

Japan.
Reports and Returns of Foreign Trade
1873.

1. Summary
2. Kanagawa
3. Yedo
4. Hiogo and Osaka
5. Nagasaki
6. Hakodate



SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1873.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1873.

The annexed Summaries furnish a general view of the trade of 1873 by a comparison with that of the previous year.

A.—A Statement giving the total value of the Import and Export Trade of each Port, and of all the Ports collectively—distinguishing, as far as it is possible to do so, between the direct Trade with Foreign Countries and the Local Trade between Japanese Ports;

B.—A Statement showing the values of the different staples Imported into, or Exported from each Port;

C.—A Return of the amount of Treasure Imported into, or Exported from the several Ports, and;

D.—A Return of British and of Foreign Shipping entered at the different Ports, distinguishing between ordinary vessels and Mail Steamers.

The great increase, both in Imports and Exports, which marked the Trade of 1872, is not observable in that of 1873, which was a year of great mercantile depression. Trade was confessedly overdone in the former year both in Imports and Exports, and the subsequent experience of 1873 proves that the power of Japan to consume foreign goods, is not equal to the sanguine expectations formed of it; that its ability to purchase Imports depends upon the sale of its own productions, which do not rapidly increase, and that the native growers must be content to part with the latter at more moderate rates, if they are to compete successfully with the produce of China.

Imports—The total Imports of the four Ports of Kanagawa, Hiogo-Osaka, Nagasaki and Hakodate are returned at \$27,444,068 in 1873 as against \$26,188,441 in 1872. These figures, if exact, would denote an improvement in the Trade of 1873 to the amount of \$1,255,627; but it is necessary to point out that this apparent increase is attributable to the manner in which the 1873 Returns for Hiogo-Osaka have been prepared. Local Trade (with the exception of the trifling amount of \$44,612) appears to have been included in the Direct Trade, and thus goods which have been sent from Kanagawa to Hiogo, have been entered in the Returns of that Port as Direct, instead of as Local Trade. The separation of the two would probably reduce by two millions of Dollars, or more, the figures which are now given as the Direct Trade of that Port, and would consequently, affect to a similar extent the aggregate of the Trade of all the Ports.

At Kanagawa the decrease on the year's Imports is given at \$527,367—those of 1872 having amounted to \$20,063,125, and those of 1873 to \$19,535,758. This depression told chiefly upon foreign manufactures. Thus cotton yarns fell from \$8,374,703 to \$6,913,961, being a decrease of \$1,460,742. Cotton and Woollen manufactures of all kinds fell from \$5,891,357 to \$5,151,784, the decrease being \$739,573. On the other hand the importations of foreign miscellaneous goods (including metals and arms) rose from \$3,695,804 in 1872, to \$5,295,522 in 1873—thus exhibiting an increase in this branch of the Trade, of \$1,599,718. The transactions in Eastern or Local Produce remained nearly the same in both years—\$2,174,762 in 1873, against \$2,101,261 in 1872.

For the reason mentioned above the Direct Trade of Hiogo-Osaka for the year 1870, cannot be distinguished from the Local Trade. The operations of the two years can therefore only be judged of by comparing the aggregate of the Direct and Local Trade for 1872 and 1873. This comparison gives the following result:

Total Trade of 1872.....	\$6,948,260
" " of 1873.....	\$6,310,211

Decrease in 1873 \$638,649

More than one third of this decrease can be traced to smaller importations of Eastern Produce; the remainder denotes a reduced consumption of foreign goods.

At Nagasaki the Imports fell from \$1,856,549 in 1872, to \$1,625,775 in 1873. The decrease of \$229,774 is limited to smaller importations of Miscellaneous foreign goods and Eastern Produce.

At Hakodate the direct Import Trade fell from the insignificant sum of \$21,988 in 1872 to \$15,936 in 1873. It should be observed, however, that most of the Trade of this Port, amounting, in 1873, to Imports \$49,414 and Exports \$589,403, passes through Kanagawa.

