emits combustible gas, leaves a small residue of clayish ashes, and contains very little sulphur. The rich salt beds discovered by Niño in 1499 on the Araya Peninsula are constantly worked. They produced for the Government from 1873 to 1893 a revenue of \$2,753,761.44. Salt is taken out easily and with little expense. In Lagunillas, near Mérida, the bottom of a lake is covered with urao. In Cumaná, Barcelona, and Coro are found large deposits of sulphur which have not yet been worked. The granite in the Silla Mountain, near Caracas, is inexhaustible, and slate, marble, granite, and chalk abound on the coast and in the Parima Mountains.

According to statistics lately published by the Government of Venezuela there are in the territory of the Republic 226 deposits of the following minerals:

Federal District.—Seven, to wit: Amethyst, antimony, limestone, garnet (2), silver, and lead.

Los Andes (the old State).—Forty-six, as follows: Red ocher, mineral tar (5), alum (2), asphalt, sulphur (3), coal (9), copper, guano (2), gaylussite, garnet (2), iron (4), magnesia, marble (2), gold, petroleum (2), slate (2), silver (2), lead, saltpeter, talc, trona, and gypsum.

Bermúdez (the old State).—Fifteen, as follows: Sulphur (4), coal (3), carbonate of lime, rock crystal, iron, magnesia, gold, petroleum, building stone, and silver.

Bolívar.—Fifty-one, as follows: Asphalt, rock crystal, phosphate of lime, guano, mercury (2), gold (44), and salt.

Carabobo.—Seven, as follows: Copper, phosphate of lime, gold (4), and lead.

Falcón.—Twelve, as follows: Asphalt, pitch, coal (4), copper (2), iron (2), gold, and silver.

Lara.—Nineteen, as follows: Amber, sulphate of lime, copper (6), tin, gold, silver (2), platinum (2), lead (4), and talc.

Miranda (the old State).—Forty-one, as follows: Copperas, grindstone, jet (2), coal (4), carbonate of lime, copper (4), rock crystal, quartz, diamond, tin, phosphate of lime, granite, iron (2), kaolin (2), magnesia, marble (3), ocher, gold (8), oxide of iron, silver, sphene, and gypsum (2).

Zamora.—Nineteen, as follows: Copperas, alum (2), pitch (2), guano, rock crystal, cyanite, iron, opals, gold (2), petroleum, slate, silver, saltpeter (2), talc, and gypsum.

Zulia.—Nine, as follows: Amber, asphalt (3), gold (4), and petroleum.

The salt mines of the Republic are administered by the National Government, and they yearly yield about one and a half million bolívares. The principal salt deposits are those of Cumaná, Barcelona, Nueva Esparta, Falcón, and Zulia. Mineral waters abound in Venezuela.

MINING AND PUBLIC LAND REGULATIONS.

The mining law in force in Venezuela provides, among other things, as follows:

A mine is any deposit of inorganic metalliferous and combustible substances which are found in the interior or on the surface of the earth in lodes, strata, or any other form, and precious stones admitting of mining work and used as jewelry. Pearls, corals, sponges, amber, etc., whether found in placers or along the seashore, will not be considered as mines, and the exploitation thereof shall be governed by special rules issued by the Federal Executive or the executives of the several States, as the case may be. Building and ornamental stone, sands, siliceous or calcareous productions, slate, clays, lime, pozzuolana, peat, marl, kaolin, calumbin, saltpeter, etc., belong to the owner of the ground, be he a private person or the nation, and any person may work the same without further requirement than the permission of the owner.

The working of mines situated within the limits of the Venezuelan territory being of public utility, their prospecting and working shall be governed by the provisions of this mining code and the general laws.

Auriferous and tin bearing sands and any other mineral production of rivers, as well as gold alluvions found on public lands, may be freely utilized unless they have been conveyed by executive grant or contract. Whenever the working of the mineral products mentioned herein shall be pursuant to grants and in fixed establishments, they shall be governed by special titles to be granted by the Federal Executive, setting forth precise limits for each claim or holding in the beds of rivers, mountains, and placers, and clear conditions establishing the obligations of the grantees and the rights of the nation, and apportioning to each holding the ground necessary for the establishment of machinery, etc.

The ownership of mines is vested in the States, their administration in the Federal power, and their working in those who shall have obtained or who shall hereafter obtain from the National Executive a concession, or who shall have acquired such rights in any other way pursuant to the provisions of the existing code, which recognizes all rights acquired by virtue of former laws.

Mines shall not be worked, even by the owner of the soil, without first obtaining a concession from the Federal Executive. Explorations shall be done on concessions granted by the National Executive, and shall not occupy less than 1 hectare nor more than 300 hectares in the case of vein mines. Mining concessions are declared to be perpetual or immovable. When the concession relates to coal it may embrace three times as many hectares.

Every region of circumscription has a soil and a subsoil, the former being on the surface and extending downward in a vertical line a distance of 3 meters. The latter commences at a distance of 3 meters and extends downward indefinitely. A mining concession once granted constitutes of itself real property, and may be acquired, conveyed, mortgaged, and encumbered in accordance with the provisions of the civil code relating to real estate. The machinery, apparatus, and whatever concessionary may plant for the benefit and working of all kinds of mines while the work is conducted under the concession are also considered as real estate.

The rights of every concessionary end with the limits of his grant. Nevertheless, whoever in working his vein or deposit, be it a lode or alluvion, shall encounter ground not granted or abandoned works of the same class, shall have the preferred right to apply for another concession on this adjoining land. Should an individual or company in the prosecution of their work come in contact with the grant of another, they shall suspend the operations immediately on learning the fact personally, or through complaint of the owner, and must divide into two equal portions the net value of the ore that may have been extracted bona fide; but should they maliciously trespass upon another's claim they shall not only lose the right to the half extracted, but shall pay to the owner an amount double the value of the ore taken out, but said owner must prove bad faith in a suit against the trespasser. All minerals found within the limits of vein or lode mining grants belong to the grantee, who may freely work the same without any new grant. Whenever between two or more claims unappropriated or open spaces occur, they shall be granted to the owner of the abutting grants who shall first apply for the same, and through waiver of the latter to any private individual making application therefor.

The title to a claim or grant shall be issued by the President of the Republic. A new grant of public land or commons includes the title to the surface as well as to the mine, the grantee being empowered to freely use, for the working of the grant, woods, waters, and other substances thereon, the only obligation imposed being to comply strictly with the provisions of the law.

FACILITIES FOR OBTAINING GOVERNMENT LANDS IN VENEZUELA.

Government land may be obtained easily for cultivation as well as for the raising of cattle and domestic animals.

Pursuant to the law the executive power has control of the Government lands for the purposes following:

- (1) For the establishment of agricultural and mining colonies.
- (2) For the creation of territories to the end of developing the natural products, such as rubber, the Tonka bean, quinia or cinchona bark, also called calisaya bark.
- (3) For the necessary reservations for the maintenance and civilization of the aboriginal tribes.
- (4) For immigrants. The national Government may grant immigrants and their families 1 hectare (2.471 acres) of land to each member of the family without any legal requirement other than the survey of the same.
- (5) For stimulating the construction of railways, being empowered to this end to grant the companies constructing and maintaining the same up to 547 varas on each side of the track.
- (6) For the protection of the agricultural, cattle, and other industries. To this end the President, with the consent of the respective States, may grant concessions to applicants observing the legal requirements.

In Venezuela foreigners are not prohibited from possessing real estate, nor from owning it in fee simple, always subject, however, to the sovereignty of the State, as is the case with respect to citizens.

In sales of public lands the State does not bind itself to put the purchaser in possession of specified boundaries, nor to warrant and defend the same against private parties.

Public lands situated within 3 miles of a salt deposit or mine, or within 547 varas of the seashore, or 219 varas of lake shores or navigable river banks, or 55 varas of the banks of smaller streams, will not be the subject of grants.

Persons intending to purchase public lands must bind themselves:

- (1) To cultivate, within three years from the date of the grant, at least one-half on the land applied for, under pain of a forfeiture of the grant through a simple declaration of the Government to that effect, save for justifiable cause.
- (2) To establish themselves on the land granted for cattle grazing within the term of one year, under penalty of forfeiting the grant.

No hectare of land can be valued at less than 7.70 pesos, nor the league of grazing land for less than 384.60 pesos.

The same law also provides that no single individual or association may be granted agricultural land in excess of 1,235 acres, or pasture lands in excess of 12,197 square varas.

In granting public lands the following shall have preference:

(1) The party who, upon the promulgation of the law applicable to the case, shall hold, with or without title, land under cultivation, or if grazing land, his establishment thereon, or who shall have expended money on the measurement of the land in order to file his petition.

(2) If the applicant shall not be in possession of land, the first applicant shall have preference.

The price of the lands, according to law, is to be determined by the survey to be made under the authority of the minister of promotion, and shall be paid into the office of the public credit in notes of the consolidated national debt, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, or in cash, at the market value of these securities according to the latest quotations.

Pursuant to article 18 of the said law, a grant made in the form described and recorded in the proper office will constitute a valid transfer without other requisite.

X.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

There are, in Venezuela, numerous industries producing many articles of food, clothing, and other necessities of civilized life, from grain mills to the manufacture of pianos and mirrors. Steam is generally employed as motive power.

The principal manufacturing centers are Caracas, Valencia, Maracaibo, La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello, the main industries being the manufacture of agricultural machines and implements, carriages and wagons, pianos, furniture, aerated waters, blank books, envelopes, chocolate, ice, matches, mirrors, soap and candles, electrotypes, distilleries, breweries, electric light and power, and several other industries.

There is near Caracas a plant for the manufacture of wicks which has been in operation for several years, and a paper mill at present inactive.

There is in Valencia a fine plant for the manufacture of cotton cloth.

Carúpano and Maracaibo are both producers of the best rum in the country.

In Mérida the principal industry is the manufacture of woolen carpets dyed with vegetable dyes, giving the brightest colors.

The manufacture of cheese is the principal industry of the region of the plains.

In the vicinity of Barquisimeto, Guanare, and Acarigua, and in several other places hammocks, bags, and bagging are manufactured of "*cocuiza*" and "*cocuy*" (species of henequén).

In Cumaná stone water filters are made, in use throughout the country.

The manufacture of straw hats is almost universal in the country.

In the States of Lara, Los Andes, and Falcón, beautiful cotton and woolen embroideries are made by hand, used for trimming shawls and other wearing apparel.

Sugar, *papelón* (species of brown sugar), alcohols, and rums are manufactured in the sugar-cane plantations.

The products of the animal industry are hides, skins, feathers, animal fats, wool, hair, wax, and honey.

Shipbuilding is as yet in its infancy and is scarcely worth mentioning; however, a large number of small craft for the navigation on the coasts, rivers, and lakes is manufactured. The best shipyard in Venezuela is in Maracaibo. Years ago a small steamboat was built in Clarines, the only one of its kind ever made in Venezuela.

XI.

COMMERCE.

Venezuela, a country essentially agricultural and relatively unpopulated when considering her area, has not yet, owing to lack of labor, reached the degree of development which her immense resources, the fertility of her soil, and her admirable topographical conformation assure her. Hence the meager manufacturing industries existing in the Republic are barely of local importance, and hence, also, in order to meet the needs of the population she finds herself obliged to import from abroad nearly everything consumed in the country in exchange for the natural products of her soil.

