CHAPTER V

DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

COLOMBIA of to-day, with its 461,000 square miles and its population of 5,472,604, is divided into fifteen Departments, two Intendencias and seven Comisarias Especiales, these latter two classes of division being practically colonial districts. It is to be noted that this enumeration includes Panama, which although *de facto* a Sovereign Republic, is still claimed by the Colombian government as forming part of its national territory.

As already shown in the brief historical review, the administrative divisions of the country have undergone frequent changes, notably so since the Declaration of Independence. This was inevitable, for quite apart from political changes, the gradual exploration and development of the country necessitated amalgamation in some directions, division and sub-division in others. Thus, while a law of 1908 created thirty-five departments, another of 1909 re-established the divisions of 1905, when there were ten departments, supplemented by four Intendencias. The following year four more departments were brought into being. No doubt with further settlement the Intendencias and Comisarias will be further divided and raised to the rank of Departments.

In spite of all this re-manipulation, however, the divisions are still very unequal as regards area, population and relative importance. We will deal with them here in alphabetical order.

As regards the growth of population, it was estimated to be 2,000,000 in 1800, but ten years later the figure was given as 1,400,000, and at the declaration of Independence as 1,223,598. Part of the discrepancy, no doubt, was due to the enumeration of slaves and wild Indians under the old regime, and the more restricted counting of heads at a later period In 1905, however, a fairly accurate census was taken, the figures recorded being 4,533,777 To-day Colombia is the third most populous country in South America, only being exceeded by Brazil and Argentina.

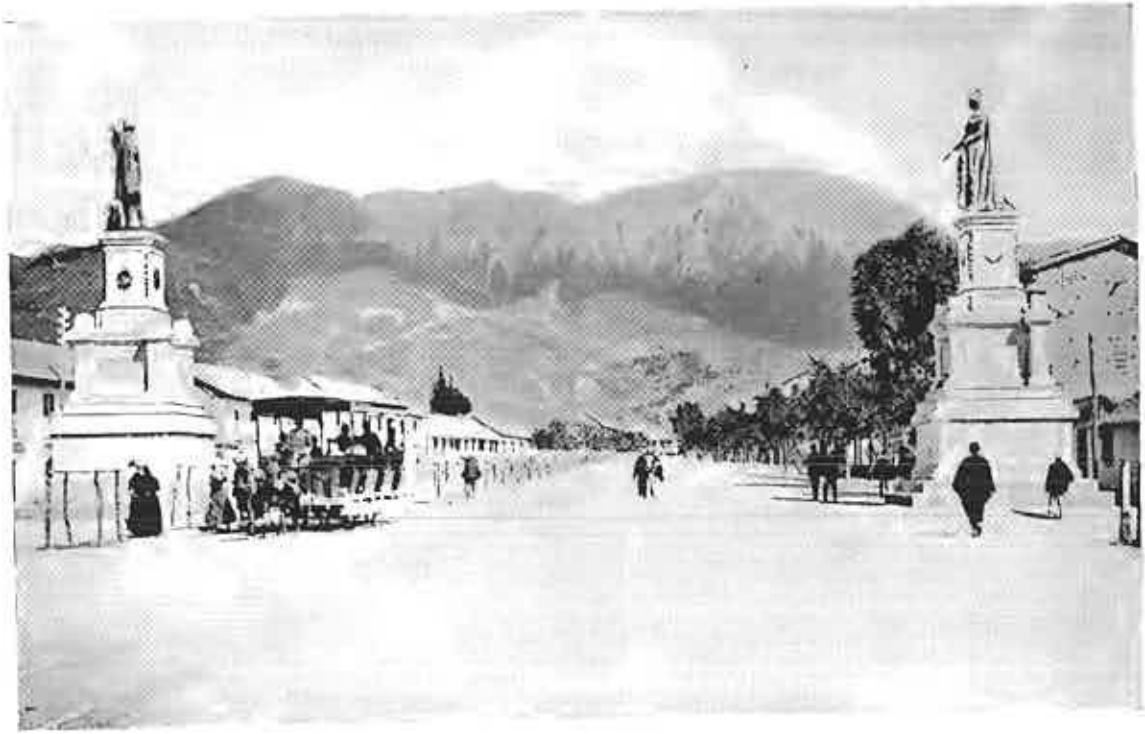
Population is densest in Cundinamarca, Atlantico and Caldas, and least so in Magdalena The disparity of sexes varies considerably; while there are 170,495 men to 170,703 women in Caldas, there are only 357,302 men to 383,635 women in Antioquia. It should be explained that this last named department, like Tolima, has an enterprising population, strongly given to emigration to the less developed districts of the Republic, where all kinds of opportunities offer themselves to hardworking, resourceful men. It is found, too, that here as in other parts of the world, the large towns have an undue proportion of female inhabitants; for instance, in Bogotá there are 50,557 men to 70,700 women, yet the excess of females over males for the whole of the Department of Cundinamarca is only 37,024.

