

the preceding year's collection. Import, export, and coast trade duties (exclusive of opium) increased by *Hk.Tls.* 2,601, *Hk.Tls.* 15,365, and *Hk.Tls.* 2,960 respectively, while tonnage dues and transit dues fell short of the 1912 figure by *Hk.Tls.* 840 and *Hk.Tls.* 6,860 respectively. But to the almost total disappearance of opium from our import tables (only 1.04 piculs of Malwa were imported during the year) may this shrinkage be ascribed. The steady decline in the transit trade continued, but there is reason to believe that the diversion of much of this trade to Pukow and Tsingtao during 1913 was accentuated by the abnormally low-water conditions that prevailed in the Grand Canal towards the close of the year.—W. R. MCD. PARR, *Commissioner of Customs.*

CHINESE CLAY FIGURES.
MR. LAUFER'S NEW WORK.*

The present section of Mr. Laufer's new work is in the nature of a *parergon*, suggested by the fact that many of the clay figures which he has collected are clad in armour. In discussing this subject, the first point that has to be settled is the material of which Chinese armour was made in the earliest historical period, that of the Chou dynasty. No specimens have been preserved, and the documentary evidence is unfortunately both scanty and ambiguous. In an important passage of the *Chou Li*, on which the whole question may be said to hinge, it is stated that the cuirasses then in use were prepared from the hides of two animals called *ssü* and *hsi*. The first and bulkiest chapter in Mr. Laufer's book is devoted to the task of proving that these names denote two species of rhinoceros, and every available source of information is ransacked in order to show that in all subsequent Chinese literature down to the eighteenth century they have invariably borne the same signification. The erudition displayed in these researches is quite astounding, and its cumulative effect is likely to carry an uncritical reader entirely off his feet. Nevertheless, if we keep the main argument steadily in view, and refuse to be diverted into side issues, we shall soon perceive that Mr. Laufer's efforts to carry conviction are more formidable in appearance than in reality. He concentrates his strongest batteries on a position which has never been disputed, namely, that the Chinese at some period not much later than the Chou dynasty had become acquainted with the rhinoceros through the countries of Indo-China, and that the names *hsi* and *ssü* were then commonly applied to it. All this is beside the point. What we want, but ask for in vain, is positive evidence that "rhinoceros" was their original meaning. In place of this, Mr. Laufer has frequent recourse throughout his book to the fallacy of *petitio principii*, thereby creating an impression that he has proved his case, whereas he is merely assuming it at every step. A glaring instance occurs in his examination of the Thibetan word *bseru* (p. 116), now the name for a kind of antelope, but of which, we are assured, the original meaning was "rhinoceros." This theory is "corroborated," according to Mr. Laufer, by the Chinese word *ssü*, assumed by him to belong to the same root as the first syllable of *bseru*. Then he quotes the Thibetan poet Milaraspa as saying that he is "lonely like a rhinoceros" (i.e., *bseru*), and adds that this meaning of the word is confirmed by two Chinese vocabularies which render it by *hsi* and *hsi niu* (ox). On p. 162 he turns the argument the other way about, asserting that "in the pre-Christian era the word *se* (*ssü*) invariably applied to the single-horned rhinoceros—a fact confirmed by the concordance of the word with Thibetan (*b*)*se*." Can there be imagined a more grotesque example of argument in a circle? Returning to the *Chou Li*, there are many good reasons for rejecting Mr. Laufer's dogmatic statement that "armour was not made in ancient China from the hide of bovine animals." Apart from the fact that the *Wu Pei Chih* explicitly mentions ox-hide corselets as made by the manufacturers of armour in the Chou dynasty, we can hardly suppose that China in those days was so teeming with rhinoceroses that every soldier could be supplied with a rhinoceros-hide cuirass. Yet, following his theory that *hsi* always indicates the rhinoceros, Mr. Laufer finds himself forced to the startling conclusion that, as late as the T'ang dynasty, the animal abounded in Hunan, Hupeh, and Shansi, being hunted and killed in vast numbers throughout Central China for the sake of its hide and its horn. If that is so, why was its aspect not more familiar to the Chinese? Why, among the Chinese pictures of the *hsi* and the *ssü* reproduced in this volume, is there not a single one that even remotely suggests the rhinoceros, all being either bovine or cervine in character?