According to the *Estadística Anual de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, 1894*, published by order of the Ministry of Promotion of the Republic, during the ten years elapsed from 1885 to 1894, the imports made through the custom-houses of Venezuela reached the figures following:

Year.	Weight in kilograms.	Value in bolívars. <i>a</i>
1884-85.....	21,456,717	33,693,486
1885-86.....	26,735,818	44,078,483
1886-87.....	33,093,117	59,003,133
1887-88.....	31,898,631	56,047,799
1888-89.....	27,160,500	66,270,015
1889-90.....	42,807,727	79,807,821
1890-91.....	36,469,284	66,674,481
1891-92.....	30,395,325	71,094,899
1892-93.....	22,750,758	52,783,451
1893-94.....	33,362,498	72,744,578
Total.....	316,130,385	602,198,156

The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Finance (Ministerio de Hacienda) of Venezuela has published the following figures, showing the importation of foreign goods, according to the consular reports received by the Bureau, during the fiscal year 1895-96:

Origin.	Kilograms.	Bolívars.
Spain and Spanish colonies.....	5,129,157	4,358,036
France.....	2,823,255	8,011,759
England and British colonies.....	47,546,129	20,704,069
Curaçao (Dutch colony).....	323,783	981,163
Germany (Hamburg).....	24,925,809	17,617,845
United States (New York) <i>a</i>	21,947,942	9,015,203
Total.....	102,696,075	69,688,075

a Estimated.

To these figures must be added those representing the amounts corresponding to other countries, which at the time of publication of the statistics had not reached the Bureau. Said amount is estimated at 12,056,501 bolívars.

The same document gives the following figures for the imports in the year 1897-98: 88,833,716 kilos, valued at 43,906,441 bolívars.

Venezuela imports from the following countries in the order given as regards quantity: United States, Germany, France, England, Italy, Spain, Holland, and the Republic of Colombia.

The staple articles imported by Venezuela in the greatest quantities are wheat flour, lard, kerosene oil, butter, groceries of all kinds, rice, wines, and liquors. The imports of manufactured articles are generally made up of oils and paints, barbed wire and staples, firearms, cordage, roman cement, drugs and perfumery, dry goods of all kinds, hardware,

paper and printing materials, soap and candles, sewing machines, machinery, lumber, powder and ammunition, cut tobacco for cigarettes, leaf and chewing tobacco, glassware and lamps, carriages, carts, wagons, locomotives, railroad, telegraph, telephone, and electric-light materials, jewelry, etc., all of which, with the exception of some silk textiles and fancy articles, are imported from the United States in greater or less quantities.

The imports made by Venezuela from the United States during the calendar year of 1897, according to the data furnished by the consulate-general of Venezuela in New York, were as follows:

Ports.	Packages.	Kilos.	Values.
La Guaira.....	310, 513	18, 709, 410	\$1, 354, 308. 76
Puerto Cabello.....	166, 694	7, 087, 263	570, 666. 91
Maracaibo.....	101, 293	6, 156, 558	650, 331. 00
Ciudad Bolívar.....	77, 120	3, 458, 644	280, 172. 96
La Vela de Coro.....	45, 033	2, 036, 703	111, 883. 95
Carúpano.....	19, 065	852, 058	74, 618. 24
Guanta.....	5, 106	270, 710	21, 417. 46
Cumaná.....	3, 781	205, 561	17, 513. 56
Caño Colorado.....	1, 788	107, 341	6, 873. 00
Maturín.....	363	31, 715	2, 553. 35
Guiría.....	347	16, 784	1, 326. 00
Maracaibo (gold).....	18	151	91, 351. 67
Total.....	731, 121	38, 932, 898	3, 183, 016. 86

These goods were transported in 110 vessels, thus: 48 American steamers, 18 Dutch, 17 English, 10 Spanish, 3 French, 7 American schooners, 4 American brigantines, and 3 English brigantines.

The imports for the year 1897-98 amounted to 35,299,956 kilos, valued at 14,890,184 bolívars.

The exports of Venezuela are limited to the natural products of the country, of which coffee and cacao are the principal. According to the annual statistics for 1897, published by one of the best coffee-importing houses in New York, the total number of bags of this product of Venezuela imported through this port was 463,928, of which 16,395 bags were in transit, which gives a net total to New York of 447,533 bags. The coffee known in the American market under the name of "La Guaira" includes that from Caracas, Puerto Cabello, Cumaná; the coffee known as the "Maracaibo" comprises that from Cúcuta, (Colombia), Trujillo, Mérida, Tovar, Boconó, San Cristóbal, and other points of the interior of Venezuela. The coffee usually comes in bags weighing 130 pounds, more or less. In the year 1897 the price of

the "Maracaibo" coffee fluctuated between 6½ and 14 cents, and that of the "La Guaira" between 7 and 15 cents. The retaliatory duty levied by the United States on the Venezuelan coffees, by reason of the absence of a reciprocity treaty between 1892 and 1894, was the cause of the falling off of the imports of this product, principally that of Caracas and Puerto Cabello, whose imports into New York in 1888 were 242,890 bags. They decreased in 1893 to 3,178 bags. Since 1894, when the duties were repealed, the imports have again increased, and it is to be hoped that they will soon again return to their old figure. The imports from Maracaibo also fell off considerably, but they have been slowly recovering the lost ground, and the greater part of the crop from that place now comes to the United States.

The imports of cacao from Venezuela to New York were in 1897 as follows: "Caracas" cacao (which includes the article from Rio Caribe, Guiria, Carúpano, Rio Chico, Higuerote, and other coast points), 18,617 bags, as against 30,163 in 1896; "Maracaibo" cacao, 732 bags in 1897, as against 694 in 1896. Cacao usually comes in bags of 110 pounds (1 fanega). The price of the first six classes fluctuated in 1897 between 9 and 11½ cents American gold. At present it fluctuates between 16 and 18 cents, according to class.

The total exports from Venezuela during the fiscal year 1895-96, according to a tabulated statement published in the report of the secretary of finance (Memoria de Hacienda) for 1897, amounted to the following quantities: 2,731,618 packages; weight, 79,084,555 kilograms; value, 111,455,143 bolívares, as follows:

Destination.	Packages.	Kilograms.	Value.
			<i>Bolívares.</i>
United States.....	285,238	9,524,232	12,480,228
France and colonies.....	548,684	23,612,843	33,893,831
Germany.....	144,080	6,562,494	8,965,470
Italy.....	22,393	1,793,251	1,833,401
Spain and colonies.....	22,056	796,108	924,770
England and colonies.....	1,172,211	7,397,394	9,944,044
Holland and colonies.....	531,900	29,098,344	42,952,816
Colombia (through Ciudad Bolívar).....	245	13,389	7,326
Mexico.....	109	6,227	5,820
Austria.....	2,345	138,006	227,177
Russia.....	202	11,918	20,260
Belgium.....	200	11,866	20,000
Denmark.....	1,455	88,170	134,000
Sweden.....	500	30,300	46,000
Total.....	2,731,618	79,084,554	111,455,143

The exports of coffee during the year, according to the same document, amounted to 1,022,255 bags, weighing 52,224,525 kilograms, valued at 85,766,157 bolívars; cacao, 167,055 bags, weight 8,930,204 kilograms, valued at 10,091,037 bolívars; hides and skins, 304,145 pieces, weight 3,726,494 kilograms, valued at 5,313,516 bolívars. The exports of all kinds of woods are estimated at 246,545 bolívars; gold in bars, 3,613,428 bolívars; specie, 1,163,429 bolívars; beef cattle, 1,152,040 bolívars; tonka bean, 2,629 bags, weight 211,319 kilograms, value 1,415,668 bolívars. The other exports were tobacco, horns, copper, *sabadilla*, sole leather, live plants, *divi-divi* and other dye woods, cinchona bark, pearls, fruits, sugar cane products, produce, starch, coal and charcoal, fishes, gums, feathers and bird skins, rubber and gutta-percha, horses, mules, donkeys, hogs, goats, rum, cocoanut oil, corn, etc.

The exports from La Guaira to the United States, according to the same report, were estimated during the calendar year 1895 at 137,410 packages, weighing 3,376,108 kilograms, valued at 4,728,513 bolívars, as follows:

Merchandise.	Packages.	Kilograms.	Value.
			<i>Bolívars.</i>
Coffee bags..	35,769	2,194,400	3,419,522
Cacao.....do.....	2,474	128,269	157,177
Hides.....number..	98,089	967,121	1,033,749
Deer skins.....bales..	542	45,932	82,529
Goat skins.....do....	194	15,378	20,454
Horns.....packages..	51	1,509	151
Miscellaneous.....	291	23,499	14,840
Total	137,410	3,376,108	4,728,513

Since the retaliatory duties imposed by the United States were abolished the Venezuelan coffees have returned to the American market, very little going to Europe.

The export of coffee amounted to \$7,984,959.43 in 1896, against \$7,806,195.33 in 1895. The export of hides amounted to \$52,184.84 in 1896, nearly three times as much as in 1894. The export of skins has declined nearly one-half since 1895. Valuable woods are exported in large quantities to Europe, but very little finds a market in the United States.

The statistics published in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury (Ministro de Hacienda) for 1899, give the following data in refer-

ence to the exports of Venezuela during the fiscal year 1896-97: Number of packages, 4,447,881, weighing 85,839,316 kilos, valued at 93,244,829 bolivars. Of these, 17,703,402 bolivars went to the United States; to France and her colonies, 26,760,126 bolivars; to Great Britain and colonies, 124,302 bolivars; to Germany, 8,809,085 bolivars, and to Holland and colonies, 29,647,256 bolivars. The balance went to Italy, Spain, Austria, Portugal, Belgium, Denmark, and Colombia. The total exports of coffee for the same year amounted to 814,618 bags, weighing 47,372,111 kilos, valued at 65,989,325 bolivars. The exports of cacao were 157,048 bags, weighing 8,867,462 kilos, valued at 9,246,670 bolivars; hides and skins, 275,620 packages, weighing 3,550,264 kilos and valued at 4,396,114 bolivars. These were the principal articles of export.

United States Treasury statements of imports and exports of merchandise give the following figures of United States trade with Venezuela during the fiscal years named:

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Imports from Venezuela.....	\$9,694,911	\$9,543,572	\$7,722,564
Exports to Venezuela.....	3,838,746	3,417,522	2,746,261

The other leading countries in the Venezuelan trade transacted business with Venezuela in 1893 as follows:

Countries.	Imports from Venezuela.	Exports to Venezuela.	Total.
France.....	\$8,395,500	\$2,335,300	\$10,730,800
Germany (estimated).....	8,500,000	2,000,000	10,500,000
Great Britain.....	436,403	4,531,287	4,967,690
Trinidad.....	1,500,000	591,892	2,091,892

The large import into Germany is based on the decrease of coffee exports from Venezuela to the United States from \$8,289,872 in 1892 to \$865,175 in 1893, a decrease caused by the tariff imposed thereon, through the failure of Venezuela to enter into reciprocal relations with this country. According to United States consuls in Venezuela, the greater part of this-deflected coffee trade went to Germany.

Exports to Venezuela in 1893.

Articles.	From—		
	Great Britain.	United States.	France.
Cotton manufactures.....	\$2,955,578	\$427,538	\$308,312
Woolen manufactures.....	328,703	1,368	140,124
Iron, wrought and unwrought.....	166,388	58,509	} 32,628
Hardware and cutlery.....	67,856	115,905	
Implements and tools.....	79,807	51,087	
Machinery and millwork.....	59,015	147,667	
Coal.....	74,391	21,171	.....
Jute piece goods.....	178,611	.....	.....
Linen goods.....	264,612	.....	28,080
Carriages.....	5,810	14,921	.....
Jewelry, manufactures of gold and silver, etc.....	.....	20,797	531,162
Wine.....	.....	386	196,474
All other articles.....	350,516	3,348,312	1,088,520
Total.....	4,531,287	4,207,661	2,335,300

TRANSIT TRAFFIC WITH COLOMBIA.

As has been already stated, Maracaibo serves as a port of transit for the trade of the neighboring Republic of Colombia. It is earnestly recommended that exporters examine and comply with the latest transit law issued by Venezuela, which in substance is as follows:

The passage of all foreign merchandise for Colombia by way of Cúcuta, is allowed to the Maracaibo custom-house, subject, however, to all the customs laws of Venezuela. Merchandise whose importation is prohibited shall not pass in transit for Colombia.

