

Trinity College

## Trinity College Digital Repository

---

East Collection

Library Digital Collections

---

1923

### Tientsin

Jay C. Huston

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/eastbooks>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Huston, Jay C., "Tientsin" (1923). *East Collection*. 53.  
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/eastbooks/53>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Library Digital Collections at Trinity College Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Collection by an authorized administrator of Trinity College Digital Repository.

**Trinity College**  
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

I.  
K49

4.34

2729




Eastern  
Academic  
Scholars'  
Trust



AC  
901  
.M6  
no.K49

64





TRINITY COLLEGE  
LIBRARY

MOORE  
COLLECTION  
RELATING  
TO THE  
FAR EAST

CLASS NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
BOOK NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
VOLUME \_\_\_\_\_  
ACCESSION NO. \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SUPPLEMENT TO  
COMMERCE  
REPORTS

Published by the BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

JULIUS KLEIN, Director.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC REVIEW FOR 1923 - - No. 11

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Foreign trade of Tientsin.....	2	Imports from the United States.....	10
Exports from Tientsin.....	3	Agriculture and mining.....	10
Declared exports to the United States.....	3	Transportation and shipping.....	11
Imports into Tientsin.....	7		

TIENTSIN

Consul J. C. Huston, Tientsin, China

Tientsin is a transit port. It is the outlet for foreign shipments of cargo from Kansu, Shansi, Chihli, Mongolia, upper Honan, and upper Shantung.

Foreign Trade of Tientsin.

The trade of Tientsin during 1923—not including reexports and foreign and Chinese imports—amounted to 238,407,930 haikwan taels (\$196,233,575), compared with 244,516,332 (\$200,430,038) in 1922. Of the total trade, imports accounted for 102,341,339 taels (\$84,237,157), against 122,440,039 (\$100,364,100) in 1922—a decrease evidencing the spirit of caution that characterized the whole import market during 1923. Exports, on the other hand, registered an advance from 75,061,425 taels (\$61,527,850) in 1922 to 86,420,212 taels (\$71,132,475) in 1923.

This tendency toward the establishment of a favorable trade balance will probably continue—aided, no doubt, by the growing importance of local industry—until a more even adjustment of price levels is attained in world markets. Native goods sent into the interior of China reached the value of 110,000,000 taels (\$90,-541,000) in 1923, more than in any previous year except 1921, when grains transported for famine relief swelled the total.

The collections for customs revenue during 1923 were reported as 6,731,593 taels (\$5,540,774), or 1,153,183 taels in excess of the 1922 figure, derived chiefly from exports.

During 1922 the value of the haikwan, or customs, tael ranged from \$0.76 to \$0.88, and in 1923 from \$0.78 to \$0.82. The arbitrary



values of the tael fixed by the United States Government, and in the conversion of both the preceding and following trade figures—1 haikwan tael = \$0.8197 in 1922 and \$0.8231 in 1923.

The foreign trade of Tientsin, both in foreign goods and Chinese produce, as reported by the Chinese Maritime Customs, is summarized as follows:

*Value of the foreign trade of Tientsin*

Items	1922	1923
<b>FOREIGN GOODS</b>		
<b>Imports:</b>		
From foreign countries and Hongkong.....	\$79,036,715	\$62,194,734
From Chinese ports.....	24,185,746	23,846,646
Total.....	103,222,461	86,041,380
<b>Reexports:</b>		
To foreign countries and Hongkong.....	1,194,734	1,194,734
To Chinese ports (chiefly to Newchwang, Chefoo, and Shanghai).....	1,663,627	1,663,627
Total.....	2,858,361	2,858,361
Net total foreign imports.....	100,364,100	84,183,019
<b>CHINESE PRODUCE</b>		
<b>Imports (chiefly from Hankow, Shanghai, Canton, and Foochow).....</b>	39,204,013	41,380,000
<b>Reexports:</b>		
To foreign countries and Hongkong.....	411,474	411,474
To Chinese ports.....	254,451	254,451
Total.....	665,925	665,925
Net total Chinese imports.....	38,538,088	40,718,525
<b>Exports:</b>		
To foreign countries and Hongkong.....	37,681,204	40,718,525
To Chinese ports.....	23,846,646	30,000,000
Total.....	61,527,850	70,718,525
Gross value of the trade of the port.....	203,954,324	198,901,544
Net value of the trade of the port.....	200,430,038	196,182,544

The principal increases responsible for the growth of local industry were those in locally manufactured cotton yarn, 204,000 piculs (1 picul = 133½ pounds) and yarn made elsewhere in China, 18,000 piculs; cigarettes, 135,000 piculs; flour manufactured by local mills and sent into the interior, 1,600,000 piculs; and cotton piece goods locally made. The trade with the interior, 74 per cent of which is handled by the railways, was handicapped by their shortage of rolling stock.

Reexports of products of local Chinese industry, including goods in transit through Tientsin, reached 22,675,892 taels in 1923, compared with 17,639,993 in 1922. Chinese factory products imported from the interior into Tientsin, either for local consumption or for export, amounted to 2,147,108 taels in 1923, against 687,198 in 1922. These figures are indicative of the steady although slow industrial development that is taking place in treaty ports in spite of the continuous disorders in the interior. Japan is beginning to feel the effects.