ANTIOQUIA.—This department is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean and Bolivar, on the east by Santander, on the south by Boyacá, Tolima and Caldas, and on the west by the Choco, and has an area given as approximately 34,401 square miles, with a population

of 741,000. About 5,221,167 acres are State waste and forest lands and 943,283 acres belong to the department. Its physical character is extremely varied. On the north the coastal belt, and on the east the slope down to the valley of the Magdalena is hot and humid, possessing fairly good soil. Towards the interior, the country is largely mountainous, split up by numerous valleys and rivers, the soil here is rather cold and even somewhat arid. But ever since the discovery of the country in 1541 by Jeronimo Luis Tojelo, who ascended a charming valley, called by the natives Yamesies, which the Spaniards named San Bartolemé (now known as the Medellin), the country has been peopled by a hard-working, steady and prolific population, who have made the department one of the richest in the Republic. Several of its rivers are practicable for steamers; the Magdalena forms the Eastern boundary, the Cauca traverses the department from the south to the north, and its affluent, the Nechi, passing by Zaragoza, taps the country to the east; on the west is the Atrato, which runs into the Gulf of Darien. Other rivers navigable by canoes and rafts are the Nare, San Bartolemé, Arquiá, Sucio and Murri. There are four main roads, the Santa Domingo, or North Road, 34 miles long, the Caldas, which runs into Medellin, 15½ miles; the Envigado, 9 miles, and La Quiebra, 12 miles. Considerable attention is being paid by the Government to the construction of roads and bridges, the works being carried on by local road boards under the direction of the Minister of Public Works. Although some of these roads are available for wheeled traffic, it is felt that some better organisation is

required for keeping the highways in repair after construction. Medellin, capital of the department, is connected with the Magdalena by railway to Puerto Berrio, some 500 miles from Barranquilla, and with Cauca river by the Amaga railway of which about 20 miles are open to traffic.

Agriculture and mining are the chief industries. Land is generally cultivated in small holdings, which accounts for the excellent results achieved with coffee, the principal crop. In 1911 the production was estimated as follows: coffee 13,592,960 lb, cocoa 717,650 lb, rice 459,800 lb., sugar-cane 23,371,460 lb., bananas 6,167,100 lb, plantains 66,586,400 lb., ground nuts 3,905,700 lb., beans 6,656,800 lb., maize 19,425,000 lb., yucca 47,494,800 lb., cotton 274,400 lb, tobacco 932,800 lb. Cattle fattening is carried on to a small extent, but is capable of very large extension. There is a small export trade in timber (cedar, mahogany, hard woods) and forest rubber. So far the regular cultivation of rubber has not been taken up. Antioquia has long been celebrated for its mineral wealth In 1739 there were 12,728 mines being worked, almost solely for the extraction of gold and silver. In 1911 the value of the export of gold bullion was £490,967, gold dust £259,359, platinum £69,179. Both quartz and placer mining is carried on. A large number of the rivers have rich auriferous alluvia, among these are the Nechi, Porce, Riogrande, Guadalpe, Nare, Nus, San Bartolomé, San Juan, Guadualejo, Quebradonda, Barroso, Atrato, Arquiá, Murri, Sucio and the Murindo. Platinum is found in the watersheds of the San Juan and Atrato. Coal is found as far apart as Amaga and Caceres and



Avenida Colon, Medellín

Zaragoza. Iron is also mined and manufactured into rails, mills, etc. There are many indications of copper and other metals. Industrial development is remarkably progressive, being specially concentrated at Medellin. The principal towns are Medellin the capital, founded in 1675, population 71,000; Antioquia, the old capital, founded in 1541, population 10,610; Sonson, population 293,050, Yarumal, population 21,284.