Merchandise entered for transit must be declared in separate consular invoices, stating that it is meant for transit, and no package intended for Venezuela may be included therein. Transit goods can not be declared by the importer for consumption. These goods must pay duties in the same manner as those intended for consumption in Venezuela, and, besides, storage dues at the rate of 1 per cent ad valorem. A package that on inspection is found to be not in conformity with the customs laws shall be considered as meant for consumption, if it is not confiscated. Should this package or parcel be a part of the same consignment, the Treasury Department may, at the request of interested parties, declare the entire consignment as meant for consumption, imposing thereon an additional duty of 10 per cent.

Merchandise in transit may remain thirty days in the customs warehouses. After the expiration of this time and three days' grace, if the

merchandise shall not be removed (pursuant to previous notice from the custom-house), it will be considered as meant for local consumption and will be subject to an additional charge of 10 per cent. This provision will not be enforced in case of war or other force majeure which may interrupt the transit of the merchandise. This is of the exclusive dominion of the Executive. Should importers or their agents wish to withdraw their merchandise within the thirty days mentioned, they must present a manifest, in triplicate, which shall set forth the name, nationality, class, and master of the vessel in which it was imported, and furnish the same details with reference to the vessel which is to carry it to Colombia; the marks, number, contents, and value of each package, according to the manifest presented on the importation thereof; the weight, class, and duty imposed upon each package in accordance with the custom-house appraisement. Whenever merchandise in transit to Colombia shall be imported through any custom-house other than that of Maracaibo, the inspection thereof may be proceeded with through payment to the custom-house of the corresponding import duties, and it may be thereafter forwarded coastwise to Maracaibo. This requirement must be complied with within thirty days; otherwise the merchandise will be considered as intended for local consumption.

TARIFF AND CUSTOM-HOUSE REGULATIONS.

Trade and industry enjoy the fullest liberty in the country. There is a commercial code, which shows merchants their duties and rights, and a treasury code, containing the tariff on imports and legal provisions relating to the import trade.

The last tariff law of Venezuela, which went into effect May 21, 1897, with the exception of several modifications of the appraised value of some goods, is identical with the law of 1893, and, like it, foreign merchandise introduced through the custom-houses of the Republic pays the duty corresponding to the class to which it belongs on the gross kilogram of weight.

The first class includes articles free of duty; the second, articles paying a duty of 10 centimes of the bolivar per gross kilogram; third, those paying 25 centimes per kilogram; fourth, 75 centimes; fifth, 1 bolivar 25 centimes; sixth, 2 bolivars 2 centimes; seventh, 5 bolivars; eighth, 10 bolivars; ninth, 20 bolivars.

The modifications mentioned are the following:

First class.—Mineral waters; iron ore and old iron, suitable for foundry purposes; wood ash; residue of pressed grapes for fertilizing;

windmills with all their parts; potato sprouts for planting, when in the opinion of the Executive they are imported for this purpose.

Second class.—Liquid carbolic-acid gas; connections for pipes; glass dust.

Third class.—Raw cotton; asbestos; coaches, carts, and all kinds of vehicle harnesses; gum arabic; pure lard only; poison for preserving skins; wines of all kinds, in pipes, hogsheads, and barrels; *muscovado* or brown sugar.

Fourth class.—White and refined sugars; bituminous oil for blackening and softening harness; ordinary knives for shoemakers, tobaccoists, gardeners, and saddlers; painted rope mats for tables; mirrors, framed or unframed; naphtha; lard mixed with other greases; oleomargarine; wooden strips for matchmaking; straw strips for packing.

Fifth class.—Rum of all kinds, except that made from sugar cane, the importation of which is prohibited; brandy and cognac and their essences up to 22° Cartier (exceeding this strength, the duty shall be proportional); cotton batting; gunpowder; plug and twisted tobacco.

Sixth class.— * * * *

Seventh class.—Air guns for target shooting.

Of the articles whose importation was formerly prohibited, the following are at the present time taxed: Raw cotton (third class), white and brown sugar, and wooden strips for matchmaking (fourth class). Of articles formerly dutiable, there have been added to the list of those whose importation is prohibited: Made-up footwear and tanned skins made up into patterns, formerly in the ninth class, and matches of all kinds, formerly in the seventh class. By the former tariff saltpeter could not be imported save by druggists and in small quantities. By the new tariff it may be imported by anyone in unlimited quantities by securing the authority of the Government.

The custom-house regulations regarding the dispatching of vessels and merchandise for Venezuela provide, in substance, as follows:

Every vessel bound for the ports of entry of the Republic must carry its sailing license and be dispatched by the consul of Venezuela, or, in default thereof, by the consul of a friendly nation, acting for him, accredited to the port of departure. The master or supercargo of every vessel dispatched laden for foreign ports and touching in Venezuela must present in duplicate, at every port at which the vessel touches, to the consul for Venezuela a manifest signed by him of all the cargo he may receive in said ports, expressing clearly and in due order the class, nationality, name, and tonnage of the vessel, and the name of the master; the names of the shippers and of the consignees in the ports.

of Venezuela; the marks, numbers, and class of the packages of merchandise destined to said ports, accompanied by the corresponding bills of lading, also signed by the master and numbered in strict order. The manifest must also set forth the total number of packages for each port, and that of those destined for Venezuela. The consul of Venezuela shall sign and seal up these documents, together with the other shipping papers, in the presence of the captain, who will retain one copy and sign a receipt therefor at the foot of the other. The master of the vessel must also present to the consul of Venezuela the health certificate, to be countersigned by the latter.

Shippers of merchandise and any other articles destined to the ports of entry of Venezuela must present to the consul of the Republic, or his representative, for certification, their consular invoice made out in triplicate in Spanish, and it must contain the following information: Name of the shipper and port of shipment, class, nationality, and name of the vessel; name of the captain and of the consignee or consignees of the goods, and the port of destination; the mark or marks of the goods, the number, quantity, and class of each package, its contents declared in accordance with the tariff, its gross weight in kilograms, and its value. These invoices must be signed by the shipper. Packages of the same class, weight, shape, and size, containing the same class of goods—for instance, bags, barrels, crates, firkins, etc., containing breadstuffs, soap, crockery, etc., having the same marks and declared in the same invoice—may be declared in one item. Packages bearing different marks may be included in the consular invoices presented for certification whenever the said packages are consigned by the same shipper to the same consignee or consignees. Each invoice must be accompanied by its corresponding bill of lading, which must also be certified by the consul.

Two copies of the manifest, in Spanish, with all the data required by law, must be presented to the Venezuelan consul at the port of clearance, and consul must sign the same and seal it up, together with the other documents, in the presence of the captain, who will retain a copy of the same, and sign at the bottom of each original a receipt for the duplicate.

It is the duty of the consuls of Venezuela to furnish interested parties all the information they request regarding the tariff laws and regulations of the Republic, the forms and blanks for invoices and manifests, and all other necessary explanations. The consular fees for the certificates issued by them are determined by law.

It is hardly necessary to explain that consuls can under no circumstances certify invoices for ports other than those of entry.

Nor can they certify invoices that do not wholly conform with the requirements mentioned, nor such as show differences in the three copies required, nor such as contain changes or interlined words unless these are noted at the end before the date and signature, nor such as fail to have the declaration of the shipper under oath that the value declared therein is the actual value of the goods and merchandise shipped.

Ditto marks (“) or the word “do.,” to indicate that one or more packages are the same as the preceding articles, are prohibited in invoices.

The ballast of vessels can not contain articles subject to import duties.

XII.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION.

The revenues of the country are made up of the products of the direct and indirect taxes collected by the custom-houses, the several treasury departments, and other financial bureaus. The following taxes are classified as direct taxes: Industrial taxes, water tax, real estate tax, and several others that combine to make the revenue of the municipalities. The indirect taxes are, among others, the import duties, salt-mining tax, stamped-paper tax, stamp tax, registry-of-public-deeds tax, etc. A share of this total revenue belongs to the States of the Republic, viz.: the transit duty collected at the land custom-houses, the salt-mining tax, and taxes on public lands and mines.

The distribution of the revenues of the different States is made according to the number of inhabitants in each State. In the fiscal year 1895-96 the revenues amounted to 9,644,981 bolívares.

The national revenue is used for the expenses of the administration—army, navy, justice, public education, public works—and to pay the interest on the national debt.

According to the “General account of the public treasury,” in the fiscal year 1895-96 the revenues of the Republic amounted to 51,459,946.98 bolívares, as follows:

	Bolívares.
Customs revenue:	
Import duties, interests, fines, and storage.....	37, 527, 033.60
Internal revenue:	
Stamped paper, federal territories, tax on the wharf of Puerto Cabello, real estate, registry, telegraph, consulates, trade marks, patents on inventions, telephones, water, post-office boxes, taxes	1, 360, 488.28

Public-instruction revenue:	Bolívares.
Tax on cut tobacco, American telephones, school stamps, special collections and reimbursements.....	2,927,443.11
Revenue of the States:	
Mining tax, transit duties, salt tax, and public-land tax.....	9,644,981.99
<hr/>	
Total.....	51,459,946.98

The budget for the fiscal year ending June, 30, 1896, estimated the expenses of the country during that year at 34,179,990 bolívares, and the budget for 1896-97 at 40,300,000 bolívares.

During the eleven fiscal years from 1886-87 to 1897-98, the revenue in Venezuela amounted to the following figures:

	Bolívares.		Bolívares.
1886-87.....	38,017,368.81	1892-93.....	36,724,973.09
1887-88.....	39,156,636.65	1893-94.....	51,421,875.66
1888-89.....	45,923,028.00	1894-95.....	48,656,797.36
1889-90.....	45,031,224.86	1895-96.....	51,459,946.98
1890-91 ¹	47,952,533.44	1896-97.....	48,313,539.65
1891-92 ¹	41,566,312.12	1897-98.....	33,429,825.52

CUSTOM-HOUSES AND THEIR REVENUES.

The maritime custom-houses of Venezuela open to foreign commerce are those at La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Ciudad Bolívar, Maracaibo, La Vela, Carúpano, Puerto Sucre, Guanta, Caño Colorado, Táchira, Güiría, and Juan Griego.

The land custom-houses are those located at La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Ciudad Bolívar, Maracaibo, La Vela, Carúpano, Puerto Sucre, Guanta, Caño Colorado, Táchira, Güiría, and Juan Griego.

The import duties received at the La Guaira custom-house, including the proceeds of fines, interest, and storage, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, amounted to 17,046,448.15 bolívares.

The receipts of the Puerto Cabello custom-house, including all the revenues above mentioned, those from stamped paper, and the tax on cut tobacco, amounted to	Bolívares. 9,681,945.59
The receipts of—	
Ciudad Bolívar	3,285,371.87
Maracaibo	6,319,225.15
La Vela	475,032.45
Carúpano.....	1,152,422.03
Puerto Sucre	163,245.27

¹ These figures only show the customs revenue, as data in regard to the other sources of revenue for the same years were not obtainable.

The receipts of—Continued.	Bolivars.
Guanta	198,698.52
Caño Colorado	125,223.04
Táchira	784,215.31
Güiria	67,862.20
Juan Griego	33,507.99
<hr/>	
Total	22,286,749.42
The land custom-house of La Guaira received during the same year, for imposts on domestic products, on sea salt, and on the transit of foreign merchandise, the sum of.....	
	2,980,047.25
Receipts of custom-houses for same at—	
Puerto Cabello	1,859,463.38
Ciudad Bolívar	443,602.84
Maracaibo	2,168,405.89
La Vela	145,595.04
Carúpano	299,233.47
Puerto Sucre	139,873.42
Guanta	52,076.78
Caño Colorado	22,601.46
Táchira	97,864.89
Güiria	52,260.59
Juan Griego	157,984.72
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Total	8,429,009.73

According to the latest "Memoria de Hacienda" (1899) the net product of the maritime custom-houses of the Republic, in 1897-98, amounted to 21,364,423.64 bolívares, and that of the land custom-houses to 6,427,221.59, making a total of 27,791,645.23 bolívares.

FOREIGN VESSELS ENTERING VENEZUELAN PORTS IN 1894.