The Import Trade of the four Ports for the two years, 1873 and 1872, may be thus epitomized:

	1873.	1872.	Decrease in	1873.
Kanagawa ...	\$ 19,635,721...	\$ 20,063,125...	\$	527,367
Hiogo-Osaka \$	6,310,211...	6,948,860...	\$	638,649
Nagasaki ...	1,625,775...	1,856,549...	\$	229,774
Hakodate ...	15,936...	21,988...	\$	6,052
Totals ...	\$ 27,488,680 ..	\$28,890,522...	\$	1,401,842.

It should again be remarked that the figures returned above for Hiogo-Osaka, include the Local Trade, or Trade between the open Ports in Japan, and, consequently, that at least two millions should be deducted from those figures, and also from the Totals of the Trade of all the Ports, in estimating the Direct Trade, by which is meant Trade with Foreign Countries, as distinguished from Local Trade, or Trade between Japanese Ports.

Exports—In Exports the result is still more unfavourable, the Returns showing a Total in 1873 of \$20,660,944, as against \$24,294,532 in 1872—the decrease in 1873 being \$3,633,588. This difference, indeed, should be increased by \$1,152,473, as Mr. Consul Robertson, in his Report of the Trade of Kanagawa for 1873, points out that he underestimated, by the above amount, the value of the Silkworms' Eggs exported in 1872. Consequently the decrease in the Export Trade of 1873, as compared with that of 1872, is \$4,786,011.

This decrease has affected all the staple articles of export. Reviewing the total shipments for all the Ports, it will be seen that silk and silkworms' eggs—when the above remark as to the undervaluation of the latter article in 1872 is allowed for—show a decrease of \$271,314—the exports of 1872 being \$10,469,255 and those of 1873 \$10,197,941. Tea, which had risen in 1872 to \$5,445,538, fell in 1873 to \$4,398,711, the decrease being \$1,046,727. The minor articles of copper, tobacco, vegetable wax and

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1873.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR 1873.

The annexed Summaries furnish a general view of the trade of 1873 by a comparison with that of the previous year.

A.—A Statement giving the total value of the Import and Export Trade of each Port, and of all the Ports collectively—distinguishing, as far as it is possible to do so, between the direct Trade with Foreign Countries and the Local Trade between Japanese Ports ;

B.—A Statement showing the values of the different staples Imported into, or Exported from each Port ;

C.—A Return of the amount of Treasure Imported into, or Exported from the several Ports, and ;

D.—A Return of British and of Foreign Shipping entered at the different Ports, distinguishing between ordinary vessels and Mail Steamers.

The great increase, both in Imports and Exports, which marked the Trade of 1872, is not observable in that of 1873, which was a year of great mercantile depression. Trade was confessedly overdone in the former year both in Imports and Exports, and the subsequent experience of 1873 proves that the power of Japan to consume foreign goods, is not equal to the sanguine expectations formed of it ; that its ability to purchase Imports depends upon the sale of its own productions, which do not rapidly increase, and that the native growers must be content to part with the latter at more moderate rates, if they are to compete successfully with the produce of China.

Imports.—The total Imports of the four Ports of Kanagawa, Hiogo-Osaka, Nagasaki and Hakodate are returned at \$27,444,068 in 1873 as against \$26,188,441 in 1872. These figures, if exact, would denote an improvement in the Trade of 1873 to the amount of \$1,255,627 ; but it is necessary to point out that this apparent increase is attributable to the manner in which the 1873 Returns for Hiogo-Osaka have been prepared. Local Trade (with the exception of the trifling amount of \$44,612) appears to have been included in the Direct Trade, and thus goods which have been sent from Kanagawa to Hiogo, have been entered in the Returns of that Port as Direct, instead of as Local Trade. The separation of the two would probably reduce by two millions of Dollars, or more, the figures which are now given as the Direct Trade of that Port, and would consequently, affect to a similar extent the aggregate of the Trade of all the Ports.