Mr. Laufer, who is nothing if not thorough, has translated the whole section dealing with the *hsi* in Li Shih-chên's *Pên Ts'ao*,

**Chinese Clay Figures. Part I. Prolegomena on the History of Defensive Armor.* By Berthold Laufer. 64 plates and 55 text-figures. (Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 177. Chicago, 1914.)

together with other texts drawn from the *T'u Shu Chi Ch'êng* and elsewhere, the whole forming, as he says, a fairly complete digest of what Chinese authors of the post-Christian era have to say about this animal. Unfortunately, the mistakes in his translation are so numerous as to detract seriously from its value. Take the very first sentence from the *Pên Ts'ao* (p. 135): "The symbol for the word *si* (*hsi*) still has in the seal character *chuan wên* the form of a pictograph, and is the name for the female rhinoceros. The *se* is styled also 'sand rhinoceros' (*sha si*)." The real meaning is: "The character *hsi* in seal script is a pictographic form. The female of the species is called *ssü*, and another name for it is *sha-hsi*." Again, on p. 147: "Another name for the rhinoceros is *nu-kio*. There is also the *chên ch'u*, which is presumably a rhinoceros." For this read: "One name for the *hsi-niu* is *nu-chio*. Wherever the *chên* [a snake-eating bird, supposed to be highly poisonous] occurs, there are sure to be *hsi*." This is an instance of the belief that in nature poison is always accompanied by its antidote. We have only room for one more example of Mr. Laufer's mistranslations. In this case, however, it is more serious as forming the basis of an argument from which important consequences are deduced. P. 150 (Li Shih-chên is discussing three species of *hsi*, and afterwards mentions a fourth, the "hairy *hsi*," which he says resembles the others): "The view of Ch'ên Ts'ang-k'i that there are not the two kinds of land and water animals, the view of Kuo P'o that the rhinoceros has three horns, and the view of Su Sung that the hairy rhinoceros is the male rhinoceros, are all erroneous. The term 'hairy rhinoceros' is at present applied to the yak." In a note, Mr. Laufer adds the comment: "This remark renders it plain that it was the notion of 'rhinoceros' which was transferred in recent times to the yak, and that the development was not in the reverse order." In another note on p. 79 he also makes much of this supposed statement of Li Shih-chên's. But what the latter really says is something quite different, and certainly less agreeable to Mr. Laufer's preconceived ideas: "[The views of the three writers named] are all based on false tradition, and may now be corrected *en bloc*. The hairy *hsi* is the yak."

In conclusion, it is impossible to regard Mr. Laufer's theory as a final solution of the mystery which has so long surrounded the *hsi* and the *ssü*. Fact and fable have here become so closely interwoven that the exact species of animal to which these names were originally given may never be determined. But, on the whole, it seems safest to accept Chu Hsi's plain definition of *ssü* as a *yeh niu*, wild ox or buffalo, and to believe that it has retained this meaning throughout the ages, despite the confusion that crept in some 2,000 years ago, when the name was also incorrectly applied to the newly-discovered rhinoceros. Attention may be drawn also to a passage in Mr. Laufer's book (p. 114) which, though hardly reconcilable with his own views as stated elsewhere, seems to contain a possible germ of truth: "The conclusion therefore presents itself that the notion of a unicorn cervine animal which was developed in Western Asia from remote times spread together with artistic motives into India and China, while the identification of this fabulous creature with the rhinoceros—owing to the single horn—is the product of a much later period; this is not the starting-point, but the final result of the matter." If we suppose that this unicorn assumed certain bovine attributes on its way to China, owing perhaps to its identification with the yak, it may well stand for the *hsi* as traditionally pictured to us.