The foreign vessels entered Venezuelan ports and their nationality in 1894 were the following:

French	119	Spanish	12
English	133	Italian	29
German	73	Colombian	6
American	148	Venezuelan	705
Dutch	163	Other countries	28

During the fiscal year 1894 there were entered in the several ports of Venezuela 1,418 vessels, of which 643 were steam vessels. Naturally the port of La Guaira received the greater part, as it is the principal harbor of the Republic. Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo were the next in rank, although many smaller vessels constantly trade with the ports of Güiria and La Vela.

The total tonnage of vessels entered Venezuelan ports during the year 1894 was 706,305 tons. The greater part of these were steam vessels, only 40,217 being of sailing craft. Of the total number of tons 319,267 are credited to La Guaira and to belong to steam vessels, while 7,498 represent the tonnage of sailing vessels. The entries of Puerto Cabello were 239,450 tons, of which all except 5,624 represented steam vessels.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt in Venezuela is divided under two principal heads, the foreign debt and the interior debt.

The public debt of Venezuela dates from the separation of the "Great Colombia," composed of Nueva Granada, Ecuador, and Venezuela, which contracted loans in Paris for £2,000,000 in 1822, and in Hamburg for £4,750,000 in 1824. In 1830, the separation of Venezuela being effected, by which the country became a free and independent State, the new Republic invited Nueva Granada and Ecuador to a convention for the purpose of dividing among them the debt contracted for the war of independence.

In 1840, the debt being liquidated, Venezuela accepted as her equitable share $28\frac{1}{2}$ units of the total debt, under the name of foreign debt, for which she emitted bonds in London bearing an interest of 2 per cent per annum for the first seven years, and from the eighth year included, an increase of one fourth of 1 per cent yearly was granted, until the rate of interest reached 6 per cent per annum.

Venezuela also acknowledged as her debt the interest due on the $28\frac{1}{2}$ units, which had never been paid up to September 30, 1840. On account of the nonpayment of the total rate of interest (3 per cent), for many years, for the payment of this interest, as well as the different balances which had accumulated Venezuela issued bonds for double the amount of her debt. She promised to pay 200 bolívares, at the rate of 5 per cent interest per year, such interest to be reckoned from the 1st of October, 1852, and also to pay 1 per cent of the capital for the first year, increasing it one-fourth of 1 per cent every year until attaining 5 per cent.

In 1863 Venezuela negotiated another loan for the amount of £1,000,000. Congress, in 1896, authorized another loan of 50,000,000 bolívares, at 5 per cent yearly interest, for the purpose of redeeming the 7 per cent guaranty on the capital employed in the construction of railroads, the arrears of the interest accumulated on the same capital, and the expenses incident to the conversion of bonds bearing different rates of interest to a new issue with a uniform rate of interest.

In 1889 the public debt of Venezuela was as follows: Consolidated national debt, bearing 5 per cent yearly interest, which reached a maximum market price of 50 per cent discount, 38,760,269.17 bolívares; bonds, bearing an interest of 1 per cent per month, which reached a maximum market price of 1 per cent and up to 2 per cent premium, 1,201,602.13 bolívares; foreign debt, interest 3 per cent per annum, which reached a market price of $42\frac{3}{4}$ bolívares, gold, for every 100 bolívares in paper, 67,552,587.70 bolívares.

For the payment of the first two mentioned debts a sum was set aside representing 27 per cent of 40 parts taken of a hundred, into which is divided the sum total of the product of custom-house duties plus 12 per cent of the sixty remaining units or parts of the customs revenue.

Besides the above-mentioned debts there was another, named the diplomatic debt, originating from the diplomatic conventions for the settlement of foreign claims for damages sustained by aliens. The bonds of this debt amounted to 5,072,725.70 bolívares, bearing a yearly interest of 3 per cent, and were sold in the market at the rate of 60 bolívares, gold, for each 100 bolívares in paper. For the amortization of this debt there were allotted 13 per cent of the 40 units or parts taken of the 100, into which are divided the total product of the custom-houses.

In the year 1889 the total amount of the Venezuelan debt was 112,587,184 bolívares, and in 1890 was as follows:

	Bolívares.
Consolidated debt	38, 245, 153. 15
Twelve per cent bonds	3, 365, 895. 89
Foreign bonds	87, 388, 462. 50
Diplomatic bonds	4, 310, 532. 40
Total	113, 310, 043. 94

After the civil war, in 1892, the Government acknowledged as public debt, under the name of debt of the revolution, all the expenses caused by the war and the foreign claims resulting from it. In July, 1893, the debt in circulation amounted to 185,245,245.68 bolívares, divided as follows:

	Bolívares.
Interior debt	38, 632, 929. 72
Foreign debt	67, 147, 325. 00
Diplomatic debt	4, 978, 099. 65
Revolution debt	66, 117, 998. 01
Floating debt	8, 368, 893. 30
Total	185, 245, 245. 68

On July 30, 1894, the debt had been reduced to 117,013,395.50 bolívares, as follows: Interior debt, 39,411,115.46 bolívares; foreign debt,

19 - Interna 6% @ 62,358,643
2 - Amos Carros - 10,565,199 } *Saldo -*

67,147,325 bolívares; diplomatic debt, 4,978,099.65 bolívares; revolution debt, 59,708,255.03 bolívares; floating debt, 5,767,900.36 bolívares.

In 1896 Congress passed a law by which all the different national internal debts bearing various rates of interest were refunded under the name of national interior consolidated debt, bearing 6 per cent interest and 1 per cent sinking fund per year. The total issue of these bonds amounts to 65,000,000 bolívares, which will be disposed of in the following manner: The interior-debt bonds, of 6 per cent annual interest, shall be exchanged at par by bonds of the new debt. All future claims against the State shall be paid with bonds of the new issue, at the rate of 20 bolívares of the national interior consolidated debt for each 100 bolívares represented in the claim. The remaining bonds, after the exchange is made, shall be deposited in the Bank of Venezuela, and either be sold at the rate of 80 bolívares in gold for each 100 bolívares on paper or shall be offered as security for the exchange of bonds bearing 12 per cent per year. The interest on these debts shall be paid by monthly installments.

The bonds of this new issue are divided into ten distinct series, the tenth and last series having no fixed value nor bearing any interest, and are to be used to make up the difference of balances or totals too small to be covered by any of the bonds of the nine other series. Whenever a bondholder shall have collected bonds of the tenth class representing 500 bolívares he is authorized to exchange them for a bond of the ninth class, which represents said amount.

The bonds above mentioned are as follows:

Series.	Bolívares.	Series.	Bolívares.
First	25,000	Sixth	2,500
Second	20,000	Seventh	2,000
Third	15,000	Eighth	1,000
Fourth	10,000	Ninth	500
Fifth	5,000	Tenth	(a)

a No fixed value.

The law, sanctioned by Congress in May 19, 1896, approving the budget for 1896-97, decreed that the following appropriations be made: For the service of the foreign debt, 10.80 parts of the total revenue of customs, which is equivalent to 27 per cent of the 40 units; for the payment of interest and amortization of the railroad debt, 11.12 parts of said revenue; for the diplomatic debt, 5.20 parts of the customs revenue, equivalent to 13 per cent of 40 units; and for the service of the national

interior debt, consolidated, 17 units of the customs revenue, plus 600,000 bolívares taken from the product of the Caracas waterworks.

In 1895 the Government bought the waterworks of Caracas, paying for it the amount of 10,792,199.44 bolívares in bonds which have the title "Aguas de Caracas" (Caracas waterworks bonds), bearing 5 per cent annual interest, the Government reserving for itself the privilege of redeeming said bonds within two years at the rate of 40 bolívares, gold, for each 100 bolívares in paper. The interest on these bonds is payable quarterly. To discharge this debt the Government has set aside the sum of 150,000 bolívares quarterly, a sum equal to the net returns of the waterworks at the time of the purchase.

On November 1, 1898, the Venezuelan debt stood as follows:

<i>Foreign debt.</i>		Bolívares.
English, 3 per cent.....		66,614,550.00
Spanish, 3 per cent.....		2,794,773.47
French, 3 per cent.....		4,900,866.67
German, 3 per cent.....		7,000.00
American, 2½ per cent.....		466,247.13
Total.....		74,783,457.27

<i>Interior debt.</i>		Bolívares.
Railroad loan, 5 per cent plus 1 per cent.....		48,962,000.00
Bonds, 1 per cent per month.....		3,544,341.77
Waterworks debt, 5 per cent.....		10,565,199.44
Interior debt, 6 per cent.....		63,468,755.47
Total.....		126,540,296.68

The grand total was, therefore, on the above date, 201,323,753.95 bolívares, which shows that the Venezuelan debt, compared to that of other Latin-American countries, is the smallest, as it only requires the amount of 1,040,051 bolívares per month, and under normal conditions the custom revenues are more than sufficient to attend to this service. The sums which the Government has paid to the credit of the sinking fund of its various debts from June to December, 1898, are as follows:

		Bolívares.
The railroad loan.....		545,000
Spanish debt.....		509,300
German diplomatic debt.....		7,500
French debt.....		826,645
Interior 6 per cent.....		1,058,500
American mixed claims.....	}	225,000
		28,300
Total.....		3,200,245

XIII.

CURRENCY AND BANKS.

The Venezuelan Government, in reply to a communication of the Government of the United States, under date of October 6, 1896, gave the following official information in regard to the currency laws of Venezuela:

The law in force in the United States of Venezuela with respect to the value of the national money, in gold, in silver, and in nickel, is that of the date of July 9, 1891. It provides that the fineness for gold shall be of 0.900, and for silver shall be of two classes, one of 0.900 and another of 0.835.

The monetary unit is expressly established in article 2 of the law quoted, in these terms:

The monetary unit of the Republic shall be the silver bolívar, which shall be considered as divided into one hundred parts, or centésimos.

The payments of public and private debts are not made on terms of equality with the gold, silver, and nickel national moneys. Those of gold, coined in accordance with the law of the country, are obliged to be received in any quantity whatsoever for the value that the law has given them. Those of silver coined in accordance with the same laws, must be received for those particular matters in the following quantities: Those of 0.900 as far as the sum of 500 bolívares (\$96.50); those of 0.835 as far as the sum of 50 bolívares (\$9.65); those of nickel and copper as far as the sum of 20 bolívares (\$3.96). The gold of Venezuela's coinage is maintained absolutely at the par of the legal unit of calculation in the payment of obligations, and the silver and nickel, also, at the par of the said unit, but within the limitation which has been stated above.

By these arrangements of the monetary law, the unit is the silver bolívar, of 4 grams weight and medium fine, but it is subject in actual payments to the absolute ruling of gold, and in its relative legal appraisement, which, examined by that of 0.900 fine, gives the proportion of 15½ gold for 1 of silver in intrinsic value. Upon these terms the nation coins both metals and authorizes the payment of its debts.

With respect to foreign gold moneys, they circulate in the Republic as if they were merchandise, their price being subject to the relations which exist between supply and demand.

The circulation of foreign silver money is prohibited in Venezuela, and by subsequent enactments, moreover, the introduction of foreign

silver money and even of the silver coined in Venezuela, which for any reason might be imported by private parties was also prohibited.

The unit of silver, or the bolívar, fineness 0.900, and weight $4\frac{1}{2}$ grams fine (it may be five, coined by the first legal stamping), in exchange on London, which, at the date of this report,¹ is 25.80 per pound sterling, should have the value of 97.868 centésimos, because the loss in exchange is 2.132 per cent, the accepted par in the Venezuelan market for English gold being 25.25 per pound sterling.

The monetary unit is determined by law, exists in practice, and is the existing measure of value ruling calculations, protected by the guaranty which is explicitly derived from the limited circulation of the silver bolívar and in the governing circulation of national gold.

The circulation of gold is calculated at 101,538,129.90 bolívares (\$19,596,859.07); silver at 14,000,000 bolívares (\$2,702,000).

In the circulation of gold, the quantity of foreign money which conventionally is current between banks and in commerce without any difficulty to the public, in accordance with its weight and law, and conforming to a tariff of simple agreement, can not be calculated because the law declares foreign gold money to be merchandise.

