

ceremony, and takes a new name with his added dignity. Some of these men are born lawyers and can cross-examine a witness as well as any civilized one, and some are famous for their knowledge of law and forensic ability, and are sure to be present at all cases of much importance.

The election and crowning of a king are matters of great importance and are attended with many quaint customs, while quite a number of superstitions hedge about the king.

The principal industry is, of course, agriculture. Rice (a number of varieties), corn guinea corn, cassada and cotton are all grown, with peanuts and vegetables of many varieties. Near the coast, palm orchards are plentiful, affording a splendid supply of palm oil for cooking and the palm nuts for export, from which the finest lubricating oils are extracted. Much of the palm oil is also exported and is made into soap and used in tin plate manufacture.

Some time ago the governor of a West African colony published in a blue book that the natives were very lazy, as on a recent trip he found them sitting around, rather than working their farms. As his visit would be undertaken in the dry season and farming operations are in full blast only in the rainy season, his criticism was as unfair as if a man were to pass through Manitoba in the month of January and say the people there were lazy because they were not out reaping grain.

The African is a good agriculturalist as far as he goes and is by no means lazy. Custom has decreed, however, that certain work is man's work and certain other work is woman's work. Many of their implements are crude to our ideas, but they accomplish wonders with them. They use nothing but human labor so have no plows. The hoe takes its place, and their binder is a little bent knife a few inches long, the grain being caught up in handfuls and cut with this knife. The stacking, threshing and cleaning of the rice show much ingenuity. The cotton crop is a woman's crop, she planting, picking, carding and spinning it. The yam passes into the hands of the man, and he weaves, dyes and sews it into cloth and garments. In addition to agriculture, iron is smelted, and every village has its Pa Kabe, the blacksmith. Within limits they are quite skilful. Certain districts are famous for their pottery, and in almost every village canoes are dug out, seasoned and colored;