

AFRICA.

ALGERIA.

ALGIERS.

(From United States Consul Kidder, Algiers, Algeria.)

There are two kinds of warehouses in Algiers. Those of the first class are strictly under the control of the General Government and under the immediate supervision of the custom-house authorities; they are located in the immense structure which forms the most conspicuous feature of the water front of Algiers. This structure, which is about 4,000 feet long, was completed in 1866 and is under concession to an English company until 1964. Four inclined roads, called here "rampes," extend from the top to the bottom of the structure. At the sides of these roads or streets there are about 350 vaults and warehouses extending under the streets. These apartments are rented according to dimensions and location for shipping offices, packing establishments, bottling factories, private storehouses, and, according to the necessity for space, for Government storage in bond. The original cost of this great building was \$2,500,000. It is impossible to give the cost of the portions used by the Government as warehouses, and the dimensions vary according to the exigencies of commerce. As no similar construction on so gigantic a scale exists in any other city, the illustrations will give a better understanding than a written description.

The second kind of warehouses comprises those owned by the chamber of commerce, but these are used only for the storage of goods on which duty has been paid or goods which are not liable to duty—those coming from France, for example.

The municipal government of Algiers has the concession for the renting of the warehouses, and they are conducted by the officers of the customs service. The custom-house has surveillance of all goods deposited in the warehouses, but the handling of the goods is done under the superintendence of the municipality. The annual receipts average \$6,000, the expenditures \$3,000.

For about forty different articles there is a fixed tariff for storage, but the following list comprises the principal kinds of goods stored (rates quoted in cents per 100 kilos—220.46 pounds—per month): Tobacco, in hogsheads, 8 cents; in bales (leaf), 8 cents; manufactured, 12 cents; leaf, in boxes, 12 cents; raw sugar, 3 cents; sugar in boxes, 5 cents; coffee, 4 cents; preserved meats, 8 cents; oils for lubrication, 10 cents; tea, 10 cents; and cloves, 10 cents. The time during which goods remain in warehouses is so variable that it is impossible to state an average. There are no American importers in Algiers.