JAPANESE SWORD FOR KING ALBERT.

An illustration of the Japanese sword which was presented to the King of the Belgians has been given in *The Times*. The idea originated with the influential Japanese journal *Asahi*, and Mr. Rythel Murayama, the proprietor, has chosen this sword from his art collection. The people of Japan generally being in deep sympathy with the people of Belgium and highly admiring the valour of the King, this offer of the sword has been received by them with the liveliest interest. An inscription on the case states that the sword is a "humble testimony to the profound reverence and pious feeling with which the people of Nippon have been inspired by his Majesty's august and never-tiring perseverance and the unexampled patriotism of the Belgian people recently manifested in defence of both humanity and civilisation under the severest calamity that may befall a nation."

The sword is an exquisite work of art, and in perfect condition. The mountings of the hilt and scabbard are of gold elaborately chased, and with crests in the shape of a crane, repeated in gold on the lacquered scabbard. The *tachi* sword, usually worn by generals and nobles, was slung from the belt on the left side of the body. This particular sword, "Efu-no-Tachi," is so called because it was exclusively worn by nobles

The London and China 新聞紙 Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE HOMEWARD MAILS FROM CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c. IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS," A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

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Contents.

LEADING ARTICLE:—	PAGE	Exchanges—Share List 92	The Panama Canal 100
The Chinese Post Office—Paragraphs ... 94		MISCELLANEOUS:—	United Lankat Plantations 100
NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST:—Japan... 86		Births, Marriages, Deaths 91	MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL 101
Chosen (Korea)—China 87		Naval and Military 92	ARTICLES OF IMPORT 101
Hongkong 89		Reviews and Literary Notes... .. 96	SHIPPING 102
The Philippines—Siam 90		OBITUARY:—Admiral Montagu 97	SUPPLEMENT:—
Netherlands India 90		Sidelights on the Great War 98	Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs 1
Straits Settlements 90		Legal 99	Chinese Clay Figures 3
Miscellaneous 91		The Far East and the War 100	Japanese Sword for King Albert ... 3
Market Reports by Mail 91		The War and Trade 100	The Japanese Red Cross 4
Mail Shipping 91		Trade Reviews of 1914 100	Chinese Cotton Goods Trade 4

Latest Advices and Mails.

PORTS	OUTWARD.		HOMEWARD
	From London.	Arrived out.	
JAPAN—Yokohama	Nov. 24	Dec. 27	Jan. 2
Kobe	—	—	1
CHINA—Peking and Tientsin	—	—	Dec. 30
Hankow	—	—	32
Shanghai	Nov. 22	Dec. 23	" 26
Foochow	—	—	" 23
HONGKONG	Nov. 25	Dec. 24	" 28
PHILIPPINES—Manila	—	—	" 25
OCHIN CHINA—Saigon	—	—	" 23
SIAM—Bangkok	—	—	" 24
JAVA—Batavia... ..	—	—	" 26
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—Singapore	Nov. 25	Dec. 22	" 24
Penang	—	—	" 26

A mail has been received via U.S.A. per s.s. *St. Louis*, with Yokohama date up to Jan. 2, Shanghai Dec. 25, and Hongkong Dec. 22. A mail via Siberia has also come to hand with Peking date of Dec. 30, and Shanghai Dec. 23. A further mail from Hongkong of Dec. 28 has reached us this morning, apparently per M.M. steamer, via Marseilles. No later advices have been received from the Straits Settlements. The following are the latest movements that have been reported:—