In cotton yarn the Chinese product equals the Japanese in numbers while in the finer counts the British still hold the market. The Chinese spinning industry in the treaty ports is developing



great rapidity. The wage for male labor in China averages only 40 copper cents (\$.10 per day; for female, 30 cents (\$.075); and for children half that amount. With the cost of labor increasing in Japan, the Chinese have a decided advantage in competition. Lack of capital, however, prevents the Chinese from buying when the market is low and making a profit on their yarn as the cotton market rises.

### Exports from Tientsin.

The export trade of Tientsin has steadily increased in value year after year. The advance during 1923 is less marked, perhaps, than it appears to be, because of the recent rapid rise in prices.

In the following table exports and reexports, as listed by the Chinese Maritime Customs, are given in terms of United States currency:

*Chinese goods, including reexports, exported through Chinese Maritime Customs*

Articles	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Beans:				
Black.....pounds..	45,187,333	\$922,297	3,611,466	\$71,342
Broad.....do.....	12,046,800	295,212	11,325,733	230,724
Green.....do.....	62,912,266	1,373,030	36,885,600	785,578
White.....do.....	4,102,400	95,837	6,907,066	166,292
Yellow.....do.....	45,751,700	998,506	41,234,800	1,018,210
Bran.....do.....	66,060,000	826,447	42,379,333	587,599
Brass, old.....do.....	153,067	13,882	232,266	22,990
Bristles.....do.....	2,841,333	1,761,130	3,372,266	2,751,330
Carpets (not including pieces, nor carpets and rugs).....square feet..	3,321,341	2,371,857	4,439,200	3,439,627
Cattle.....number.....	6,931	230,391	14,673	595,162
Chestnuts.....pounds..	9,108,800	453,343	6,504,400	289,103
Cigarettes.....do.....	276,933	161,739	1,110,800	651,438
Coal:				
Ching-Ching.....tons..	17,849	102,415	22,913	132,017
Kailan.....do.....	58,069	271,281	61,302	277,517
Shansi.....do.....	49,184	332,529	92,956	619,748
Steamer.....do.....	64,634	291,392	87,161	394,582
Cockles, dried.....pounds..	979,200	42,126	987,200	41,099
Coke.....tons.....	8,816	93,944	7,563	80,926
Cotton, raw.....pounds..	73,196,400	12,262,313	75,347,333	15,698,405
Cotton goods:				
Nankeens.....do.....	78,667	27,430	64,000	25,680
Cloth, native, fancy.....pieces..	21,277	64,162	19,293	56,871
Cotton yarn.....pounds..	26,133	7,229	982,533	273,242
Curiosities.....do.....		180,290		343,461
Dates:				
Black.....pounds..	8,436,266	485,966	8,209,733	494,136
Red.....do.....	15,126,266	632,348	15,629,733	675,403
Egg products:				
Albumen, dried.....pounds..	1,013,333	610,512	10,590,000	760,256
Yolk—				
Dried.....do.....	217,333	45,181	1,593,733	344,348
Moist.....do.....	5,183,200	525,773	2,730,400	294,970
Eggs, fresh.....pieces..	263,866,324	1,946,621	385,330,000	2,854,485
Fibers:				
Hemp.....pounds..	489,900	49,753	612,133	64,240
Jute.....do.....	3,230,933	103,287	2,853,866	91,611
Firecrackers.....do.....	636,900	83,208	1,328,000	188,555
Fruits:				
Dried.....do.....	569,300	14,056	779,600	19,981
Fresh.....do.....	1,022,000	20,272	1,273,466	25,088
Furniture.....do.....		19,499		40,665
Hair:				
Goat.....pounds..	139,733	20,571	205,733	24,465
Horse—				
Manes.....do.....	810,133	126,663	844,533	148,074
Tails.....do.....	641,067	191,422	503,333	140,169
Human.....do.....	803,067	93,964	699,466	92,265
Hats, straw and rush.....pieces..	97,694	21,906	50,841	116,145
Hides:				
Ass and horse.....pounds..	914,433	133,670	2,002,266	386,708
Buffalo and cow.....do.....	480,400	107,798	349,200	74,372



*Chinese goods, including reexports, exported through Chinese Maritime Customs—*  
*Continued*

