

Hawaiian variety of cane. This variety has already been sufficiently propagated for cuttings to be supplied to the planters on several of the islands, and the results show such a considerable superiority over the native cane displaced that there is said to be great eagerness to get the new variety. The latter will no doubt, ultimately, largely replace the indigenous canes in all the leading areas.

Portuguese West Africa.

At a distance of eight miles from Lobito, Portuguese West Africa, and bordering on the railway, says the *British Trade Journal*, a site of 24,000 acres has recently been acquired by the Sociedade Agricola do Cassequel, a Lisbon company, with the object of developing a sugar and cotton plantation. A ploughing plant—supplied by a British firm—has been working on this property since March, and to date some 3200 acres have been cleared, and 1200 acres planted with cane. This is strong and healthy, and doubtless the undertaking will be exceptionally profitable if sufficient water can be obtained. At present the part under cultivation is irrigated by four steam and two Diesel pumps, which are quite sufficient, but it is questionable whether the irrigation of the whole property by such means will not prove too costly. A mill capable of handling 7000 tons of cane has been erected.

A property has been obtained by Mr. J. E. JOUBERT PIENAAR, acting for the Angola Estates, Ltd. The concession is for 120,000 acres in one of the most desirable parts of this district; it is traversed by the Benguella Railway for about 18 miles, which include the station of Caala, and a stopping place for water. The property has been well selected both as regards the fertility of the soil and the possibility of irrigation. It is situated upon the highest part of the highlands and is extremely healthy.

The acquisition of this property may prove an incentive to others to take up land in Angola, for which the provincial and home Governments grant every facility when convinced that such concessions are sought with the *bona fide* idea of working and developing the land to be acquired, and not for speculative purposes. Several other grants of land have been obtained bordering on and near the railway between Huambo and Chinguar.

The Need of Irrigation in Jamaica.

The annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for Jamaica offers evidence of the urgent need in that island for some system of irrigation to counteract the effects of the periodical severe droughts. The 1914-15 season was a blank year in sugar cane experimentation, practically all the experimental canes on the estates being destroyed by drought or other causes. Fortunately the Cockpit irrigation scheme at Vere is being pushed forward to completion and should serve to place the industry in the western section of the Vere plains on a permanent and successful footing. Simultaneously the rise in the price of sugar has encouraged the planters to persevere in their efforts to extend the industry, and there are good prospects for the next crop.

The war has practically killed the trade in "German rum" used for blending purposes in Hamburg and Bremen, and the small estates concerned are now making ordinary "common clean" rums and resuscitating their sugar output. The exports of Jamaica sugar and rum in 1914 amounted to £300,000 in value or almost double that of the previous season; while with good fortune the returns for 1915 are expected to show a still stronger revival of Jamaica's old staple industry. The hopes of all sugar planters, it should be observed, are now based on the prospects of Imperial sugar as one of the outcomes of the war; and it is to be hoped that their reasonable expectations will not be disappointed.