- IN. AMERICAN, DUE FEB. 8.—Siberia arrived San Francisco Jan. 25.
- IN. AMERICAN, DUE MARCH 1.—Manchuria arrived Yokohama Jan. 28.
- IN. BAT. NEDS. STEAMERS.—Riouw arrived Suez Jan. 29; Vondel left Batavia Jan. 21.
- IN. ROTT. LLOYD STEAMERS.—Menado left Port Said Jan. 25; Ceylon arrived Suez Jan. 29; Bandoeng left Padang Jan. 21; Tabanan called Perim Jan. 29.
- OUT. AMERICAN, DEC. 25.—Mongolia arrived Yokohama Jan. 27.
- OUT. BAT. NEDS. STEAMER.—Grotius left Colombo Jan. 21.
- OUT. ROTT. LLOYD STEAMER.—Tambora left Suez Jan. 28.

OUTWARD MAIL DEPARTURES.—CURRENT WEEK.

China and Japan ...	Via Siberia, daily.
Do. do. ...	Feb. 3 (morning), via U.S.A., per s.s. <i>Megantic</i> .
Do. do. ...	Feb. 4, per M.M. <i>Polynesian</i> , via Marseilles.
Do. do. ...	Feb. 6 (morning), via U.S.A.
Straits Settl., Siam, N. Borneo & H'kong ...	Feb. 4, per M.M. <i>Polynesian</i> , via Marseilles.
Do. do. ...	Feb. 5, per P. and O. <i>Malwa</i> , from the Thames.
Japan ...	Parcel Mails, Feb. 4, via Vancouver, per s.s. <i>Missanabie</i> .

Owing to the war the despatch of the various mails is not normal. Post Office advice is that mails will be made up from time to time and despatched by every practicable means. Consequently there may be other departures beyond those we give above.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per P. and O. steamer *Nore*. From London Jan. 30.—To Yokohama: Mr. R. Conway, Mr. P. O. Jones. To Shanghai: Miss D. Bonham, Mr. J. W. Tomkinson, Miss J. Pearce, Mr. King, Mrs. Gracey, Mr. T. C. Lucas. To Manila: Mr. J. Nixon. To Hongkong: Mr. J. Smythe, Mr. J. W. MacMaster, Mr. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. Kynoch, Mr. J. Grant, Second Lieut. L. Green. To Singapore: Miss Z. A. Blumson, Mrs. Joergensen, Mrs. Neale, Mr. C. S. Williams, Mr. A. Lawrence, Mr. G. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Stanford. To Penang: Mr. J. A. Cumminson, Mr. F. W. Hinde, Mr. J. F. Hodges.

Per P. and O. steamer *Malwa*. From London Feb. 6.—To Yokohama: Mr. E. P. Bernard, Mr. Henderson, Mr. M. B. Matthews. To Hongkong: Mr. A. G. Pitoher, Mr. F. Graham, Miss A. D. McKinley, Mrs. Curry, Misses Curry (2), Rev. W. Dale, Mr. H. P. White, Mr. H. S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Cheng, Mrs. R. Gompertz. To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Miss I. Macdonald, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. W. Norfolk, Mr. C. R. Shaw. To Singapore: Mr. W. Dunman, Mr. W. P. Pinkney, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Upton, Mr. J. Sketton, Mr. R. Thomson, Mr. T. Glen Dilling, Mrs. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Sullivan, Miss Nelson, Miss A. Martin, Mr. P. Turner, Mr. H. T. Hancock, Mr. P. M. Conybeare, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Matthews, Mr. G. M. Gifford, Mr. Meldrum, Mr. W. J. Warim, Mr. E. Tyler, Mr. R. J. Obetton, Mr. J. Elstiek, Capt. Yudh. To Penang: Mr. May, Mr. R. T. and Mrs. Doughty, Mr. A. Butterworth, Mr. L. M. Bell, Mr. Waterfield, Miss E. Round, Miss N. E. Cook, Mr. T. C. Green, Mr. Briggs.