Articles	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Hoofs, animal.....pounds.....	801,800	\$19,371	633,466	\$13,551
Horns, deer, young.....pairs.....	1,816	148,857	2,519	207,338
Intestines:				
Pig.....pounds.....	824,400	378,749	1,016,266	862,897
Sheep.....do.....	169,867	97,442	373,600	430,637
Joss sticks.....do.....	180,267	11,304	197,866	13,191
Lard.....do.....	259,733	26,742	165,066	17,271
Licorice.....do.....	3,025,467	316,196	7,463,733	794,802
Lily flowers, dried.....do.....	136,000	11,705	245,400	21,468
Machinery.....do.....		23,262		14,091
Matches.....gross.....	581,500	108,676	598,600	105,793
Mats, straw and rush.....pieces.....	1,223,746	235,730	1,927,839	396,701
Medicines.....pounds.....	7,105,333	494,833	6,633,066	438,411
Moss.....value.....		12,357		1,036
Mushrooms.....pounds.....	71,067	23,670	38,533	11,524
Mushrooms.....do.....	328,533	363,553	193,466	214,977
Oil:				
Peanut.....do.....	566,133	43,505	5,014,133	340,488
Sesamum.....do.....	352,533	32,509	364,133	33,718
Onions.....do.....	3,080,933	33,523	2,240,400	23,233
Peanut cake.....do.....	8,337,500	107,431	7,730,033	105,949
Peanuts:				
In shell.....do.....	21,605,700	770,395	40,047,733	1,285,567
Kernels.....do.....	13,953,500	675,107	12,320,266	570,421
Pears, fresh.....do.....	31,617,600	289,499	14,619,466	203,020
Peas.....do.....	4,211,600	90,621	2,988,666	64,574
Potatoes.....do.....	3,012,267	25,191	2,518,800	21,338
Preserves.....do.....	364,667	33,628	360,133	40,017
Raisins and currants.....do.....	370,000	50,779	191,600	25,958
Salt, refined.....do.....	52,588,933	1,251,185	53,324,000	1,316,729
Samsu, medicated.....do.....	4,487,733	253,456	4,874,533	275,456
Seed:				
Apricot.....do.....				
Bitter almonds.....do.....	3,333,333	245,910	2,042,533	154,451
Sweet almonds.....do.....	429,067	98,918	549,466	146,703
Cotton.....do.....	28,338,000	295,669	36,220,900	420,925
Linseed.....do.....	76,719,333	1,751,461	17,133,066	415,923
Melon.....do.....	2,510,000	142,736	5,290,400	297,850
Mustard.....do.....	19,399,333	347,823	9,874,800	179,195
Rape.....do.....	8,797,067	164,212	2,074,400	38,521
Senna.....do.....	1,301,467	31,614	1,067,200	26,031
Sesamum.....do.....	714,800	32,958	272,533	12,618
Skin (fur) clothing:				
Kid, crosses.....do.....				
Black.....pieces.....	15,246	17,125	15,712	32,034
Gray.....do.....	50,999	43,595	16,743	19,879
White.....do.....	27,676	23,347	15,644	18,194
Lamb, crosses.....do.....				
Mongolian.....do.....	13,439	48,988	5,928	30,704
Slink.....do.....	26,956	49,861	34,424	64,152
Skin (fur) mats, dog.....do.....	246,279	160,286	134,716	93,720
Skin (fur) rugs:				
Antelope.....do.....	30,845	17,144	21,604	11,498
Goat.....do.....				
Black.....do.....	25,374	25,009	18,600	21,844
Gray.....do.....	225,582	235,364	63,654	79,291
White.....do.....	97,712	102,214	17,211	21,319
Mixed.....do.....	108,889	105,019	26,739	30,932
Skins (fur):				
Dog.....do.....	41,273	11,565	254,994	74,995
Fox.....do.....				
Large.....do.....	59,504	402,397	89,152	660,429
Tails.....do.....	128,269	33,324	83,362	24,173
Goat.....do.....				
Tanned.....do.....				
Black.....do.....	144,695	120,694	88,068	105,354
Gray.....do.....	609,100	507,771	766,636	871,016
White.....do.....	146,498	122,127	176,583	251,443
Untanned.....do.....	2,340,510	773,556	1,918,178	752,319
Kid.....do.....				
Tanned.....do.....	289,968	54,319	40,914	12,216
Untanned.....do.....	411,404	40,100	406,046	72,262
Lamb.....do.....				
Mongolian.....do.....	48,421	14,552	26,459	11,677
Slink.....do.....	155,195	128,958	69,028	68,086
Tibet.....do.....	39,817	46,994	101,168	160,478
Untanned.....do.....	759,873	139,330	589,897	153,853



Chinese goods, including reexports, exported through Chinese Maritime Customs—  
Continued

Articles	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Skins (fur)—Continued.				
Marmot.....pounds	2, 159, 190	\$700, 036	2, 615, 960	\$1, 163, 391
Sheep, untanned.....do	174, 541	85, 707	184, 392	106, 163
Squirrel.....do	182, 853	167, 780	233, 728	230, 858
Weasel, with tails.....do	56, 177	25, 416	90, 151	65, 378
Wolf.....do	16, 506	56, 478	10, 512	59, 107
Soda:				
Crude.....pounds	2, 156, 267	43, 541	2, 938, 133	67, 049
Silicate of.....do	1, 462, 000	28, 220	1, 915, 133	35, 594
Stores, government.....do		19, 833		67, 132
Straw braid:				
Mottled.....pounds	4, 575, 333	1, 406, 400	4, 770, 666	1, 472, 525
White.....do	2, 383, 867	1, 172, 433	2, 752, 133	1, 359, 168
Tallow, animal.....do	42, 667	3, 737	523, 466	46, 049
Tiles.....pieces	977, 352	22, 886	887, 661	22, 453
Tobacco, prepared.....pounds	8, 078, 000	1, 613, 996	8, 712, 133	1, 747, 921
Turnips, salted.....do	857, 067	33, 458	695, 200	27, 252
Vegetables, salted.....do	4, 264, 667	234, 709	5, 583, 600	311, 236
Walnuts:				
In shell.....do	5, 441, 867	378, 468	5, 368, 533	304, 293
Kernels.....do	3, 206, 000	549, 035	2, 099, 733	330, 990
Wines, beer, spirits, etc.:				
Beer.....dozens	59, 832	72, 360	81, 698	99, 572
Samsu.....pounds	9, 520, 933	380, 460	10, 624, 133	426, 439
Wool:				
Camel.....do	8, 464, 267	1, 949, 002	6, 852, 533	1, 759, 238
Goat.....do	1, 795, 600	400, 439	1, 700, 133	396, 674
Sheep.....do	60, 040, 400	9, 412, 392	52, 564, 000	7, 751, 368
Postal parcels, not otherwise classified.....do		609, 839		1, 307, 770

In considering the data of the preceding table it should be remembered that local values are much less than destination values. In 1920 exports of local products amounted to over 44,000,000 taels; in 1921 they totaled more than 63,000,000; in 1922, approximately 75,000,000; and in 1923 over 85,000,000. With the rise in prices and the increase in demand, Chinese dealers have gone farther and farther into the interior in search of native produce. The continuance of such a market may result in a favorable trade balance for Tientsin within the next few years.