The departmental income is about 1,433,000 dollars gold, and the expenditure rather more, of which 433,320 dollars gold are devoted to education. The eighty-seven municipalities have a total income of about 620,000 dollars gold. This department has no provinces, the prefecturas, or chief offices of the provinces, having been suppressed in the department, except in the district of Urabá.

ATLANTICO, the smallest of the departments, is a wedge-shaped coastal district, bounded on the north by the Atlantic, on the east by the Magdalena river, which cuts it off from the department of that name, and on the south and west by Bolivar. It has an area of 1,082 square miles, with a population of 114,887. It is a flat land, sloping to the sea or the Magdalena, with a tropical climate, rather trying to white people, especially in the low-lying portions when inundated after the rainy season, which lasts from May to November. Transport is good, thanks to the Magdalena running along the greater length of the department, the railway from Barranquilla to Puerto Colombia (164 miles), and the highway between Barranquilla and Usiacuri (10 miles). Cultivation of the soil is carried out on a fairly large scale, the principal

crops being sugar-cane, cocoa, and tobacco; there is also a considerable industry in fattening cattle on the plains round about Sabanalarga. Barranquilla, the capital (population 48,907), is still the chief fluvial port of the Republic with its harbour at Puerto Colombia.

The other important towns are Sabanalarga (population 16,042), Soledad (8,200), Repelon (2,900), Baranoa (5,300), and Campo de la Cruz (2,600). The two provinces are Barranquilla and Sabanalarga. Out of a departmental income of 217,560 dollars gold, 34,830 dollars are devoted to education, to which the Municipality of Barranquilla adds 14,000 dollars.

BOLIVAR, a coastal department, is bounded on the north by the Atlantic and the Department of Atlantico, on the east by the Magdalena river and department, on the south by Antioquia, and the west by Antioquia and the Atlantic. It has an area of 23,938 square miles and a population of 420,890. The land is mostly low lying, with slopes towards the coast and the valley of the Magdalena, and has a tropical climate, except in the highlands, in that part which forms a southerly wedge into Antioquia. It is well watered by the navigable waterways of the Magdalena, Sinu and Cauca and their numerous tributaries. To supplement these natural channels of traffic, a railway has been constructed between Cartagena and Calamar on the Magdalena, and roads for wheeled vehicles are either in course of construction or are projected between Barranquilla and Turbaco, between Monteria and Magangué, and others. Much attention is paid to agriculture, maize, rice, bananas, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tobacco and cotton being raised

on a large scale, while cattle breeding and fattening is a big and growing industry, a considerable export trade with adjoining departments and Panama existing. The breeding of horses, donkeys and mules is another important branch of industry. From the forests timber for building purposes and cabinet making, as well as tanning materials, and dyewoods, resins and medicinal plants, together with a little rubber are derived. Ten gold mines are being worked. Industrial activity is mostly centred at Cartagena (population, 36,632), the capital. The departmental revenue is 526,580 dollars gold, and that of the fifty-four municipalities 269,989 dollars gold.

The provinces are . (1) Cartagena, population 82,700 ; (2) Carmen, 46,300 ; (3) Corozal, 39,500 ; Chinu, 50,200 ; (4) Sincelejo, 44,400 , (5) Sinu, capital Lorica, 81,600 ; (6) Mompós, 39,700 , (7) Magangué, 31,200. Besides these there are the West Indian islands of San André de Providencia and Providencia, which may become of great importance on the opening of the Panama Canal, with a united population of 5,300, mostly English-speaking negroes and mulattos.

BOYACÁ, a department of irregular shape, about 350 miles long by 150 broad, is bounded on the north by Santander and the Republic of Venezuela, on the south by Meta, on the west by Cundinamarca and Antioquia, and contains 17,654 square miles, with a population of 586,499, mostly Indians and mestizos. It lies chiefly on the elevated plateaux of the Eastern Cordillera, with a narrow tongue of plains between Venezuela and Meta. Its population is principally engaged in cultivating

