



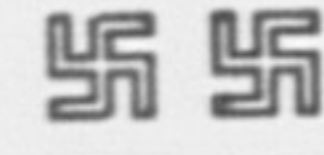
RAWDON STREET, FREETOWN

Lisk-Carew Bros.

SIERRA LEONE



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SIERRA LEONE is a British colony and protectorate on the West Coast of Africa. It is bounded on the west by the Atlantic, north and east by French Guinea and south by Liberia. The coast line following the indentations is about 400 miles in length. The inhabitants excluding the Europeans and Syrian traders may be divided into two distinct classes. The native element consists of various Negro tribes the chief ones being the Tinani, Sulima, Susu and Mendi. Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, is inhabited by people descended from nearly every Negro tribe and a distinct type known as Sierra Leoni has been evolved and their language is pidgin English. Most of the Negroes are pagans and each tribe has its secret societies and fetishes. There are many Christian converts, mostly Anglicans and Wesleyans and a growing number of Mohammedans. The majority of the Sierra Leonis are nominally Christians. The population is distributed in the following manner according to the census of 1911:

Total population.....	1,040,878
Freetown	34,090
Europeans	1,000
Sierra Leonis	70,000

It will be seen from the above table that the Sierra Leonis form a very small part of the population in comparison with the native element. The reason for their existence and their variation from the characteristics of the other Negroes of the colony will be clear when the history of Sierra Leone is given later in this article. First, however, let us get a picture of Sierra Leone as it is today before considering the detailed history of the colony.

Sierra Leone has four important seaports, Freetown, Port Lokko, Bonthe and Songo Town. The one most often visited by European trading vessels is Freetown, the capital which possesses the best harbor facilities. Of the interior towns Falaba is the most important. It is the meeting place of many trade routes and is surrounded by a loopholed wall for protection. Since the building of the railroad which now reaches 182 miles from Freetown other interior towns namely Kambia, Rotefunk, Mano and Bo have become trading centers.

Agriculture is in a backward state. The chief wealth from agricultural products is

derived from the oil-palm, kola nut tree, and various rubber plants. The chief crops are rice, cassava, maize and ginger. Sugar cane is grown in small quantities. Native cocoa plantations have been started but are not exporting yet to any degree. Coffee, tobacco and cotton growing have been given up as unremunerative.

cent of the exports before the war while the remaining 5 per cent went to other colonies in Africa. The United States furnishes the remaining 20 per cent of the imports. The total value of trade in 1918 was £3,197,000. Development of commerce with the rich regions of the North and East has been hindered by the diversion of trade to



Drawn by W. E. D. Campbell, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

PRODUCTS OF SIERRA LEONE

The key to the secret of the prosperity of the colony lies in its trade history. The chief exports are palm kernels, kola nuts, ginger, piassava fibre, gum-copal, rice and hides. The products of the oil-palm form 75 per cent of the exports. Rubber and ivory have virtually ceased to be exported. The chief imports are textiles, food and spirits. The United Kingdom takes only 50 per cent of the exports while it provides 80 per cent of the imports. Germany received 45 per

the French port of Konakry.

Another obstacle in the way of trade has been the difficulty of internal communication. This is mainly due to the denseness of forest or "bush" country. The railroad, which is state owned and the first built in British West Africa, runs 182 miles south-east from Freetown through the fertile districts of Mendeland to the Liberian frontier. Telegraphic communication with Europe was established in 1886. Steamers