The exportation of carpets exceeded last year's huge figures by 1,125,000 taels. There appears to be a large demand in the United States. The severe washing test that most Tientsin carpets undergo after arrival in the United States has made the local manufacturers anxious to turn out a product in which dyes are guaranteed.

The exportation of furs was comparatively satisfactory throughout 1923, considering the smallness of the stocks at the beginning of the year. Parcel-post shipments, especially of high-priced furs, recorded a considerable growth. Of the total of 13,578 parcels in 1920, 34,296 in 1921, 59,574 in 1922, and 76,930 in 1923, which were sent abroad, the postal officials state that 80 per cent contained furs. When trade conditions become normal, however, this trade will probably revert to its former transportation outlets.

The bulk of the trade in fresh eggs, shipments of which reached 385,330,000 during 1923, is with Japan. The exportation of peanuts almost doubled that of 1922. Licorice became an important commodity for shipment because of the resumption of purchases in the United States. There was little business in linseed oil during 1923, accounted for by the prevailing high prices and the fall of linseed in Europe.



## Declared Exports to the United States.

Exports to the United States during 1923, as declared through the American consulate at Tientsin, compare with those of 1922 as follows:

*Declared exports from Tientsin to the United States*

Items	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Art, works of, over 100 years old.....pounds..	28, 320	\$56, 281	69, 116	\$109, 952
Bristles.....do.	2, 094, 182	2, 272, 661	2, 166, 040	3, 327, 042
Carpets and carpeting.....square yards.	330, 443	2, 193, 785	477, 028	3, 174, 315
Cotton, unmanufactured, short staple.pounds..	20, 209, 759	3, 525, 840	12, 733, 858	2, 382, 340
Egg products:				
Albumen.....do.	30, 600	17, 674	363, 600	250, 016
Yolks.....do.	28, 800	8, 735	614, 010	157, 266
Feathers.....do.	80, 171	25, 516	31, 116	21, 704
Furniture, household, etc.....do.	58, 596	50, 639	73, 632	55, 878
Furs:				
Undressed—				
Dog.....number..	710	521	1, 798	3, 130
Fox, other than silver or black.....do.	75, 033	549, 536	93, 266	695, 680
Hare, coney, and rabbit.....pounds..	4, 574	2, 021	86, 928	110, 534
Marten.....number..	1, 371	21, 802	2, 318	33, 087
Squirrel.....do.	1, 338, 929	1, 254, 469	1, 035, 212	994, 475
Other.....do.	3, 495, 427	3, 031, 220	3, 723, 206	4, 178, 779
Dressed—				
Fox, other than silver or black.....do.	1, 594	11, 124	2, 608	17, 553
Other.....do.	615, 425	443, 279	841, 153	1, 352, 642
Manufactures of furs and fur skins, number..	440, 915	949, 313	287, 385	639, 992
Hair:				
Animal—				
Horsehair.....pounds..	696, 434	449, 481	894, 283	667, 500
Other.....do.	2, 878, 265	818, 639	2, 000, 100	853, 403
Human.....do.	266, 563	57, 635	168, 246	42, 209
Hair nets and nettings.....do.	3, 975	53, 692	7, 006	84, 109
Hemp.....tons.	2	375	27	4, 876
Hides and skins:				
Calf.....pieces	31, 350	7, 345	12, 676	2, 764
.....pounds..	49, 939		10, 818	
Cattle.....pieces			3, 577	8, 149
.....pounds..			65, 983	
Goat and kid.....pieces	2, 346, 707	1, 073, 034	1, 910, 847	873, 916
.....pounds..	4, 058, 755		3, 393, 962	
Licorice root.....do.			4, 531, 113	172, 948
Natural-history specimens.....do.	200	663	1, 200	5, 410
Oils, vegetable:				
Chinese wood, nut or tung.....gallons..			8, 671	10, 764
Oilseeds:				
Flaxseed.....bushels..	229, 492	366, 762	43, 912	74, 921
Rapeseed.....pounds..	252, 396	5, 575		
Sunflower.....do.			17, 940	634
Other.....do.	6, 593, 832	160, 767	5, 228, 699	174, 277
Peanuts:				
Shelled.....do.	212, 100	8, 729	1, 769, 780	74, 093
Unshelled.....do.	766, 620	26, 630	2, 931, 936	103, 701
Peas, dried.....do.	390, 240	10, 964	117, 400	3, 155
Precious stones.....do.		25, 255		32, 792
Sausage casings.....pounds..	636, 401	632, 596	884, 361	1, 056, 181
Silk and silk manufactures.....do.	3, 655	24, 981	6, 671	39, 169
Straw braids.....yards.	453, 108, 280	1, 567, 000	553, 816, 440	1, 887, 225
Walnut:				
Shelled.....pounds..	1, 383, 206	277, 089	1, 245, 170	194, 155
Unshelled.....do.	1, 759, 975	122, 323	1, 768, 000	100, 568
Wool:				
Carpet—				
In the grease.....do.	57, 881, 000	9, 979, 695	40, 694, 561	8, 088, 662
Scoured.....do.	23, 473	6, 699	13, 765	3, 522
Washed.....do.	180, 903	36, 309	900, 154	170, 724
Other.....do.	835, 488	309, 757	398, 892	164, 781
All other.....do.		77, 458		177, 729
Total.....		30, 523, 656		32, 576, 722



American goods to the value of only \$6,586 were returned in 1923, decreasing from \$150,726 in the previous year.