Per P. and O. steamer *Morea*. From London Feb. 20.—To Shanghai: Mrs. M. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Miss Cooper, Mr. J. L. Cruickshanks, Miss Patton, Mr. R. P. Witham, Mr. J. K. Tweed, Rev. J. Omelvena. To Hongkong: Mr. and Mrs. Burr. To Singapore: Mr. and Mrs. Favell, Mr. A. R. Thorburn, Mr. L. Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Dennis, Mr. J. Arthur, Mr. R. B. Osborne, Mr. Edmund Cook. To Penang: Mr. B. W. Ellis, Miss N. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Metcalfe, Mr. K. Rumble.

Per P. and O. steamer *Nellore*. From London Feb. 20.—To Yokohama: Mr. F. C. Hurley. To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Ball, Miss Scott. To Hongkong: Mr. A. J. Robson, Mrs. Ross and child, Mr. Rymer. To Singapore: Miss A. Leach, Mr. H. D. Potter, Mrs. S. Wright, Miss E. Green, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Mullis, Mr. L. R. Armstrong. To Penang: Miss M. Reading.

Per P. and O. steamer *Malaja*. From London March 6.—To Shanghai: Mr. T. L. Smith, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Alexander, Capt. F. McGarath, Dr. and Mrs. G. Haddon, Mrs. Ross Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Turner. To Manila: Mr. Grant Riach. To Hongkong: Miss Warren, Miss G. M. Young. To Singapore: Mr. and Mrs. Leman, Mrs. A. J. Crofts, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Clayton, Mr. J. W. Keenan, Miss M. Stephens, Mr. F. H. Hume.

Per P. and O. steamer *Novara*. From London March 6.—To Shanghai: Miss Benshan. To Hongkong: Mr. D. Muyr, Mrs. Hunter. To Singapore: Mrs. J. Keller, Miss Newton. To

CHINESE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS.

THE YANGTZE PORTS.

We give below some extracts from the reports of 1913 of the Commissioners of Customs dealing with the salient features of the trade at the ports during the year under review:—

Chungking.—The total collection aggregated *Hk. Tls.* 411,195, showing an increase of *Hk. Tls.* 6,713 over the revenue of 1912, and *Hk. Tls.* 32,306 over that of 1911. Though the actual figures for the year under review compare unfavourably with those for the years 1904-10, it must be borne in mind that during the former period a large revenue, 43 per cent. of the total, was derived from Chinese opium, now a prohibited article. A healthy sign for the future of the trade at this port is the marked advance shown under both import and coast trade duty headings. When we consider that during the months of August and September trade in the port was almost at a standstill, it is encouraging to note that the export duty from which we derive our principal revenue, only register a decline of *Hk. Tls.* 12,719 compared with the figures for 1912, and are in excess of the collection made in previous years. The insecurity of the roads in the interior of the province accounts for the steady decrease in transit dues. The efforts made by the authorities during the last two years to encourage and develop the silk industry have borne good fruit. In spite of the fact that the province has been the theatre of a great deal of more or less serious fighting, with its attendant evils, in the shape of rapine and loot, bringing with them the partial disorganisation of trade, the figures for silk compare favourably with those for the preceding year. Indeed, in one line, steam flature white raw silk, the figures for export are nearly double those of 1912; prices have been good, varying between *Tls.* 240 to *Tls.* 270 per picul. Export merchants, on the whole, were forced to demand larger prices during the year than in 1912, owing to the prevalence of paper money. The gradual drop in silver, however, has allowed buyers in Europe and America to pay these higher prices. . . . A steam engine has taken the place of buffaloes at one of the salt wells at Tzelutsing. It is reported that at the well where machinery is used a monthly profit of *Tls.* 800 is shown in excess of the usual returns, and the machines are so far superior to the buffaloes—especially during the summer, when, owing to the heat, the buffaloes cannot be worked for more than five hours a day—that it is proposed to extend the use of machinery to other wells.—R. C. GUERNIER, *Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