the *tierra fria*, raising wheat, barley, maize, alfalfa, potatoes, beans, garden vegetables, a very little coffee and sugar, cattle and horses. The river Suarez is navigable between Chiquinquira (capital of the province Occidente, population 14,500) and Lake Fuquene. There are no railways, but probably the best road in the Republic unites Tunja with Bogotá, 104 miles long; a branch road connects Duitama (population 9,900) with Sogamoso, a very ancient and interesting town, formerly the headquarters of the Chibchas priests, who dwelt in palaces roofed with gold. A road is now in construction which will unite the districts of Samaca (population 2,127), Sachica (960), and Chiquinquira. Mining is carried on in a small way over an extensive area. There are eleven gold mines in working order, twelve silver, ten copper, seven mixed, three quicksilver, two marble quarries, while 157 emerald mines have been "denounced," or pre-empted. Asphalte is being worked, though in insignificant quantities, and there are salt works at Chita, Muneque, Chameza, Pajarito, Recetoz, Mongua, Pauto, Chaquipay and Pizarra. The industries carried on are chiefly spinning and weaving of cotton and wool, tanning, and milling. The capital is Tunja (8,600 feet above sea-level, population 8,407), the ancient northern capital of the Chibchas. At one time it almost rivalled Bogotá and still contains many fine old buildings, including the Cathedral, Bishop's palace and the University. There are three public libraries in the city, and the department spends some 20,000 dollars gold annually on education, yet the Boyacan population is said to be both fanatical and illiterate. The

departmental income is 352,838 dollars gold, including a subvention of 222,400 dollars from the Government. The municipalities have a united income of 186,223 dollars gold.

The provinces are: (1) Centro (capital Tunja), population 68,000; (2) Marquez (capital Ramiriqui, 10,765), 59,300, (3) Occidente (capital Chiquinquira, 68,300); (4) Ricaurte (Moniquira, 10,800), 3,400; (5) Oriente (Guateque, 7,000), 42,700; (6) Valderama (Jerico, 5,200), 25,600; (7) Norte (Soata, 10,700), 46,600; (8) Gutierez (Cocuy, 7,700), 44,800; (9) Nunchia (Nunchia), 14,900; (10) Neira (Miraflores, 19,150), 55,300; (11) Sugamuxi (Sogamoso, 14,700), 68,500; (12) Tundama (Santa Rosa, 5,400), 56,900; and the territory of Vasquez, 1,800.

CALDAS, a central, mountainous district, bounded on the north by Antioquia, from which it was only recently separated, on the east by Cundinamarca, on the south by Cauca and on the west by the territory of the Choco, has an area of 7,915 square miles and a population of 345,000, almost entirely whites. The long range of the Western Cordillera, with its perpetually snow-capped peaks, shuts it off from the densely forested, damp and intensely hot Choco, and on the opposite boundary the land slopes down to the valley of the Magdalena, where in the forests and plains the temperature ranges between 24° and 30° centigrade. The river Cauca traverses the district from south to north, almost cutting it in two. Both the Magdalena and Cauca are navigable by small steamers, and their tributaries, La Vieja, the Risarada, and La Miel, are also used as

highways. Apart from this, the only means for intercommunication is by means of a few mule tracks and footpaths, recognised roads being non-existent. The people who partake of the sturdy qualities of the Antioquians, devote most of their energies to agriculture and mining. Heavy and varied crops are raised. On the slopes of the Cordilleras wheat, barley, maize and potatoes are grown largely; on the lower slopes, protected by forests, coffee, yuca, plantains and ground nuts receive most attention, while in the lower hot valleys sugar-cane, tobacco, cocoa and pasturage predominates.

Cattle raising is a growing industry. A considerable commerce exists in preparing palm straw and various fibres for the manufacture of hats, sacking and cordage Owing to the recent separation of Caldas from Antioquia statistics are deficient as to the exact position of mining, but 2,610 mines have been pre-empted, and there are extremely rich alluvium in most of the river valleys. Manizales is the capital. The departmental revenue is 466,192 dollars gold, a considerable portion is derived from the tax on alcohol.

The provinces are: (1) Manizales, population 74,753; (2) Salamina, 62,842; (3) Riosucio, 78,731; (4) Pereira, 92,551; (5) Marulanda, 36,728.

Cauca is bounded on the north by El Valle and Tolima, on the east by the Huila and Caqueta, on the south by Nariño, and on the west by the Pacific; it has an area of 21,882 square miles and a population of 211,800, of whom only a little over 25 per cent. are whites. Much of the territory lies between the Western and Central Cordilleras,

and though the climate is cold on the highlands, in the beautiful valley of the Cauca it is temperate to hot. The whole country is fertile, even the volcanic slopes of the higher peaks are covered by rich pastures, The navigable rivers are the Cauca, the Micay, the Timbiqui from the Pacific to the town of that name, the Saija from the Pacific as far as Cupi, the Guapi, and for small boats the Guaju, the Temuy, the Caqueta, the Orteguasa, Palo, Hato, La Paila, Caguán, Desbaratado and several others. Mule and pack tracks are few and poor, but a contract has been signed for the prolongation of the Pacific Railway through the country to Popayan. Agriculture is the chief industry, wheat, maize, yuca, plantains, coffee, sugar-cane, potatoes, beans, cocoa and tobacco being raised, while cattle is bred and fattened on the pastures of Puracé, Timbio and other districts. Mining is of some importance, gold and platinum being exported Between 1895 and 1912, 4,106 mines have been "denounced" Much gold alluvium is to be found in the valleys. The forests, in certain parts quite dense, produce a little rubber. Popayan is the capital.