Declared exports from Tientsin to the Philippine Islands in 1923 amounted to \$388,282, compared with \$210,926 in 1922. The principal items were: Coal (black and culm), 37,760 tons, valued at \$178,439 in 1923, against 36,950, worth \$187,626, the preceding year; cement, 14,500 tons, with a value of \$173,476, and bricks and tiles, 729 tons, worth \$23,311. The value of returned goods was recorded as \$648 in 1923 and \$1,603 in 1922.

Declared exports to Hawaii totaled \$13,714, compared with \$1,641 in 1922. Shipments of oriental and other carpets and rugs, not made on a power-driven loom, reached 1,000 square yards, valued at \$6,215, a decided increase from 192 square yards, worth \$1,173 during the previous year.

#### Imports into Tientsin.

Business men, without exception, attribute the decline in imports—from \$100,364,100 in 1922 to \$84,237,157 in 1923—to the uncertainty of the political situation in the interior, and to the resulting lack of confidence of the Chinese buying community. In 1923 a larger proportion of foreign imports was sent to places adjacent to Tientsin, regarded as safe, than to such outlying districts as Honan, Kansu, and Turkestan, where conditions were less stable.

The principal imports into Tientsin, as assembled by the Chinese Maritime Customs, are shown in the following table:

*Principal imports into Tientsin*

Items	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>COTTON GOODS</b>				
<b>Not dyed:</b>				
Cambrics, lawns, and muslins.....pieces..	26,060	\$62,742	39,033	\$107,042
Drills.....do.....	108,790	482,047	39,710	195,401
Jeans.....do.....	186,880	866,265	172,513	812,240
Sheetings, gray, plain.....do.....	339,018	1,584,696	56,811	303,194
Shirtings—				
Gray, plain.....do.....	445,902	2,258,245	474,337	2,430,376
White, plain.....do.....	402,834	2,570,065	365,081	2,275,728
White, figured, brocaded, etc.....do.....	13,976	109,820	9,802	72,611
T cloths.....do.....	208,161	694,022	160,320	576,977
<b>Dyed:</b>				
Cambrics, lawns, and muslins.....do.....	5,100	36,125	10,300	74,125
Italians.....do.....	73,314	685,060	64,484	488,949
Jeans.....do.....	234,702	1,152,349	190,236	902,186
Poplins.....do.....	31,003	400,291	23,321	269,430
Sateens.....do.....	21,885	199,448	39,573	297,393
Shirtings and sheetings.....do.....	53,482	275,007	65,655	347,817
Shiesias and twills, plain.....do.....	89,288	764,995	116,556	879,834
Turkey red cambrics.....do.....	14,656	60,067	13,877	57,966
Turkey red shirtings.....do.....	22,121	86,983	17,381	57,298
Turkey red T cloths.....do.....	147,067	488,408	121,849	396,938
Venetians.....do.....	49,498	664,332	69,536	706,586
Yarn-dyed.....yards.....	311,130	76,863	189,594	53,481
<b>Printed:</b>				
Plain cotton prints and shirtings.....pieces..	288,040	1,302,469	248,583	1,012,910
Sateen, rep, etc.....do.....	7,555	65,955	25,892	199,514
Blankets.....pounds.....	138,155	51,519	313,332	101,612
Flannelettes.....do.....		367,101		351,431
Stockinet or knitted tissue, napped.....pounds.....	68,933	29,268	177,200	92,773
Velvets and velveteens.....yards.....	658,567	372,927	687,043	289,261
Cotton thread.....do.....		192,870		157,235
Cotton yarn.....pounds.....	26,110,666	10,071,416	16,344,265	6,342,438
<b>Cotton-and-wool unions:</b>				
Coatings, suitings, trouserings, and vestings.....yards.....	172,581	212,089	123,674	186,022