Ichang.—The disturbances which occurred elsewhere in China were only dimly reflected in Ichang. It is true that during the summer months there was a certain amount of anxiety lest the troubles should come nearer home, but as there was no local sympathy with the rebellion conditions remained fairly normal. Later, the unsettled state of Szechuan had an adverse effect on trade for a time, but with quieter conditions in that region trade and revenue quickly recovered, and the year closed with an advance of nearly 25 per cent. in revenue. The net value of the trade for the year was *Hk. Tls.* 5,719,556, being an increase of *Hk. Tls.* 166,661 over the figures for 1912. The total collection at *Hk. Tls.* 99,363 shows an increase of nearly 25 per cent. over that of the preceding year, and, eliminating the duty formerly collected on opium, is the largest on record. With the exception of tonnage dues, all headings show an increase, but three-quarters of the revenue is contributed by exports. The gross and net values of the foreign import trade show an improvement of 50 per cent. over those for 1912. The Szechuan Steam Navigation Company had another successful year with their s.s. *Shutung*, which managed to accomplish 13 round trips without mishap. The amount of cargo carried averaged 342 packages a trip, so there is room for a good many more steamers before the junk trade will feel the effects of competition. The benefit to the travelling public is, however, enormous, the trip from Ichang to Chungking averaging 5½ days as against 30 to 50 days by native boat, means a considerable saving of time to the 1,500 passengers who availed themselves of the upward steamship service during the year. A similar number of passengers was carried downwards. The trade in opium is quite dead. Early in the year the Opium Suppression Bureau bought up the stocks of some 70 licensed opium shops, closing them down. This opium was disposed of from a central official shop until May 31, after which date none was purchaseable at Ichang. On Oct. 4, under the auspices of the same Bureau, some 9,000 ozs. of opium, raw and prepared, together with pipes and apparatus, were publicly burned in the presence of a large and admiring crowd.—R. H. R. WADE, *Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

Shasi.—The general commerce of the port increased, all trades admitting a progressive and profitable year, in spite of the adverse conditions which prevailed for several months in our markets on the Lower Yangtze and in Szechuan. Crops were fairly satisfactory. The spring crops, especially beans, were somewhat injured by excessive rains, but rice was a bumper crop, and an excellent harvest was garnered of millet and sesamum. A long-continued drought during the autumn injured the local cotton; but this shortage was more than levelled by good crops in the Sungtze and Chikiang districts to the west, and in the Kungan district south of Shasi, some 15,000 piculs finding profitable export. Four floodless years have brought prosperity to the agricultural population, and appreciably increased their purchasing power. Amongst other exports, the output of vegetable tallow, wood oil, and silk were excellent, though the bulk of the trade left by junk. Imports in increased quantities arrived by the Yangtze and by the Pien Canal, capital

formerly in opium now finding profitable and safer investment in the yarn, nankeens, and piece-goods trades. A contract was signed in December at Peking between the Government and Messrs. Pauling and Co. for a railway, which will eventually give the rich produce of Kweichow and West Hunan its natural outlet into the Yangtze and its markets *via* Shasi. A line like this, built on the contract system, and under so complete and practical an organisation as this firm commands, will be an object lesson in railway construction in China, and, running through country abounding in agricultural produce and mineral wealth, should return a handsome dividend on the capital invested. If yet premature to forecast the ultimate effects its completion will have on the port, it is safe to affirm that the line will greatly benefit all branches of trade, and revenue, by reason of the innumerable new marts its construction will open up. No foreign opium was imported, and although large profits must have been realised on stocks unconsumed from the previous year, local prohibitive restrictions against smoking were so sternly enforced that dealers were deterred from further importation.—C. A. McALLUM, *Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