The departmental revenues amount to 155,298 dollars gold, of which 41,312 dollars (together with 9,798 contributed by municipalities) is devoted to education. The twenty-one municipalities have a united income of about 69,908 dollars gold.

There are five provinces: (1) Caldas (capital Bolivar, population 17,800), population 47,800; (2) Camilo Torres (capital Caloto, 8,600), 39,800; (3) Popayan, 67,800; (4) Santander (population of capital, 9,900), 24,700; (5) Silvia (capital of same name, 10,000), 31,800.

CUNDINAMARCA, a central district on the higher Andean plateau, is bounded on the north by Boyacá, on the east by Boyacá and Meta, on the south by Meta and Huila, and on the west by Tolima and Caldas; it has an area of 8,629 square miles, and a population of 714,000, of whom slightly less than half are whites. While about a third of the department is occupied by the higher plateau, including the Sabana of Bogotá, and its surrounding mountains, where the climate ranges from the cool to the frigid regions of perpetual snow, two-thirds are on the slopes and in the valley of the Magdalena and the middle watershed of the Orinoco, where the climate shades from the temperate to the tropical. Corresponding with these changes of elevation and climate are great diversities of physical features and vegetation. On one hand we have the rugged and arid mountains, on the other the dense vegetation of the tropics, interspersed by grassy plains. Apart from the Magdalena, which is navigable for steamers which ply between the ports of Girardot (population 4,471), Guataqui (693), and Beltran (941), there are few rivers of importance, most are mere mountain torrents. The river Bogotá, crossing the sabana near the capital, forms the great Tequendama fall of 450 ft. The population is fairly scattered, there being 110 municipalities, in none of which, outside of Bogotá, do the inhabitants much exceed 6,000. While the population is engaged in most branches of trade and industry, agriculture absorbs the attention of the greater number. The land round about Bogotá and other large towns is well cultivated, producing fruit and vegetables. The crops, however, cover almost the whole

San Francisco, Bogotá

range of the cultivated plants; wheat, barley, maize, beans and potatoes in the higher regions, coffee of renowned quality on the slopes; sugar, cocoa, bananas, tobacco and tropical fruits in the valleys; cattle graze on the sabana and on the llanos of the Orinoco watershed, and large herds of pigs are raised. Considerable attention is paid to mining. Iron is mined in the provinces of Facatativa and Zipaquira; gold and silver is found widely distributed, as well as copper, lead, coal, jasper, rock crystal and asphalte. Salt production is an important industry in four or more provinces Although there are considerable forest lands, the production from these is not great. The department is served by four railways: (1) The Northern, 39 miles long, uniting Bogotá with Chia, Cajica, Zipaquira and Nemocon; (2) The Sabana Railway, 25 miles, uniting the capital with Fontibon, Mosquera, Madrid and Facatativa; (3) The Southern, 19 miles, running out to Bosa, Soacha and Sibate; (4) The Girardot, running from Facatativa through Zipacon, Anolaima, La Mesa, Anapoima, Tocaima to Girardot.

Bogotá, capital of the Republic and of the department (altitude over 5,000 ft.), has a population of 121,000.

The departmental income amounts to 949,348 dollars gold, of which 137,412 dollars are devoted to education

The provinces are: (1) Bogotá, population 165,400; (2) Choconta (capital of same name, population 9,900), 45,700. (3) Guavio (Gacheta, 12,500), 44,200; (4) Facatativa, 77,500; (5) Girardot (10,400), 22,200; (6) Guaduas (10,600), 77,700; (7) Guatavita (6,300), 23,800; (8) Oriente (Caqueza, 10,000), 54,900; (9)

Tequendama (La Mesa, 11,200), 58,100; (10) Ubate (9,600), 52,600; (11) Zipaquira (10,000), 60,900; (12) Sumapaz (Fusagasuga 13,500), 31,200.