## Principal imports into Tientsin—Continued

Items	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>METALS AND MINERALS</b>				
Brass and yellow metal:				
Sheets and plates.....pounds..	397,867	\$90,038	448,666	\$97,361
Wire.....do.....	149,733	32,077	138,266	22,924
Copper:				
Ingots and slabs.....do.....	12,835,733	1,662,425	2,557,599	440,902
Sheets and plates.....do.....	124,533	33,342	90,266	21,360
Iron and mild steel:				
New—				
Angles.....do.....	1,595,067	51,625	1,925,200	49,211
Bars and rods.....do.....	21,665,733	519,147	24,719,333	697,307
Cobbles and wire shorts.....do.....	2,647,733	51,610	8,527,066	157,328
Hoops.....do.....	3,306,267	114,443	3,975,866	156,659
Nails, wire.....do.....	5,249,067	203,298	3,369,866	138,617
Pipes and tubes.....do.....	3,068,667	135,075	1,374,800	70,057
Plate cuttings.....do.....	3,301,733	40,596	4,187,333	83,784
Rails.....do.....	47,124,533	1,143,054	2,820,933	76,121
Sheets and plates.....do.....	12,411,033	415,464	13,378,133	438,681
Old—				
Horseshoes.....do.....	5,056,800	70,597	3,771,033	59,324
Scrap.....do.....	3,658,267	62,060	5,966,133	76,429
Iron and steel, galvanized:				
Sheets, plain.....do.....	2,737,600	236,135	3,346,133	201,285
Lead in pigs or bars.....do.....	977,467	48,749	1,829,066	87,907
Steel, tool and spring:				
Tinned plates, plain.....do.....	5,520,800	260,393	9,540,000	444,875
<b>SUNDRIES</b>				
Advertising matter.....do.....		72,125		90,630
Aniseed, star, Hongkong.....pounds..	370,933	48,255	700,400	84,832
Bags, gunny:				
New.....do.....	3,053,600	188,094	1,265,733	95,127
Old.....number.....	3,785,202	311,351	38,714	195,590
Beché de mer, black.....pounds..	508,133	225,969	488,533	242,708
Belting, machine.....do.....		144,645		94,093
Benzine and petroleum, in bulk				
American gallons.....	653,842	296,833	1,000,984	453,069
Building materials.....do.....		253,307		145,109
Butter.....pounds.....	357,333	126,533	243,200	105,556
Calcium, carbide of.....do.....	995,333	44,612	1,914,533	91,434
Cement factory materials.....do.....		20,953		108,877
Cereals:				
Rice.....pounds.....	148,914,533	5,339,552	141,339,466	5,220,844
Wheat.....do.....	123,867	1,483	47,290,133	1,098,688
Chemical products.....do.....		93,950		141,932
Chinaware.....do.....		93,349		138,334
Cigarettes.....thousands.....	1,133,476	2,773,999	1,238,840	3,065,366
Cigars.....do.....	4,761	138,717	3,647	107,657
Clocks.....number.....	73,819	111,630	95,945	154,589
Clothing.....do.....		70,258		113,418
Cotton, raw.....pounds.....	21,642,400	3,221,481	6,114,666	1,448,074
Crucibles.....number.....	21,892	100,895	26,975	111,334
Dyes, colors, and paints:				
Aniline.....do.....		1,436,551		1,308,262
Indigo, liquid, artificial.....pounds..	5,177,733	1,663,275	4,319,866	1,413,466
Lead white.....do.....	631,733	49,163	546,266	45,519
Sulphur, black.....do.....	4,433,467	627,550	3,241,733	443,674
Other.....do.....	572,933	154,235	431,200	69,993
Electric lamps and accessories.....do.....		175,985		83,221
Enameled ware.....do.....		149,643		130,869
Flour, wheat.....pounds.....			192,709,800	5,556,035
Furniture and cabinet-making materials.....do.....		105,516		84,455
Gas plant and fittings.....do.....		41,570		111,344
Glass, common window.....boxes.....	72,357	383,686	56,537	260,831
Glue.....pounds.....	182,000	26,686	598,933	87,032
Haberdashery and millinery.....do.....		423,373		684,477
Hardware.....do.....		474,403		429,857
Hats and caps.....number.....	556,242	136,372	392,356	137,223
Hessian cloth.....pounds.....	860,400	79,700	1,176,400	150,330
India-rubber manufactures, exclusive of tires.....do.....		38,105		122,566
Lamps and lamp ware.....do.....		94,307		127,738
Leather, sole.....pounds.....	476,267	197,650	1,650,800	475,350
Machinery:				
Printing.....do.....		19,551		128,321
Propelling, boilers, turbines, etc.....do.....		417,160		159,015
Unclassed.....do.....		2,172,855		1,863,765
Machines, spinning.....do.....		891,887		87,587

