

This canal, which is cut along the riverside above and below Saragossa, is about 60 miles long, and is used by small vessels. The region suffers much from drought, which can be traced to the fact that it is enclosed on all sides by higher land.

Climatic Products The Mountainous Regions of the North have the moist, temperate climate of North-West Europe, and are largely forest-clad, the prevailing trees being oaks, beeches, and chestnuts. Along the routes which enter Spain from France at the eastern end of the Pyrenees, and at the western end by the Pass of Roncesvalles and other gaps, flowed that French influence which we may trace throughout the provinces of Catalonia and Navarre, in their history and in the character of their inhabitants. On the other hand, the security afforded by the Pyrenees has enabled the natives of Andorra to preserve their independence as a small republic, while the Basque provinces formed in the past a refuge for the remnants of an early Iberian race.

Minerals The Cantabrian Mountains are rich in coal, largely exported from Gijon, while iron abounds in the east, and is shipped chiefly from Bilbao and Santander. Zinc also occurs in places. None of the ports on the north coast are naturally good, and communication inland from them is difficult on account of the mountains. Ferrol is a naval station.

To Spain belong the Balearic Isles, consisting of the three islands Majorca, Minorca, and Iviça, in the Mediterranean. (For commercial statistics on Spain, see p. 126.)

PORTUGAL.

Climatic Trees Portugal, by its position, enjoys a moister and more equable climate than the rest of the peninsula, with the exception of the northern regions of Spain. Cork oaks, from the bark of which cork is obtained, are common, as well as chestnuts, and pigs are reared in the forests. The vine flourishes well in the Douro valley, and wine is a noted export from Oporto. Lisbon possesses a fine harbour, and if the communication between that and the heart of Europe had been easier, Portugal might have retained the trade with the East which she won by virtue of her discovery of the Cape route in the fifteenth century. As it was, she had to allow the Dutch to fetch the goods from Lisbon to distribute by way of the Rhine, with the result that they soon monopolized most of the trade. To the south of Lisbon is Setubal, where salt is obtained by evaporation from shallow lagoons. (For commercial statistics, see p. 124.)