Changsha.—On July 25 the Tutuh, under pressure, issued a proclamation declaring the independence of this province and its separation from the Central Government; on Aug. 13 the Tutuh reasserted its influence and revoked its first proclamation, the province returning to its adhesion to the central authority. Although the period of independence was short-lived, yet for some time, both before and after, the movements of troops to and from the Hupeh borders kept merchants in a state of uncertainty, and trade suffered. Added to this, depreciation of the tael continued, until, at one short period, in November, it required over Changsha *Tls.* 220 to buy Hankow *Tls.* 100, the actual normal rate being Changsha *Tls.* 98 = Hankow *Tls.* 100. And yet, handicapped with these two adverse factors, the volume of trade passing through this Custom House showed an increase over the record year (1912) of *Hk. Tls.* 1,681,394, the total net value being *Hk. Tls.* 23,719,762. Foreign imports increased by *Tls.* 3,000,000, and exports decreased by *Tls.* 1,500,000. Further, the extraordinary exchange conditions led to the wildest speculations, resulting in an added uncertainty in the market and an unusual number of failures—at the end of the year, four of the biggest wood-oil firms in Changteh, several generations old, becoming bankrupt. With the redemption of a depreciated paper currency, with more liberal mining regulations, with the improvement of the waterways, and with the coming of railways, there would appear to be no limits to the commercial possibilities of this province of Hunan. From June 15 the importation of Indian and Chinese opium into this province was prohibited. The eradication of the poppy is said to be complete, and stringent measures are taken to put a stop to illicit sales and smoking. The Standard Oil Company of New York completed the erection of an oil-tank installation five miles below the port, on the Changsha side, and the first shipment of bulk oil arrived in April. The tanks are fed by two small shallow-draught tank-oil steamers propelled by oil-engines. The installation comprises two tanks, 93 ft. by 30 ft., each with a capacity of 170,000 units; two case-oil go-downs 200 ft. by 80 ft., each with a capacity of about 175,000 cases; and a modern tin-can making factory of a possible output of 20,000 tins per 24 hours. The installation contains an up-to-date fire-fighting apparatus, and is lit throughout with electricity supplied by the company's own generating plant on the premises. On the opposite bank of the river the Asiatic Petroleum Company is in the course of erecting an oil-tank installation.—ALEC. W. CROSS, *Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

Yochow.—The year 1913 constitutes a new record of trade and revenue at this port, in spite of the bulk of the revenue derived from ores having been transferred to Changsha from May 1, and the prohibition of the export of rice, imposed on April 6, not having been withdrawn till Dec. 25. The year proved to be a low-water one. Communication was maintained with Changteh during practically the whole of the year, owing to the enterprise of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, and, later, of other companies, in running tugs towing lighters carrying large cargoes during the time when the water was too low to enable steamers to go up. Special facilities to minimise delay and yet secure more thorough examination of cargo than had hitherto been customary were granted to steamers and tugs on the Hankow-Changteh run which complied with certain conditions. In consequence of the increased facilities for shipment, the Changteh trade shows an enormous increase, the total number of packages shipped, almost equally divided between import and export, being 154,268, or nearly three and a-half times the figures for 1912. The unrest in the Yangtze Valley and the declaration of the Independence of Hunan, notified on July 25, and withdrawn on Aug. 13, had little effect on the trade of this port.—R. A. CURRIE, *Acting Commissioner of Customs.*

Hankow.—Conditions during 1913 were decidedly unfavourable to trade. The unsuccessful rebellion against the President during the summer was sufficiently serious to cause grave apprehension and to partially paralyse commercial enterprise for about three months, while the prevalence of brigandage interfered, and is still interfering, with the movement of money and goods. In many districts it is found safer to store produce than to exchange it for money. The bean and wheat crops were badly affected by excessive rains, and later in the year a prolonged drought caused serious damage to the cotton and sesamum crops. With further adverse factors to be taken into account, it is surprising to find that the value of exports to foreign countries was only *Tls.* 3,000,000 below the record in 1911, while the value of exports to Chinese ports was but *Hk. Tls.* 210,000 less than in 1912. On the other hand, the value of imports from foreign countries rose to *Hk. Tls.* 34,164,000, more than *Tls.* 12,000,000 better than the previous year, while