There are not, nor is it necessary to have, foreign silver moneys in circulation; they are strictly prohibited.

Official paper money does not exist, neither do General Government or State notes, but the circulating bank notes are taken at par of Venezuelan gold as paper money. The following amounts exist, serving as the instrument of exchange in transactions: Notes of the Bank of Venezuela, on June 30, 1896, in hand, 90,100 bolívares (\$17,589.30); in circulation, 1,659,900 bolívares (\$320,360.70); total, 1,750,000 bolívares (\$337,750). Notes of the Bank of Caracas, on June 30, 1896, in hand, 891,780 bolívares (\$172,113.54); in circulation, 742,320 bolívares (\$143,267.76); total, 1,634,100 bolívares (\$315,381.20). Notes of the Bank of Maracaibo, on June 30, 1896, in hand, 480,000 bolívares (\$92,640); in circulation, 720,000 bolívares (\$138,960); total, 1,200,000 bolívares (\$231,600).

Since the money law of 1891, above cited, no change has been effected in the monetary system of the country except the resolutions prohibiting absolutely the importation of foreign silver money, and that concerning Venezuelan silver when the latter is not imported by the Government.

The presentation to the Government of various specimens of coun-

¹ October 6, 1896.

terfeit silver moneys, which had the same model as that determined by law for Venezuelan money, gave cause for this resolution, dated August 14, 1893; also, because the Government had well-founded reasons for believing that its silver money was being falsified in some foreign country.

The manufactures of the country have not experienced any effect practically, either favorable or adverse, by reason of the money, because its price has always been in harmony with its legalized value and its necessity as an element of exchange in transactions as much in 1886 as now in 1896.

What really impedes the creation of new industries is the want of roads, which will cheapen freights and lower interest on capital, because the profits of the existing enterprises scarcely satisfy the costs of manual labor, interest, and the insignificant compensation of the managers.

In wages scarcely any variation has been noticed.

At the present time¹ 43.70 bolívares (\$8.744) of gold money circulate per inhabitant, and 6.02 bolívares (\$1.16) of silver per inhabitant. Total per capita in United States money, \$9.90.

The mint of the country is not in operation inasmuch as there is no coinage of metals. Neither the price of gold nor of fine silver, nor any variations to note, emanate from the establishment.

In the market of the mining district of the Republic the dominating price for 1 kilogram of pure gold is 3,448 bolívares (\$665.40). In the economical year 1895-96 there were exported 1,311.474 kilograms of gold ingots and 4,022,814.60 bolívares' (\$776,403.26) worth of coarse gold.

The bolívar is equivalent to the peseta or franc, with a value equal to 19.23 cents in United States currency. The gold coins in actual circulation are of the denominations of 100, 25, and 20 bolívares, and the silver coins of the denominations of 5, 2½, 2, 1, ½, and ¼ bolívares. The circulation of foreign money is prohibited, and foreign gold pieces, although accepted in circulation, are considered as a commodity and only have a conventional value. The American gold 20-dollar piece is worth 104 bolívares and its fractions in proportion.

There are three banks of issue in Venezuela: The Bank of Venezuela, with a capital of 8,000,000 bolívares and a reserve of 974,753.39 bolívares; the Bank of Caracas, a joint stock corporation, having a capital of 3,000,000 bolívares and a reserve fund of 345,928 bolívares, and the Bank

¹ October 6, 1896.

of Maracaibo, with a capital of 1,250,000 bolívares and a reserve fund of 312,500 bolívares.

These institutions have agents in the principal cities of the country and in some commercial centers of Europe, and in New York, in the United States. They are private institutions, doing a large business in and out of the country. They issue notes payable to bearer at sight on presentation to the main office. There are in Caracas besides these banking institutions two banks of loans and discounts and the Savings Bank.

XIV.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Communication is favored in Venezuela by the natural means of rivers, lakes, and plains. There are also railroads, wagon roads, and telegraph, telephone, and mail lines, which bring together all the localities in the extensive territory of the Republic.

INTERIOR NAVIGATION.

Of the 70 navigable rivers Venezuela possesses, the Orinoco, the Apure, and the Portuguesa are navigated by steam and sailing vessels carrying on the trade between Ciudad Bolívar, Caicara, San Fernando, Nútrias, Arauca, Camaguán, and Baúl. By the Orinoco and Meta rivers sailing and steam vessels also go as far as Colombia. There are steamers carrying on the trade between Ciudad Bolívar and the British island of Trinidad, and one which transports cattle, by the Orinoco, destined to British Guiana. Steamship communication also exists between Maracaibo and La Ceiba, situated on Lake Maracaibo, Encontrados, on the Catatumbo River, and San Carlos del Zulia, on the Escalante. The navigation of Lake Valencia is carried on by means of small craft and steamers. The trade between the many points of the extensive coast line of Venezuela is carried on by means of numerous sailing vessels and several steamers daily leaving the national ports. There is a special line between La Guaira and Rio Chico. Two steamers make trips between Puerto Cabello and Tucacas, and another steamer plies on the Yaracuí River and on the sea as far as Puerto Cabello. Another steam vessel carries on a coastwise trade from Puerto Cabello, touching at various ports of the eastern coast and entering the Orinoco, to Ciudad Bolívar.

COMMUNICATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Communication with foreign lands is maintained by means of steamships belonging to American, English, French, Dutch, German, Italian, and Spanish companies. The freight and passenger traffic between New York and La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Coro, and Maracaibo is regularly maintained by the "Red D Line," an American company, dispatching steamers monthly to the three ports first mentioned and to Maracaibo and Coro direct. One or two Dutch steamers, carrying passengers and freight, leave regularly every month for La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Cumaná, Carúpano, Guanta, Ciudad Bolívar, and other ports, and a Spanish line carries passengers and freight to La Guaira and Puerto Cabello. There is an English line of passenger and freight steamers to Ciudad Bolívar and other points, transshipping at Trinidad. Besides these there are one or more sailing vessels leaving United States ports every month for Venezuela.

Communication with Europe is very frequent, among the principal steamship lines being the French and Spanish trans-Atlantic lines, the Hamburg-American Line, the Italian Line (*La Veloce*), the Dutch Line, the Harrison, Royal Mail, West India, and Pacific. It may be safely stated that Venezuela is in daily communication with the United States, Europe, and the West Indies.

RAILROADS.

The present railroad mileage in operation in Venezuela is 503 miles. Four lines start from Caracas, the capital, connecting it on the north with La Guaira, which is the principal port of the Republic; on the west, by the Gran Ferrocarril de Venezuela, with Valencia and way stations; on the east, by the Gran Central, with Petare and other towns; and on the south, by the Valle Railway, with the city bearing this name. The railway from Caracas to La Guaira, belonging to an English company, is one of the most notable engineering works in Spanish America, owing to the difficulties that had to be overcome in its construction, due to the difference of elevation (2,984 feet) and the irregular conformation of the coast range, separating the capital from the port. Although the distance in a straight line between the two points is barely 5 miles, the length of the railway line is $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the smallest radius of the curves is 140 feet, and the maximum grade 3.75 per cent.

In order to attain the elevation of Caracas (3,000 feet) the line had to be built with a ruling gradient of 3.75 per cent, rising to a height of 3,200 feet shortly before reaching Caracas and then falling 200 feet to the terminus. The chief peculiarity of the construction is the extreme sharpness of the curves and counter curves, the generality of which have a radius of 250 feet, while some have as little as 140 feet radius. The line is single, with sidings for the passage of trains that meet. Its gauge is 3 feet. The track winds up the mountain side with immense precipices on one side and towering heights on the other. In some places it runs through cuts 70 feet deep, alternating with short tunnels, of which there are eight, bored through the solid rock, the longest being about 360 feet in length. The continual turning of the steep gradient on the edge of yawning precipices, sometimes as deep as 1,200 feet, is alarming to passengers when first traveling by it. It is a remarkable fact, however, that, notwithstanding the dangerous character of the railway, there has not been a single accident to passengers during the sixteen years it has been in existence, and only once a freight train broke away.

Owing to the sharpness of the curves the driver can not see, at times, beyond 60 feet in front of him, and men called "vigilantes" (watchmen) are stationed at intervals all along the track to look out for landslides or other impediments. One of the greatest difficulties to traffic, and a constant danger to life and the road, was the number of landslides during the rainy season. Fortunately these have been almost totally overcome. The freight cars and passenger coaches are of a neat appearance. The locomotives work very well, but the expense necessary to maintain them in good condition is heavy.

Many of the curves existing when the line was first built have been modified, the earth being more settled.

There are, besides the four lines already mentioned, the following railways in actual operation: From Puerto Cabello to Valencia; from Maiquetía to Macuto; from Guanta to Barcelona; from Carenero to San José; from La Ceiba to Sabana de Mendoza; from El Hacha to Barquisimeto; from Tucacas to the Aroa mines, and from Santa Barbara to El Vigía.

The following are the railroads either in course of construction or under contract: A line starting from the port of Carúpano to several interior towns in the same State; another line from Caracas to Carenero; another from Encontrados, on the Catatumbo River, of the State of Zulia, to La Fría, with branch lines to San Cristóbal and Periquera; and lines from Valencia to Nirgua; Puerto Cabello to Carenero, Coro to

Sabaneta, La Vela de Coro to the city of Coro; Barquisimeto to any one point in the districts of Cabudare and Araure; from Maturín to Caño San Juan; from the right-hand shore of the Orinoco River to El Callao; from the port of Barranquita, on Lake Maracaibo, to Sabana de San Ignacio; and from Port Cabinas, or any other port on Lake Maracaibo, to the city of Carora.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SAME.

In May, 1896, the Congress of Venezuela enacted a law authorizing the executive power to contract for the construction and operation of railroads in the Republic.

The Government of the Republic, according to the said law, may make concessions for the term of 75 years, at the expiration of which the railroad lines, with all their real estate and rolling stock, warehouses and buildings, shall pass in a perfect state of preservation to the Government and become the property thereof.

The Government reserves the right to purchase the line and its equipment at any time after the expiration of 25 years subsequent to its conclusion and official opening to public traffic. In such event due notice shall be given to the operating company that the Government will make the purchase at its price or by appraisalment, paying a premium of 20 per cent on the market value of the road, or by paying the face value of the securities representing the capital stock of the same with a premium of 10 per cent, the payment to be made to the operating company at the time of transfer.

Article 3 of the law authorizes the Government to grant the exclusive privilege for not more than 40 years for the operation of the road.

Article 5 provides that the Government may contribute to the construction of railroads it may consider of public utility, furnishing a sum of money to be determined upon at the time of the delivery of each 10 kilometers constructed, and stipulating the conditions of the delivery and payment of the subvention with the greatest clearness, and when the subject is perpetual concessions the amount paid shall not exceed 10,000 bolívares per kilometer on railroads over level ground and 20,000 bolívares over broken or swampy lands requiring artificial work, and 30,000 bolívares over mountainous country.

With respect to concessions limited to 75 years the Government may increase the subventions to 20,000 bolívares per kilometer on level ground, 40,000 bolívares on broken or swampy ground, and 60,000 bolívares on mountain lands.

The sixth article of the law makes obligatory upon the owners or construction company the deposit of from 50,000 to 100,000 bolívares in gold or its equivalent in bonds of the public debt of Venezuela. This deposit will be returned to the contractors upon the conclusion of one-third of the line.

The law provides that the time within which the work is to begin must be fixed, and that the said term shall not exceed twelve months, to be reckoned from the date of the approval of the contract by the National Congress.

The time within which the railroad must be finished and opened to public service must also be set out.

The contractor must present to the Government the general profiles of the line within six months after the date of the contract, in order that they may be presented to the National Congress for approval.

Only in unforeseen cases, or *force majeure*, may extensions of time be granted. These must be strictly limited to the duration of the unforeseen cases or the *force majeure*.

The passenger and freight rates must be established by agreement with the National Government, and reduced when the earnings of the railroads for two consecutive years are greater than 8 per cent interest on the capital of the company.