1 Exclusive of crucibles reported in pounds.



## Principal imports into Tientsin—Continued

Items	1922		1923	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
SUNDRIES—continued				
Match-making materials:				
Phosphorous.....pounds..	261,067	\$86,711	173,200	\$50,977
Potash, chlorate of.....do..	1,239,200	193,831	1,033,466	76,509
Wax, paraffin.....do..	4,938,533	200,714	5,249,600	198,687
Wood splints.....do..	6,833,467	105,100	7,301,200	122,233
Medicines.....do..		433,271		813,596
Milk, condensed, in tins.....pounds..	881,733	115,144	1,048,800	170,204
Mirrors, Japanese.....do..		62,548		93,007
Needles.....thousands..	671,378	195,247	915,984	256,223
Oil:				
Engine, mineral.....gallons..	902,302	295,359	1,276,494	368,032
Kerosene, American.....American gallons..	33,544,393	7,242,356	27,337,078	6,012,495
Paper:				
Bank-note, unsigned.....do..		78,135		111,035
Cigarette, on bobbins.....pounds..			399,733	132,114
Medium-grade cap, white or colored.....do..	6,366,667	404,971	5,331,466	330,107
Packing and wrapping, brown or colored.....pounds..	1,711,867	96,834	1,673,333	98,969
Printing—				
Common.....do..	15,244,533	857,128	15,088,266	818,304
Free from mechanical pulp.....do..	2,275,067	193,499	2,543,066	230,470
Writing, drawing, etc.....do..		106,175		90,692
Perfumery.....do..		172,669		126,623
Photographs and photographic materials.....do..		136,458		110,196
Printing and lithographic materials.....do..		97,454		94,243
Railway materials:				
Sleepers.....pieces..	654,229	908,782	245,234	430,018
Unclassed.....do..		4,067,836		1,060,775
Seaweed, long.....pounds..	10,675,600	240,916	11,104,933	276,595
Silk, artificial.....do..		80,964		495,747
Soap:				
Bar.....pounds..			1,303,733	162,084
Toilet and fancy.....do..		117,884		156,423
Soda:				
Ash.....pounds..	14,124,000	199,750	19,485,466	260,554
Caustic.....do..	975,200	41,572	1,192,666	47,834
Spirits of wine.....gallons..	49,878	22,342	154,392	77,796
Stationery.....do..		205,166		170,013
Stearine.....pounds..	404,400	37,024	636,400	110,228
Sugar:				
Brown.....do..	29,856,800	1,433,093	16,425,433	686,011
White.....do..	23,998,800	1,596,878	10,723,200	690,634
Refined.....do..	41,484,533	2,790,007	47,358,533	2,827,773
Candy.....do..	8,293,733	663,395	6,599,866	500,501
Timber:				
Softwood—				
Rough hewn.....superficial feet..	7,996,172	269,118	4,794,272	159,469
Sawn.....do..	12,374,795	452,813	8,454,758	332,263
Toilet requisites.....do..		153,533		169,854
Toys.....do..		60,302		97,966
Vehicles:				
Bicycles, materials for making.....do..		59,967		112,673
Jimrickshas, materials for making.....do..		213,545		129,333
Motor cars.....pieces..	350	478,679	405	439,212
Motor cars and parts of.....do..		102,134		90,434
Tramway materials.....do..		38,683		779,138
Wines, beer, spirits, etc.:				
Ale and beer, in bottles.....dozen quarts..	48,166	84,940	38,585	71,231
Whisky, in bottles.....do..	9,360	90,527	7,210	91,025
Wireless apparatus.....do..		295,000		95,509
Woolen goods:				
Coatings, suitings, trouserings, and vestings.....yards..	55,427	131,314	126,052	255,475
Tweeds and serges.....do..	46,449	64,102	54,923	78,493
Woolen and worsted yarn and cord.....pounds..	163,867	141,503	510,600	358,087

Until recently the trade in piece goods in Tientsin was sufficient to justify direct dealings with foreign markets. The spirit of caution engendered by the military situation in the interior, however, has forced the Chinese merchants to inaugurate a hand-to-mouth policy of buying from Shanghai. Of the piece goods received during the



year under review, 64 per cent came from Japan, 33 per cent from Great Britain, and 3 per cent from the United States. These figures compare with an average annual percentage for the four years 1919 to 1922, as follows: Japan, 65 per cent; Great Britain, 27 per cent; and the United States, 8 per cent. The decrease in 1923, compared with 1922, amounted to 353,566 pieces of six standard types of cotton piece goods, distributed as follows: United States, more than 44 per cent; Japan, over 36 per cent; and Great Britain, 18 per cent.

There was an astonishing increase recorded for imports of foreign flour and foreign wheat. A decline of almost 3,000,000 taels occurred in the value of minerals and metals imported, largely the result of the decrease in copper ingots, slabs, and iron rails. The indigo market was characterized by a gradual rise in prices throughout the year—occasioned by the shortage of German stocks caused by the French occupation of the Ruhr. Increased arrivals from Switzerland, America, and Great Britain partly made up the deficiency. Business in most colors of aniline dyes is still largely controlled by Germans.

#### **Imports from the United States.**

The oriental import trade with the United States is gradually decreasing year by year, due largely to credit conditions under which the American article is sold and also to lack of interest in developing trade except in years when there is a surplus of goods. Germans and the British, on the other hand, need business to keep their factories going and are willing to make quotations in China at prices just sufficient to cover overhead at home. In dealing with the Chinese the German is more successful because he takes the trouble to cultivate them, the Britisher less so, and the American least of all. In many cases Germans ship goods on consignment, simply drawing on the importer for freight. In other cases they extend credits up to as much as a year and sometimes two years. Many British firms are shipping goods to China on what is known as documentary credit. The American manufacturer, on the other hand, almost without exception demands cash documents. The Chinese will always ask for credit from the foreign importing firm because of the high rates of interest—from 12 to 18 per cent—prevailing in China. There is a tendency, moreover, toward the elimination of the foreign middleman in the treaty ports, and, therefore, it is more than ever important to establish relations with native dealers.

#### **Agriculture and Mining.**

In the Tientsin consular district—comprising the Provinces of Chihli, Shansi, and Honan north of the Yellow River—the 1923 harvests were generally normal. An accurate estimate of the crop production, however, is not possible, because of the paucity of data concerning crops in China.

Interior cotton prices in all sections showed an advance of 20 to 30 per cent over last year's quotations. Crop conditions were very reassuring until the first shipments arriving from the interior were reported as of very poor quality, attributed to heavy rains. Still other cotton from other sections, suffered from the lack of rain. Notwithstanding the inferior quality, the increase of shipments into Tientsin exceeded that of any previous year, 468,000 piculs having been brought into the port under transit pass and 515,800 under



native customs documents. The number of bales received by the Tientsin Cotton Testing House—631,000 Chinese bales—was in excess of the number conditioned and retested in 1922—626,046—as well as that of provision years.