EL VALLE is bounded on the north by Caldas and the Choco, on the east by Tolima, on the south by Cauca, and on the west by the Pacific. It has an area of 4,179 square miles, and a population of 217,159, about 50 per cent. of whom are white. The main stretch between the Western and Central Cordilleras has a gentle slope down to the Cauca river, with an altitude of from 3,000 to 5,500 ft. above sea-level, and enjoys an equable, warm climate. It is well wooded and the vegetation luxurious, all kinds of fruits of the temperate and warm zones growing in large quantities and to wonderful size. On the rich pastures cattle thrive amazingly. Cultivation is carried far up the foot-hills, consequently the produce varies, including rice, maize, potatoes, beans, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, plantains, sugar-cane, etc. Mining is destined to become an extensive industry. At present, claims have been filed for 446 gold, 30 platinum, 165 gold and silver mines, and one each of emery, talc, copper and iron. Coal is also mined, and there are large deposits of rock crystal. The Cauca, Vieja, Dagua, Anchicaya, Raposo, Cajambre, Naya and Juramangui, which are all more or less navigable, possess auriferous alluviums. Cali is the capital.

The provinces are: Cali, population 48,582; Palmira (capital of same name, 24,312), 46,632; Buga (capital of same name, 11,578), 31,728; Tuluá (capital of same name, 10,825), 27,077; Roldanillo (capital of same name, 9,196), 28,451; Cartago (capital of same name, 18,618),

24,115 ; and Buenaventura (capital of same name, 6,476), 10,574.

HUILA is bounded on the north by Cundinamarca, on the east by Meta and Caqueta, on the south by Cauca, on the west by Cauca and Tolima. It has an area of 8,687 square miles and a population of 158,191. Like most of the central districts it enjoys marked differences of physical features and climate. The low-lying parts fringing the Magdalena and east of that river, are hot and humid, and malaria is prevalent. On the foot-hills the climate is pleasant, and higher up cold. Over half of the area is Government forest and mountain land. Cattle raising is well developed. Wheat, maize, rice, coffee, sugar and tobacco crops are raised on a big scale. Four quartz mines are worked in the Organos reigon, while the auriferous deposits of the Magdalena, Yaguara, Baché and Aipe also receive attention. A small beginning has been made in spinning and weaving both cotton and wool, but the manufacture of the so-called Panama straw hats is a considerable industry. Neiva, the capital, is at 1,479 feet above sea-level, has an even temperature of 27° C. and a population of 21,852. It has a large public market and is an important centre of commerce.

The departmental revenues amount to 152,400 dollars gold, and those of the twenty-nine municipalities to 140,034 dollars.

The provinces are : Neiva, population 72,039 , Garzon (capital of same name, 10,787), 59,523 , and La Plata (capital of same name, 5,130), 26,627.

MAGDALENA, is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the east by the Gulf and the Republic of

Venezuela, on the south by Norte de Santander, and on the west by Bolivar and the Atlantic. It has an area of 20,463 square miles and a population of 149,547, including the Comisaria of Goajira, 212,560. It is mostly a low-lying alluvial country, watered by the Magdalena, the Cesar and many other minor rivers, but on the eastern border there are the foot-hills and the heights of the Eastern Cordillera, and, shutting off the Goajira Peninsula from the rest of the department, the great mass of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the snow-clad top to which the range owes its name, with a base of some 5,000 square miles, and rising at one peak to 19,000 ft. Apart from these higher districts, the climate is hot and damp, in some parts of the Magdalena valley reaching the *tierra ardiente* degree. Coffee, cocoa, sugar and bananas are the principal crops raised, but most other vegetables and fruits can be grown within the borders. There is some mining in the mountains and along the rivers. The capital is Santa Marta (population 5,348), the oldest city in Colombia, at one time a busy port, now again rising into importance.

The provinces are Santa Marta, 70,903; Padilla (capital Riohacha, 4,426), 20,250, Valledupar (7,301), 24,077; Banco, 20,141; Sur (capital Rio de Oro, 5,894), 13,776.