In the event of opposition on the part of the company, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration.

By article 10 the Government is authorized to grant railroad companies the title to lands occupied by the roadbed, stations, offices, and warehouses, and even a greater space on each side of the track or tracks. The grant of public lands shall not be in a continuous strip on each side of the road, but equal strips or parcels shall be left between those granted to the railroad company.

The Government is authorized to make the legal expropriation of the lands belonging to private parties which may be necessary for the railroad, its switches, offices, and warehouses, but the contracting company shall pay for the costs of the expropriation.

The Government may also cause the free admission of the materials, engines, tools, implements, and chattels indispensable to the company and its buildings.

The new lines must be of the same gauge of those with which they connect. The smallest gauge of roads not included in this provision must be at least 1 meter.

Article 13 provides that the maximum grade shall be 3 per cent and

the minimum radius of the curves 90 meters, except in funicular and cog railroads. The legal residence of the companies must be the capital of the Republic, or the terminus of the line, but there must always be an authorized representative at the capital of the Republic. This does not prevent the companies having offices abroad.

No assignments or transfers may be made without the approval of the Government.

All controversies shall be settled by the courts of the Republic, and shall not be the subject of international claims.

Article 18 provides as an indispensable requisite that railway concessions shall be made through contracts drawn up in due legal form.

MAIL SERVICE.

The postal service with the interior of the Republic is well organized, and is effected through the most rapid means of communication between the principal cities and towns in the country, either by rail, by water, or by the highways and the mule paths crossing the mountains, thus shortening the distances.

Foreign mails are carried by the ocean steamers touching at the principal sea ports of Venezuela, thence to the United States, Europe, and the West Indies, thus putting Venezuela in communication with all parts of the world.

Venezuelan mail to and from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay, is generally carried by way of the United States, though sometimes the service is done by way of the West Indies.

The mail to the Guianas is carried by way of the island of Trinidad.

The mail service between Venezuela and the ports of Colombia, Central America, and Mexico, as well as the republics of the Pacific, is conducted via Colón. Communication with the Antilles is direct.

Comparing the mail statistics of the three quarters from January to October, 1896, with those of the same period of the previous year, there appears an increase in favor of the former of: Letters, 430,465; registered mail, 180,736; official correspondence, 6,705; postal cards, 86,039; printed matter, 842,741; postal parcels, 55,202; making a total of 1,601,888 pieces of mail matter.

The parcels-post system is being tried very successfully. The Government has entered into a parcel-post convention with the United States, which is now in force.

During the first three quarters of the year 1896 there were handled in the post-offices in the Republic—excepting a few offices, the reports

from which had not been received by the Postmaster-General—11,328,796 pieces of mail matter, to wit:

	Domestic.	Foreign.
Letters	2, 737, 311	2, 014, 694
Official mail.....	194, 826	36, 783
Postal cards	150, 883	125, 555
Registered mail	137, 514	241, 414
Samples.....	48, 843	167, 866
Printed matter	2, 937, 710	2, 117, 221
Parcels from telegraph bureau	70, 510	.....
Parcels from other bureaus	219, 953	.....
Private parcels	118, 686	.....
Total	6, 625, 236	4, 703, 533

TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The telegraph service in Venezuela is steadily developing. The telegraphic network of the Republic is divided into different lines, having a total length of 3,300 miles approximately.

The northern line, between Caracas and La Guaira, is only about 15 miles in length.

The eastern line, between Caracas and Güiría, measures about 450 miles. It has 4 branches, to wit: From Píritu to Caucagua, 16 miles; from Píritu to Clarines, 16 miles; from Cumaná to Maturín, 95 miles; from Barcelona to Aragua, 65 miles.

The southeastern line, between Caracas and El Callao, measures about 680 miles. Its branches are from San Felix to Los Castillos de Guayana, 35 miles; from Callao to El Dorado, 80 miles.

The southern line measures, from Caracas to San Fernando de Apure, about 250 miles; from San Juan to San Sebastián and San Casimiro, 35 miles; from Ortiz to Sombrero, Barbacoas, and Camatagua, 75 miles.

The western line, between Caracas and San Antonio del Táchira, measures 670 miles, and the branches, from San Joaquín to Ocumare del la Costa, 16 miles; from Valencia to Puerto Cabello, 35 miles; from Trujillo to Boconó, 35 miles.

The northeastern line, between Quibor, La Vela, and Port Altagracia, measures 300 miles; from this latter place to Punta del Vino, 1 mile. The submarine branch, from the latter point to Capitán Chico, 4 miles; its extension to Maracaibo, 5 miles.

The southeastern line, from Valencia to Nutrias, measures 260 miles;

the branch from Acarigua to Barquisimeto, 40 miles; from Tinaco to Pao, 25 miles; from Tinaco to El Baul, 65 miles.

By decree of May 7, 1896, special stamps were ordered to be printed for the circulation of telegraphic communications.

The telegraph service in Venezuela is conducted at the expense of the Government in accordance with the law and regulations on the subject. The telegraphic regulations make compulsory the computation of the number of words by the sender of the dispatch as well as by the addressee, a stamp being affixed to each communication.

The rates are as follows:

	Bolivars.
From 1 to 10 words	1. 00
From 11 to 15 words	1. 25
From 16 to 20 words	1. 50
From 21 to 25 words	1. 75

For every 5 words over the above numbers stamps to the value of twenty-five hundredths of a bolívar are canceled.

From 6 p. m. to 10 p. m. the rates given in the above table are doubled, and from 10 p. m. until 7 a. m. they are quadrupled. On Sundays and national holidays the regular rates are doubled, according to the hour when the messages are presented for transmission. Cipher dispatches and those in a language other than the Spanish pay double the regular rates.

Cable.—The submarine cable furnishes communication with the United States and Europe *via* La Guaira to Curaçao, Haiti, Santiago de Cuba, and Havana, at the rate of \$1.60 per word to the United States, and \$1.70 to France, Germany, and England. The French Cable Company charges 50 per cent less on press dispatches.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The first telephone company was organized and installed in Caracas in the month of August, 1883, under the name of the Intercontinental, and at the beginning of the year 1889 it had in service 776 instruments between Caracas, La Guaira, Valencia, and Puerto Cabello, maintaining lines of communication between Caracas and La Guaira and between Valencia and Puerto Cabello. The contract with the Government was signed on July 11, 1883.

This company had, at the end of November, 1890, 1,477 subscribers connected with its different offices and an average of 6,000 messages a day.

Another company, called the American Company, was established in 1888 in Caracas, with branches in La Guaira, Maracaibo, and Antímáno. The contract with the Government was signed on April 20, 1887.

The said company has been reorganized under different names—one under the name of the Venezuela Telephone and Electrical Appliances, Limited, and the other under that of the American Electric and Manufacturing Company. Competition has cheapened the rates. The first of the said companies, according to the report of its general agent, under date of December 3, 1896, had at that time 2,631 subscribers, of which 1,837 have telephones in Caracas, 216 in La Guaira, 313 in Valencia, 138 in Puerto Cabello, 14 in Santa Lucía, 22 in Petare, 24 in Guarenas, 24 in Guapire, 9 in Charallave, 8 in Cúa, 22 in Ocumare del Tuy, and 1 each in La Mata, Turgua, Caucaguita, and El Guayabo. The other company, generally known as the American Company, competing with the English concern, which is the name given to the first mentioned, has not published the details of its business, but continues operating in Caracas, La Guaira, Valencia, Puerto Cabello, and other points of the Republic, increasing the number of its subscribers, especially in the capital, preventing the monopoly of the other company, and naturally an advance in the rates of service.

According to the manual published in 1892, the American Company conducted the telephone service in Caracas, La Guaira, Maracaibo, and Antímáno, and had made arrangements for extending the service in the cities of Victoria, Ciudad Bolívar, Guatire, Guarenas, and in the towns of San Cristóbal and Rubio, in the Táchira section. It then had 1,350 instruments and 1,400 miles of wire, with all the apparatus necessary for a thorough service.

The price of subscription had been reduced to \$2.70 a month for the use of the telephone, and 10 cents for 5 minutes' conversation between the cities connected by the telephone lines.

The Venezuela Telephone and Electric Appliance Company, Limited, has over 2,800 subscribers, divided between its 17 exchange offices. The number of miles of telephone wire controlled by the company is estimated at 3,000, the line being mostly overhead, on wrought iron posts, having about 2 miles of underground wires in the city of Caracas. Two hundred miles is the longest speaking distance at present. The number of calls in Caracas alone average 13,000, and from 400 to 500 in the trunk lines. Notwithstanding the fact that this is an English company, almost all the material used is of American manufacture.

According to the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Industry,

and Commerce for 1899 there are 13 telephone companies in Venezuela, operating from 30 to 2,737 miles of wire, their aggregate capital reaching 375,000 bolivars.

THE LA GUAIRA BREAKWATER.

Next to the La Guaira and Caracas Railroad, already mentioned, the most important work of engineering in Venezuela is the La Guaira Breakwater, built by an English company, which commenced the work in December, 1885, completing it in June, 1891. In 1887 a terrible storm almost totally destroyed the structure, which was repaired, making it stronger, and an extension was built. The breakwater is about 2,000 feet long, and 40 feet deep at the extreme point; it is all built of concrete, 56 feet in breadth at the base and 30 at the upper part, which rises 12 feet above high water. The breakwater has wharves, beacons, railways, machinery, and every appliance necessary to facilitate the loading and unloading of vessels, passenger traffic, etc. The company who built and controls the breakwater is called the La Guaira Harbor Corporation, Limited, and has offices in Caracas and in London. The company collects certain dues on the passenger and freight traffic, according to tariff.

XV.

INSTRUCTION.

The latest code of public instruction now in force, approved by Congress May 17, 1897, classes education in Venezuela under two heads, public and private. Public instruction is supported by the revenues of the nation, the States, and the municipalities, while private instruction is either acquired at home, or is given by private persons either at home or in institutions created for that purpose.

The federal public instruction is divided as follows: Primary schools for teaching the first rudiments, federal colleges and normal schools for the teaching of more advanced matters, universities for superior and scientific instruction, special institutions for the extension and development of certain branches of knowledge and their application, academies for the furtherance of certain studies by the method of association, and for the best organization in the exercise of certain professions.

The general direction of public instruction is under the charge of the minister of public instruction and of specially appointed boards of

instruction. The States, municipalities, or councils may establish whatever schools and colleges they may deem necessary, but the textbooks, methods, and systems of education are those selected by the Federal Government through the minister of public instruction.

Primary instruction is divided into voluntary and obligatory instruction, both gratis. Obligatory primary instruction is that which the law imposes on all Venezuelans of either sex, and the voluntary instruction embraces all the subjects that the Government may deem advisable to be taught at the educational institutions, it being optional to learn them or not. Religious education is classed among these matters. Primary instruction is given in boys' and girls' first and second grade schools. These establishments must be annexed to the normal schools, and the national executive may create them separately and according to the needs of the country. In the schools of the first grade, religious Catholic education is voluntary for the pupils whose parents should so desire; but instruction embracing the reading of both manuscript and printed matter, writing, elements of arithmetic, metric system, elements of geography, history and political constitution of the Republic, good manners, habits of cleanliness, moral and civic education and calisthenics, and agronomy in the rural district schools is compulsory. Girls will be taught in the first-grade schools, besides the above-mentioned matters, needlework, cutting and sewing, dress-making, and elements of domestic economy. In the second-grade schools the following matters are taught: Writing from dictation, the Spanish language, practical arithmetic, geography, history and the political constitution of Venezuela, universal history and geography, linear drawing, general principles of physics and natural sciences and their application to industry, morals, elements of civil common law, and gymnastics. None but those who have passed the first-grade schools can enter these institutions, after giving satisfactory evidence of this, either by showing the proper certificate or by passing an examination.

The boards of primary instruction are divided into three classes, as follows: Sectional boards, district boards, and parish boards, whose duties are to preserve in the best possible condition, according to law, the system of education under their charge.