Stocks of cotton were very low at the end of 1922 and by June, 1923, they were almost exhausted. The Japanese earthquake brought merchants from that country into the market as heavy buyers. In addition, short cotton crops were reported in America. Prices, accordingly, went as high as 43 taels per picul. Chinese cotton dealers sold to Japanese buyers cotton which they had contracted for delivery to foreign firms.

There are no government figures for the 1923 mining output of the various Provinces. In Chihli Province 21 coal deposits were opened; at Ihsien and Laiyuan, 2 lead; and at Chien-an, 1 gold. Pottery earth of a superior grade was found in the district of Fangshen. One gypsum mine at Pingminghsien began operations.

The Kailan Mining Administration is the largest coal-mining enterprise in China. It is a Sino-British project, under British control and management, and produces bituminous coal. Its output in 1923 amounted to 4,495,962 long tons, compared with 3,660,090 in 1922. Sales increased from 2,988,133 tons in 1922 to 4,243,609 in 1923.

The business of the administration rapidly recovered from the strike which broke out in the mines and at the loading port of Chinwangtao during the autumn of 1922. As a result of the strike, the administration began an intensive study of problems concerning its employees. A welfare department was installed and a man especially acquainted with Chinese customs and characteristics was appointed to take charge of this work.

#### Transportation and Shipping.

There are only two railways into Tientsin from the principal districts concerned in the trade of the port—the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and the Peking-Mukden. These two lines, however, connect with the Peking-Suiyuan, Peking-Hankow, and the Cheng-Tai Railway, the last named tapping the Province of Shansi and connecting with the Peking-Hankow Railway at Shihchiachuang in central Chihli.

The Hai Ho, navigable as far as Tientsin, is the only river of the district which is open to ocean-going vessels. All of the streams, however, are of some importance in affording desirable facilities for trade.

October 29 the Tombs Bend cutting in the Hai Ho was opened, shortening the distance from Taku Bar to Tientsin by approximately 5,000 yards, and eliminating one of the most dangerous bends in the river. The speed of the river's flow was thus increased and, with the assistance of an ice breaker, it is now possible to keep the harbor free from ice during the entire winter—thus obviating the necessity of American manufacturers estimating their transshipments at Shanghai or Chinwangtao for materials consigned to points in North China during the months when the river is supposed to be frozen over.

The Hai Ho Conservancy Board has made considerable progress during the past year, increasing the signaling depth at Taku Bar from 8 feet 3 inches T. D. to 10 feet 3 inches T. D. It is expected that during 1924 as much as 20 feet will be recorded at Taku, that



18 feet will be normal, and that ships drawing 16 feet will be able to cross the bar at any time. The Chihli River Commission was appointed during the year for the purpose of studying that river system.

In November a fleet of six Chinese steamers started an irregular service between Tientsin and Kobe, carrying export bulk cargo in competition with Japanese steamers.

The tonnage entered and cleared for the port of Tientsin during 1923 aggregated 3,853,831 tons, representing 2,900 vessels, compared with 3,628,630 tons, in 2,812 vessels, during 1922—a gain of 225,201 tons and 88 vessels. The British took the lead from the Japanese with a tonnage of 1,220,741, representing a carrying trade to the value of 97,500,000 taels. Under the Japanese flag was transported a total of 1,202,564 tons, valued at 86,500,000 taels. The Chinese tonnage advanced from 650,194 in 1922 to 714,427 in 1923, the last year's figure representing 41,500,000 taels. The number of vessels under the American flag increased from 64 to 93, and the tonnage from 266,869 to 390,396, but the value decreased approximately 4,500,000 taels. Germany came fifth, with 48 vessels, carrying 207,844 tons, valued at 3,000,000 taels in 1923, compared with 20 vessels, aggregating 77,216 tons, worth 1,500,000 taels in 1922. The decline in markets for wool, cotton, and linseed accounted for the diminution of direct clearance by all countries except Japan.

As a result of the strike during the autumn of 1922, the administration began an intensive study of problems concerning its employees. A welfare department was installed and a man especially acquainted with Chinese customs and characteristics was appointed to take charge of this work.

#### Transportation and Shipping

There are only two railways into Tientsin from the principal districts concerned in the trade of the port—the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and the Peking-Mukden. These two lines, however, connect with the Peking-Suiyuan, Peking-Hankow, and the Cheng-Tai Railway, the last named tapping the Province of Shansi and connecting with the Peking-Hankow Railway at Shihchiang in central Chihli.

The Hai Ho, navigable as far as Tientsin, is the only river of the district which is open to ocean-going vessels. All of the streams, however, are of some importance in affording desirable facilities for trade.

October 29 the Tomba Bend cutting in the Hai Ho was opened, shortening the distance from Taku Bar to Tientsin by approximately 5,000 yards, and eliminating one of the most dangerous bends in the river. The speed of the river's flow was thus increased and, with the assistance of an ice breaker, it is now possible to keep the harbor free from ice during the entire winter—thus obviating the necessity of American manufacturers estimating their shipments at Shanghai or Chinwangtao for materials consigned to points in North China during the months when the river is supposed to be frozen over.

The Hai Ho Conservancy Board has made considerable progress during the past year, increasing the signaling depth at Taku Bar from 2 feet 3 inches T. D. to 10 feet 3 inches T. D. It is expected that during 1924 as much as 20 feet will be recorded at Taku, that



**Photomount  
Pamphlet  
Binder**  
**Gaylord Bros., Inc.**  
Makers  
**Syracuse, N. Y.**  
PAT. JAN 21, 1908

## Date Due

[illegible]