NARIÑO is bounded on the north by Cauca, on the east by Caqueta, on the south by the Putumayo and Ecuador, and on the west by the Pacific ocean. It has an area of 10,039 square miles, and a population of 292,535. It may be divided into three distinct zones: (1) lying between the Western and Eastern Cordilleras, more or

less mountainous, occupying almost a third of the area, and thickly populated, two-thirds of the people being Indians or mestizos. This part is well watered by the navigable Patia, the Mayo, Juanambu, Pasto and Guaitara, and produces potatoes, barley, rice, cocoa, sugar and rubber. (2) The Western slope down to the Pacific, rather more than a third of the department, which is dense forest, except for a small zone fringing the road from the high plateaux to the coast. This part is also well watered by the navigable rivers Patia, Guapi, Iscuande, Telembi, Tapaje, Mira, Mataje, and numerous other streams open to boats and canoes. (3) The Eastern portion is composed of foot-hills and valleys, with dense forests, wherein roam many wild Indian tribes. There are few whites. Road-making has been carried on with great energy in the department, and fair highways or paths exist between Pasto and La Cruz, 56 miles, Pasto and the Cauca, 49½ miles, Pasto to Tuquerres, 49½ miles, Pasto to Ipiales, 54½ miles; Tuquerres to Barbacoas, 99 miles; and Pasto to Mocoa, 72½ miles. Agriculture is the chief industry, but there are great possibilities as regards mining, 2,452 quartz and alluvial mines have been "denounced," but only six are being systematically worked, five of them being Colombian companies. Pasto, the capital, lies 8,655 ft. above sea-level The departmental revenues amount to 738,325 dollars gold, and those of forty-eight municipalities 390,504 dollars.

The provinces are: Pasto, 74,425; Tuquerres (capital of same name, 15,652), 58,742; Obando (capital Ipiales, 14,615), 64,387; Juanambu (capital La Union, 9,139),

26,633; La Cruz (capital of same name, 9,451), 28,192; Barbacoas (capital of same name, 7,840), 17,833; and Nuñez (capital Tumaco, 11,702), 22,341.

NORTE DE SANTANDER is bounded on the north and east by Venezuela, on the south by Boyacá, on the west by Santander and Magdalena. It has an area of 6,708 square miles, and a population of 204,381. It is traversed by spurs of the Central and Eastern Cordilleras, the temperature falling to 46° F. on the barren paramos of Bagueche, Tamar, Tierranegra and Cachiri, and rising to 89° F. in the valleys of Zulia, Catatumbo and Sarare. As might be expected the crops, which are the leading sources of wealth of the department, vary greatly, ranging from potatoes and wheat to coffee and cocoa. Gold, silver, copper, iron, lead and coal are mined, and petroleum wells also exist. The Zulia is navigable by steam launches, and the Catatumbo and Tarra by boats. A great northern road is in course of construction, and is now open from the capital to Puente San Rafael. San José de Cucuta (population 20,364), the capital, lies 984 ft. above sea-level, enjoys a mean temperature of 84° F., has wide, tree-shaded streets, and good markets. It is united to Puerto Villamizar on the Zulia by a railway. The departmental revenues are about 218,340 dollars gold.

The provinces are: Ocaña (capital of same name, 16,814), 63,816; Pamplona (capital of same name, 14,834), 43,362; Cucuta (20,346), 97,203.

SANTANDER is bounded on the north by Magdalena and Norte de Santander, on the east by Boyacá, on the south by Boyacá, and on the west by Antioquia and

Bolivar. It has an area of 19,161 square miles and a population of 400,084. Its physical features, climate and agricultural conditions are much the same as those of the Norte de Santander, though it has more extensive low-lying plains watered by the Sogamoso and the Suarez. The Sogamoso, Lebrija and Carare are navigable by small boats. A good but short road is open between Bucaramanga and Florida. Gold, silver, copper, talc and asphalte are found in the district, the Rio de Oro having rich auriferous deposits. Wheat, rice, coffee, sugar, cocoa and tobacco are the principal crops. Bucaramanga (population 19,735), the capital, lies in a valley, 3,153 ft. above sea-level, with a variation of temperature between 64° F. and 88° F.

This department has a revenue estimated at 312,940 dollars gold, which is insufficient to meet its expenditure. The municipalities have revenues amounting to about 50,000 dollars.

The provinces are: Bucaramanga, 72,029; Charala (capital of same name, 9,861), 24,943; Malaga (capital of same name, 7,630), 42,500; Piedecuesta (8,076), 14,212; San Andres (12,721), 27,725; San Gil (9,965), 44,419; Socorro (11,427), 40,798; Vélez (8,637), 76,453; Zapotoca (10,598), 57,073.