Secondary instruction is organized by means of federal colleges, one for boys and one for girls in each school section, to be established regardless of the existence of any others; or those that the national executive may deem advisable to establish whenever and wherever circumstances may demand; and of the normal schools which shall be

established in the Republic for both sexes. Each federal college shall have a primary school annexed. In the federal colleges for boys, the following matters must be taught: Latin, Greek, French, English, German, universal history, grammar, rhetoric, universal geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, topography, astronomy, physics, chemistry, elemental philosophy, pedagogy, and topographic drawing. In the federal colleges for girls, the following must be taught: Morals and manners, elocution, arithmetic, grammar and composition, universal geography, French, English, history, drawing, music and singing, hygiene, calisthenics, domestic economy, sewing, embroidery, cutting and dressmaking, and pedagogy.

The normal schools are for the instruction of teachers, and have a federal school annexed. The matters taught in these schools are pedagogy, elocution, calligraphy, Spanish, arithmetic, geography of Venezuela and universal geography, elements of anatomy, hygiene, physiology, civic instruction, gymnastics, music, and drawing; and in the normal schools for young ladies, besides the above, the Froebel system, manual work, domestic economy, and household duties.

Higher or superior instruction is given at the universities, which are situated as follows: The Central in Caracas, the Los Andes in Mérida, the Carabobo in Valencia, the Zulia in Maracaibo, the Bolívar in Ciudad Bolívar, and the Lara in Barquisimeto. The instruction given in the universities embraces the following matters in all their branches: Political, medical, and theological sciences, mathematics, philosophy, letters and pharmacy, dental surgery and veterinary.

There are other special institutions, among which is the school of engineering, where the necessary studies are made to graduate as civil or military engineers, agronomists, and architects. Every one of these courses has its special regulations according to law. There is also a school for mining engineers at Guacipati, in the Yuruari mining district. The other establishments devoted to higher instruction are the School of Manual Training in the Federal district, where, besides the theoretical course provided by law, the following practical courses are given: Masonry, carpentry, blacksmithing, tailoring, shoemaking, and several others. The National Institute of Fine Arts is divided into four sections, as follows: Drawing and painting, sculpture, architecture, elocution, and conservatory of music. The polytechnic school is devoted to the matters pertinent to its object.

Besides the medical, law, and engineering colleges and the medical board established in the Republic (all subject to special regulations in accordance with the code of instruction), there are six more institutions

devoted to the study and development of science and letters, viz: The Venezuelan Academy of Language, the National Academy of History, the Academy of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, the Academy of Biological and Medical Sciences, the Academy of Social Science and Law, and the "Ateneo de Caracas." There are also in Caracas a national library, the national museum, divided into five sections, as follows: History of the country, natural history and archaeology, the painting, sculpture, and architecture galleries, and the astronomical and meteorological observatory of Caracas.

For the maintenance of public instruction special laws have been framed creating the following revenues: The proceeds from the school and postage stamps and postal cards and letters deposited in the treasury of public instruction; the interests allotted to its service out of the national consolidated debt; the fines imposed upon the infractors of the provisions of the law in force relating to public instruction; the taxes levied by law on inheritances; the duties on cut and manufactured tobacco imported into the country, and the proceeds of the stamps affixed to each package of cigarettes sold or offered for sale.

The public instruction revenue amounted during the fiscal year 1896-97 to 2,958,232.35 bolívars.

According to the report of the minister of public instruction to Congress, 1898, there were in Venezuela 1,008 Federal schools, the number of pupils registered being 4,225, an average of 3,100 being regular attendants. Said schools were situated as follows: Federal District, 211; State of Bermúdez, 99; State of Bolívar, 41; State of Carabobo, 115; State of Falcón, 60; State of Los Andes, 80; State of Lara, 83; State of Miranda, 210; State of Zamora, 64, and 45 in the State of Zulia.

There are several private institutions of learning for both sexes in all the principal centers and towns in the country.

XVI.

IMMIGRATION.

The immigration law in force offers great advantages to immigrants. The Government endeavors in every way in its power to bring hands to the Republic for the cultivation of its fields and for other industries. Few countries offer so many inducements as does Venezuela, which in her purpose of promoting immigration goes so far as to pay the passage of immigrants and support them for a certain limited time.

The Government, in obedience to the law in the premises, names agents in foreign countries to encourage the current of immigration toward the Republic.

One of the principal duties of the immigration agents is to explain the law to immigrants before they sail for Venèzuela.

The immigrants preferred are those who are experts in the branches of agriculture, stock raising, and other industries and domestic arts. The Government pays the passage of European immigrants at the rate of 130 bolívares and of those coming from the United States at the rate of 80 bolívares for each adult person.

Immigrants may go under contract with the governments of the States, companies, or private individuals, the National Government intervening in the terms prescribed by the law; that is to say, that on filing their application, the companies or private persons must set forth the names, sex, age, nationality, and class of persons they need, the climate in which the immigrants are to work, the work on which they are to be employed and the wages to be paid, the concessions for the dwellings and plots for cultivation, and any other conditions that may be desirable which should be set forth. In so far as compatible with the official character of the governments of the States, they are obliged to indicate to the national executive the nationality, sex, age, and class of immigrants desired for the colonization of their territory, adding any other necessary information.

The law provides that the proposals contained in the applications referred to shall be transmitted to the national executive, and upon being accepted by the immigrants, they shall have the force of a bipartite contract between the immigrants and the applicants. According to the law, these contracts shall have a legal force for four years only, at the expiration of which time they may be extended by mutual agreement.

The colonization of citizens or aliens is regulated by a special enactment.

Immigrants are not bound to pay for the public lands they cultivate during the first two years of their residence, but they must pay for the same four years subsequent to taking possession thereof, and they are prohibited from transferring the same during that time.

They are also prohibited from transferring the lands or conveying title until after they have paid the stipulated price for the same, and have proven that they have resided on the land subject of the sale for three years after commencing to cultivate it.

XVII.

PATENT AND TRADE-MARK REGULATIONS.

PATENTS.

The patent law now in force was approved on May 25, 1882, and proclaimed by the President of the Republic on June 2, 1882, repealing the previous law of May 25, 1878.

Pursuant to the said law, inventions or discoveries of a new and useful art, machine, manufacture, or material composition, or any new and useful improvement in the same, provided that the invention, discovery, or improvement shall not have been previously known and used by others, or patented or described in any publication printed in the Republic or elsewhere, and which shall not have been in use and on sale to the public for more than two years prior to the application for the patent, may be patented in Venezuela.

Applications for patents are addressed to the executive power, through the minister of promotion, declaring under oath that the applicant is in fact the inventor or discoverer of the art, machine, manufacture, composition, or improvement sought to be patented.

Patents are issued for the term of five, ten, or fifteen years, and are forfeited in six months, one or two years after issuance, if during all that time the discovery is not put into practice. The letters patent set forth the duration of the same and the time of forfeiture.

The law provides the terms in which the patent or concession is to be couched.

The applications for patents must be accompanied by a voucher showing that the inventor has paid the tax corresponding to one-half the number of years for which the patent is solicited. This tax is 80 bolivars per annum for an invention or discovery and 60 bolivars per annum for improvements.

Should no patent be issued, the applicant loses the amount paid in, but should the patent issue, the amount is credited to the proper number of years.

The Federal Executive may exempt from the established tax inventors of industrial discoveries or inventions which in its judgment may merit such protection.

Foreign letters patent are not an obstacle to obtaining the same in Venezuela, unless they have been already issued to another for the same invention or improvement.

With regard to letters patent issued in other countries, those issued

in Venezuela can not exceed with respect to time the unexpired time limit of the former.

Models, descriptions, and drawings accompanying applications for patents must remain deposited in the ministry of promotion.

TRADE-MARKS.

The trade-mark law now in force was promulgated in May, 1877.

Any person or association residing in the Republic or any corporations created by the national authority may solicit and obtain the protection and guaranty of any legitimate trade-mark, to the use of which they have the exclusive right, provided they comply with the legal requirements. These requirements consist of filing with the Ministry of Promotion¹ an application in the name of the applicant on stamped paper of the seventh class, setting forth his name, residence, and commercial domicile, the kind of articles for which the trade-mark is used, a full description of these articles and of the trade-mark, with facsimiles of the latter, showing its application and method of use, and giving the time the said trade-mark has been in use in case it has been previously used.

The application should be signed by the interested party or by his legal representative, and should state that he has a right to the use of the trade-mark, and that the latter bears no similarity whatever to those previously issued to other parties, and that it can not be mistaken for these or occasion deception.

Facsimiles as well as the descriptions and exact copies of the trade-marks must be registered.

The Ministry of Promotion will not receive applications for trade-marks from any person, association, or corporation which do not have some feature sufficient to distinguish them from those of the same name when in use by different persons or when applied to the same class of object, or which are intended in some way to deceive the public.

The Ministry of Promotion, after the legal requirements have been complied with and in case no protest is filed, issues a certificate on stamped paper of the third class, declaring that the applicant is the owner of the trade-mark registered, with all its specifications, and this certificate will serve as a title, being duly registered and bearing the seal of the ministry.

The exclusive right to the use of a trade-mark of articles not protected by the laws of other countries will remain intact and in force for the term of thirty years reckoned from the date of registrations;

¹ Now the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce.

but during the six months preceding the expiration of this term of thirty years application may be made for a renewal, and the term may be extended for a like period by the issuance of a new certificate similar to the original instrument.

False representations or declarations, as well as any other fraudulent means employed in the application for trade-marks, subjects those guilty of the same to the penalties established by the criminal code of procedure, apart from the civil liability to interested third parties.

Foreign trade-marks registered abroad may also be registered in the Ministry of Promotion, whether international treaties or conventions on the subject exist or not, whenever, in the judgment of the National Executive, the manufactures or articles they protect are deemed to have demonstrated their usefulness.

XVIII.

MISCELLANEOUS DATA.

HOW TO REACH VENEZUELA.

The best way to make the trip from New York to Venezuela, especially to the ports of La Guaira, the principal port of the Republic, Puerto Cabello, Coro, and Maracaibo, which are the most important western harbors, is by the Red D line of steamers, which vessels were expressly constructed for the passenger, freight, and postal services between the United States and Venezuela, under the supervision of the Government, by William Cramps Sons, of Philadelphia.

The vessels sail from the port of New York (Robert's Pier, No. 10, on the Brooklyn side) about every ten days, cleared by the Messrs. Boulton, Bliss & Dallett, successors to the old house of Messrs. Dallett, of Philadelphia, founders of the original line of sailing packets between Philadelphia, La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello.

They ordinarily leave Robert's Pier, No. 10, Brooklyn, on the days designated at 1 p. m., passing between Governor's Island and the Battery, close by the statue of Liberty, and following the channel until they reach the Sandy Hook bar, at 3 p. m. From here they follow a course to Porto Rico, thence to the Dutch island of Curaçao. Those desiring to make a quick trip are transferred on the afternoon of the same day to the steamer which clears for La Guaira, which is reached

early on the following morning. It here receives the mails and passengers and sails before noon for New York. Those who are in no hurry to reach La Guaira and Caracas remain on the steamer which brought them to Curaçao and wait for the sailing of the ship on the following day for Puerto Cabello, distant 111 miles from Curaçao. The steamer stays at Puerto Cabello for a day and a half, affording the traveler an opportunity to visit the beautiful city of Valencia, so as, on the return herefrom, to sail on the following day at night and arrive in a few hours at La Guaira, the distance being very short—only 65 miles—which, owing to the tortuous course followed, is lengthened into 71 miles. The distance from Sandy Hook to Curaçao is not more than 1,763 miles, and from Sandy Hook to La Guaira 1,830 miles. The first-class passage to Curaçao costs \$70, to Puerto Cabello \$75, and to La Guaira \$80. The round trip costs about 10 per cent less.

Those desiring to visit Valencia and to go from there to Caracas may do so by rail. The first-class fare from Valencia to Puerto Cabello is \$2.50 and from Valencia to Caracas \$8.50. The fare from La Guaira to Caracas is \$2.50.

Passengers from New York bound for Coro and Maracaibo are transferred at Curaçao to the smaller steamers of the same line which ply between the said ports and Curaçao.

GENERAL STATISTICAL DATA IN REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

Area of Venezuela.....	square miles..	599, 358
Cattle-breeding belt or zone.....	do.....	156, 496
Forest belt or zone.....	do.....	308, 095
Canals. (See note.)		
Extension of railways.....	miles..	515
Public lands.....	square miles..	445, 730
Price of public lands:		
For agricultural purposes, per acre.....	dollars..	3. 12
For breeding purposes, per square mile.....	do.....	65. 32
Coffee plantations.....	number..	32, 266
Cocoa plantations.....	do.....	7, 037
Sugar-cane plantations.....	do.....	11, 061
Cocoanut plantations.....	do.....	1, 223
Cattle farms (beef cattle).....	do.....	7, 654
Grazing farms.....	do.....	8, 906
Beef cattle.....	head..	2, 351, 590
Horses.....	do.....	208, 790

Goats	head..	1,667,272
Sheep	do....	176,668
Mules	do....	89,186
Swine	do....	1,618,214
Asses	do....	382,810
Agriculturists		382,188
Annual increase of live stock:		
From 1876 to 1888.....	per cent of increase..	14 to 20
From 1888 to 1898	per cent of decrease..	25
Head of live stock per square mile:		
Horned cattle.....	per cent..	15.037
All other live stock.....	do....	40.56
Population (1898)		2,507,344
Annual increase of population in the last twenty-five years..	per cent..	1.258
Population per square mile	do....	4.206
Foreign residents		52,970
Value of exports:		
Agricultural products.....	dollars..	18,695,163.11
Cattle products.....	do....	1,262,971.75
Forest products.....	do....	371,142.56
Total imports.....	do....	13,989,342.00
Total exports	do....	21,433,681.42
Public revenue	do....	9,291,065.35
Public debt	do....	38,073,542.17
Annual budget.....	do....	6,642,692.35

NOTE.—There are about 400 mining claims in the Republic, although only very few mines are in actual development. The principal minerals known to exist in the Republic are copperas, ocher, coal tar, alum, amethyst, yellow amber, asphalt, grindstone, antimony, jet, sulphur, pitch, limestone, sulphurated lime, coal, carbonate of lime, copper, rock crystal, quartz, zianite, diamond, tin, phosphates, gaylussite, garnet, granite, iron, guano, kaolin, marble, mercury or quicksilver, opal, gold, oxide of iron, petroleum, building stone, slate, silver, platinum, lead, salt, saltpeter, tale, urao, gypsum, etc.

The principal mines in the Republic are the gold mines of Yuruari, the copper mines of Aroa, and the coal mines of Naricual. The total area of these three deposits is 604,290 acres.

RAILROAD AND OTHER TARIFFS IN FORCE IN VENEZUELA.

La Guayra and Caracas Railroad.—Length, 36 kilometers 605 meters; passengers, first class, 12.50 bolívars;² second class, 8 bolívars; freight up grade, per 100 kilograms, 4 bolívars; down grade, per 100 kilograms 3 bolívars.

¹ One kilometer equal to 0.62137 mile (3,280 feet 10 inches); 1 meter equal to 39.37 inches; 1 kilogram equal to 2.2046 pounds.

² One bolivar equal to about 19 cents.

Grand Railroad of Venezuela (Caracas to Valencia).—Length, 179 kilometers; passengers, first class, 45 bolívares; second class, 36 bolívares; freight, per 100 kilograms, 8.50 bolívares.

Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railroad.—Length, 54 kilometers 706 meters; passengers, first class, 13.25 bolívares; second class, 10.50; freight, per 100 kilograms, 5 bolívares.

Bolívar Railroad (from Tucacas to Aroa mines).—Length, 88 kilometers 606 meters; passengers, first class, 32 bolívares; second class, 16 bolívares; freight, per 100 kilograms, 11.56 bolívares.

Southeastern Railroad of Venezuela (from La Luz to Barquisimeto).—Length, 88 kilometers 333 meters; passengers, first class, 23.60 bolívares; second class, 11.80 bolívares; freight, per 100 kilograms, 11.06 bolívares.

La Vela and Coro Railroad.—Length, 13 kilometers 500 meters. Has no definite tariff.

Santa Barbara and El Vigía Railroad.—Length, 60 kilometers; passengers, first class, 28 bolívares; second class, 20 bolívares; freight, each 92 kilograms, 12 bolívares.

Navigation service between Maracaibo and Santa Barbara.—Passengers, first class, 50 bolívares; second class, 20 bolívares; freight, per each 92 kilograms, 1.50 bolívares.

Grand Railroad of La Cúiba.—Length, 90 kilometers; passengers, first class, 20 bolívares; second class, 12 bolívares; freight, each 92 kilograms, 0.20 bolívar per kilometer.

Grand Railroad of El Táchira.—Length, 115 kilometers; passengers, first class, 25 bolívares; second class, 12.50 bolívares; freight, per each 92 kilograms, 0.14 bolívar per kilometer.

Southern Railroad (Caracas to El Valle).—Length, 4 kilometers 500 meters; passengers, 1 bolívar; to the Southern Cemetery, 0.50 bolívar.

Maiquetía and Macuto Railroad.—Length, 8 kilometers; passengers, 1.50 bolívares.

Central Railroad of Venezuela.—Length (from Caracas to Petare), 10 kilometers; passengers, first class, 3 bolívares; second class, 2 bolívares; freight, per 100 kilograms, 1 bolívar.

Carenero and San José Railroad.—Length, 33 kilometers. Traffic stopped; no definite tariff.

Guanta, Barcelona and Naricual Mines Railroad.—Length, 36 kilometers 410 meters; passengers, first class, 4 bolívares; second class, 3 bolívares; freight, 100 kilograms, 2 bolívares.

Port of Guanta.—Vessels, for each ton, 0.05 bolívar; for each 100 kilograms freight, loaded or unloaded, 0.10 bolívar; Venezuelan vessels, 5 per cent less; cartage of freight from the vessels to the custom-house, or vice versa, for each 100 kilograms, 1 bolívar; coal from the Naricual mines, per 100 kilograms, 0.05 bolívar.

La Guaira Harbor Corporation (breakwater).—Loading and unloading vessels, for each 100 kilograms, 2 bolívares; for packages weighing over 200 kilograms, per each additional 100 kilograms, 4 bolívares; coal and other minerals, 100 kilograms, 0.50 bolívar; cattle, per head, 2.50 bolívares; horses, per head, 3 bolívares; passengers, first class, 3 bolívares; second class, 2 bolívares; wharf and beacon dues: Vessels, per ton, 0.10 bolívar; loading or unloading, per 100 kilograms, 0.10 bolívar.

Wharves of Encontrados.—Loading or unloading vessels and stevedore service, per 100 kilograms, 0.75 bolívar.

AVERAGE PRICE OF BUILDING MATERIAL IN CARACAS, VALENCIA,
AND MARACAIBO.

CARACAS MARKET.

	Bolívares.
Mangrove (<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>), beams:	
7 varas in length (5.35 yards).....	5
6 varas in length (4.50 yards).....	4
5 varas in length (3.82 yards).....	3
Zapatero (<i>Peltogyne floribunda</i>), Yaga and Maya, beams:	
7 varas in length (5.35 yards).....	6.50
6 varas in length (4.50 yards).....	5.50
5 varas in length (3.82 yards).....	3.50

Timber, called "heart woods," comprising the following: Vera (*Guayacum arboreum*), Araguaney (*Tecoma spectabilis*), Bálsamo (botanical name unknown), Cartán (*Centrolobium robustum*), Red Oak (*Tecoma pentaphylla*), Puy (*Tecoma serratifolia*), Nispero (*Achras sapota*), Gateado (*Astronium graveolus*), Canaleta (*Aspidosperma excelsum*), Guayabo (*Eugenia moritziana*), Amarillo (botanical name unknown), Angelino (*Homalium rasemosa*), and Divi-divi (*Cæsalpina conara*), is sold at the rate of 0.50 bolívar per square foot or in planks for lintels of 3 varas.

Timber; called "sawing woods," as, for instance, Cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) are sold in quarter pieces.

	Bolívares.
Timber, per square foot	0.50
Timber, in boards.....	1.00

	Bolivars.
Apamate (<i>Tebuya</i> sp.):	
Quartered, 2 by 3 inches, per square foot.....	0.42
Boards, per square foot .....	.42
Siding, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and 1 inch per square foot .....	.50
Jabillo (<i>Hurra crepitans</i>):	
Quartered, 2 by 3 inches, per square foot.....	.42
Boards, per square foot .....	.42
Siding, from $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and 1 inch, per square foot.....	.50
Mihao or Mijao (botanical name unknown):	
Quartered, 2 by 3 inches, per square foot.....	.36
Boards and siding, per square foot.....	.36
Tuque (botanical name unknown):	
Quartered, 2 by 3 inches, per square foot.....	.50
Boards and siding, per square foot .....	.50

MARACAIBO MARKET.

	Bolivars.
Timber, called "heart timbers," from 5 to 10 varas in length and—	
5 by 5 inches, 6 by 6 inches, and 5 by 6 inches, at the rate of.....	2.00
6 by 7 inches, and 7 by 7 inches, at the rate of.....	2.50
7 by 8 inches, at the rate of	3.00
8 by 9 inches, 8½ by 8 inches, and 7 by 9 inches, at the rate of.....	4.00
12 by 12 inches, and 12 by 13 inches, at the rate of.....	8.00

"Jabillo" timber, in logs, from 3 to 8 varas and 12 by 15 inches in thickness, sell at the rate of 4 bolivars per vara, and oak, in logs, from 3 to 6 varas and 12 by 19 inches, are 6 bolivars per vara, while mahogany logs, 3 to 6 varas and 12 by 18 inches, bring 12 bolivars.

VALENCIA MARKET.

	Bolivars.
Beams 6 varas in length.....	3.00
Beams 5 varas in length.....	2.50
Beams 4 varas in length.....	2.00
Boards 4 varas in length, for lintels and flooring, per board.....	8.00
Square timber for planking, per vara.....	4.00

BUILDING MATERIALS.

CARACAS.

	Bolivars.
Adoboncitos (species of brick), per 1,000.....	100.00
Tiles, per 1,000	112.00
American tiles, per 1,000	84.00
Adobitos (species of brick), per 1,000.....	89.00
Panelas (species of brick, one-half foot), per 1,000	120.00
Panelas (species of brick, one-quarter foot), per 1,000	100.00
Panelones (species of brick), per 1,000	1,000.00
Wedges.....	89.00
Laths and shingles.....	89.00
Lime: Spanish measure, "cahiz," about 460 kilograms, per measure.....	36.00
Sand and stone, per cart load of 500 kilograms	2.00
	} 2.50

VENEZUELA.

MARACAIBO.

	Bolívares.
Stone for masonry work (cubic meter)	8.00
Lime, per "fanega," 2 bolívares, or per cubic meter	14.00
Gravel and coarse sand, 1 bolívar, or per cubic meter	8.00
Bricks, 11 by 11 by 1½ inches, per 100	12.00
Bricks, 11 by 6 inches, per 100	12.00

VALENCIA.

Lime, per sack of one-third cubic meter	2.00
Bricks or panelas, per 100	48.00
Tiles, per 100	56.00
Stone, per cart load (about 500 kilograms)	2.50
Sand, per cart load (about 500 kilograms)	1.00
Adobes, per 1,000	100.00

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The metric system of weights and measures is the legal standard in Venezuela, although the old Spanish system is still in vogue. The following are the principal ones:

Almud	= 7	quarts.	Libra	= 1.0161	pounds.
Arroba (dry)	= 25.4024	pounds.	Onza	= 0.636	ounces.
Arroba (liquid)	= 4.236	gallons.	Quintal	= 101.61	pounds.
Fanega	= 1.599	bushels.	Vara	= 33.384	inches.
Fanegada	= 1.78	acres.			

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