TOLIMA is bounded on the north by Antioquia, on the east by Cundinamarca and Huila, and on the west by Cauca and Valle. It has an area of 10,811 square miles and a population of 282,426. This peculiarly long-shaped district has the Central Cordillera for its western boundary, the land then sloping eastward to the Magdalena. On these lowlands the climate is rather warm, but the

plains lend themselves admirably to cattle farming, a large head of cattle being raised, often many thousand on one farm. On the foot-hills good cocoa, coffee and tobacco is grown. The upper part of the Cordillera is given over to agriculture, coffee and other crops being grown. Mining is exceptionally well developed, some sixty properties being worked for gold or silver. Most of the rivers are auriferous The department enjoys the advantage of being tapped by the Dorada Railway; the Magdalena; the Saldaña, open to steam launches; the Ata and Cucuana rivers, open to small boats, and the Quindio mule path. Tobacco, textile and hat factories carry on a flourishing trade. Ibagué, the capital, 4,262 ft. high, with a population of 24,566, is the chief centre of activity. The department have an income of 395,843 dollars gold, and the municipalities (of which there are thirty-six), of 125,004 dollars.

The provinces are: Ibagué, 54,776; Guadas (capital Guamo, 15,345), 135,558; Honda (8,636), 23,980; Libano (16,186), 43,935; and Ambalema (6,599), 24,127.

CHOCO (Intendencia), is a comparatively narrow slip bounded on the north by the Gulf of Darien, on the east by Antioquia, Caldas and Valle, on the south by El Valle, and on the west by the Comisaria of Jurado and Panama. It is a densely forested slope down from the Western Cordillera, and is intensely hot and very damp, for it rains nearly all the year round. It has an area of 15,033 square miles and a population of 68,127, mostly negroes and mulattoes. Its chief products are gold, platinum, rubber, ivory nuts, dyewoods, timber, cocoa, and salted fish. There is no doubt vast wealth in the forests, and

also in the auriferous rivers. Twenty mines are being worked and 380 have been explored. Quibdo (population, 15,756), the capital, lies inland, 138 ft. above sea-level, surrounded by hills. The rapidity of its growth is shown by the fact that in 1908 its population was only 4,000. The provinces are Atrato and San Juan.

A few years ago a Comisaria was carved out of the coastal strip from the frontier of Panama to the river San Juan, and is named JURADO. This strip is coveted by the neighbouring Republic and, as it was a constant cause of dispute, it was considered advisable to place it directly under the jurisdiction of the executive at Bogotá, which is represented locally by a Comisario.

GOAJIRA (Comisaria), is a peninsula, almost entirely surrounded by the Atlantic and the Gulf of Venezuela. It has an area of 5,019 miles. Along the Gulf of Venezuela there is a range of the foot of the Central Cordillera. Most of the rest of the district is low-lying forest land, inhabited chiefly by Indians, who gather forest products and raise a useful breed of horses. The population of the Comisaria is 53,013, its capital San Antonio. It is divided into the districts (or Seccions) of Norte, Occidente, and Sur.

META (Intendencia), a large track of country, 85,328 square miles in extent, bounded on the north by Boyacá and Venezuela, on the east by Venezuela, on the south by the territory of Caqueta and on the west by Huila and Cundinamarca. It slopes from the Eastern Cordillera foot-hills to the Guainia and Orinoco rivers. While the western and southern parts are wooded, the remainder are rolling llanos, covered with coarse and inferior grass.

A considerable amount of cattle is raised, but it is of poor quality. Much of the land is still unexplored. Its chief trade outlet is by the Meta, through Venezuela to the Atlantic. It is divided into three provinces: Villavicencio, population 4,774; San Martin, 3,444; and Orocué, 1,091. The number of uncivilised Indians is estimated at 10,000.

CAQUETA is a vast territory of 187,258, administered as a Comisaria, forming part of the great maze of eastern mountain, forest and rolling plains. It is traversed by the Yapura river, has a population estimated at 24,543, of which 2,034 inhabit the capital, Florencia.

The other Comisarias are ARAUCA, the western tongue of marshy llanos lying between Boyacá, Meta and Venezuela; VAUPES (capital Calamar, 545), population 5,545; URABA (capital Acaudi, 1,476), 6,476; JURADO (capital Pizarro, 5,657), 8,207; and the much disputed PUTUMAYO (capital Mocoa, 1,380), 31,380.