At Kanagawa the decrease on the year's Imports is given at \$527,367—those of 1872 having amounted to \$20,063,125, and those of 1873 to \$19,535,758. This depression told chiefly upon foreign manufactures. Thus cotton yarns fell from \$8,374,703 to \$6,913,961, being a decrease of \$1,460,472. Cotton and Woollen manufactures of all kinds fell from \$5,891,357 to \$5,151,784, the decrease being \$739,573. On the other hand the importations of foreign miscellaneous goods (including metals and arms) rose from \$3,695,804 in 1872, to \$5,295,522 in 1873—thus exhibiting an increase in this branch of the Trade, of \$1,599,448. The transactions in Eastern or Local Produce remained nearly the same in both years—\$2,174,762 in 1873, against \$2,101,261 in 1872.

For the reason mentioned above the Direct Trade of Hiogo-Osaka for the year 1870, cannot be distinguished from the Local Trade. The operations of the two years can therefore only be judged of by comparing the aggregate of the Direct and Local Trade for 1872 and 1873. This comparison gives the following result :

Total Trade of 1872.....	\$6,948,260
„ „ of 1873.....	\$6,310,211

Decrease in 1873\$638,649

More than one third of this decrease can be traced to smaller importations of Eastern Produce ; the remainder denotes a reduced consumption of foreign goods.

At Nagasaki the Imports fell from \$1,856,549 in 1872, to \$1,623,775 in 1873. The decrease of \$229,774 is limited to smaller importations of Miscellaneous foreign goods and Eastern Produce.

At Hakodate the direct Import Trade fell from the insignificant sum of \$21,988 in 1872 to \$15,936 in 1873. It should be observed, however, that most of the Trade of this Port, amounting, in 1873, to Imports \$49,414 and Exports \$589,403, passes through Kanagawa.

The Import Trade of the four Ports for the two years, 1873 and 1872, may be thus epitomized :

	1873.	1872.	Decrease in 1873.
Kanagawa ...\$	19,635,721...	20,063,125...	527,367
Hiogo-Osaka \$	6,310,211...	6,948,860...	638,649
Nagasaki ...\$	1,623,775...	1,856,549...	229,774
Hakodate ...\$	15,936...	21,988...	6,052
Totals ...\$	27,488,680 ..	28,890,522...	1,401,842.

It should again be remarked that the figures returned above for Hiogo-Osaka, include the Local Trade, or Trade between the open Ports in Japan, and, consequently, that at least two millions should be deducted from those figures, and also from the Totals of the Trade of all the Ports, in estimating the Direct Trade, by which is meant Trade with Foreign Countries, as distinguished from Local Trade, or Trade between Japanese Ports.

Exports.—In Exports the result is still more unfavourable, the Returns showing a Total in 1873 of \$20,660,944, as against \$24,294,532 in 1872—the decrease in 1873 being \$3,633,538. This difference, indeed, should be increased by \$1,152,473, as Mr. Consul Robertson, in his Report of the Trade of Kanagawa for 1873, points out that he underestimated, by the above amount, the value of the Silkworms' Eggs exported in 1872. Consequently the decrease in the Export Trade of 1873, as compared with that of 1872, is \$4,786,011.

This decrease has affected all the staple articles of export. Reviewing the total shipments for all the Ports, it will be seen that silk and silkworms' eggs—when the above remark as to the undervaluation of the latter article in 1872 is allowed for—show a decrease of \$271,314—the exports of 1872 being \$10,469,255 and those of 1873 \$10,197,941. Tea, which had risen in 1872 to \$5,445,538, fell in 1873 to \$4,398,711, the decrease being \$1,046,727. The minor articles of copper, tobacco, vegetable wax and

camphor—the total value of which rose in 1872 to \$2,523,306, fell again in 1873 to \$1,489,040—decrease \$1,034,266. A slight advance of \$165,278 is observable in the value of coal exported, and an increase of \$142,872 in that of dried fish, which are in request in China, but other miscellaneous produce shows a diminution of \$140,632. The principal fall is in rice which was exported in 1872 to the value of \$3,122,931, and in 1873 to \$521,709, the decrease being \$2,601,222.

In judging of this circumstance it should be remembered that the large shipments of 1872 consisted of Government Rice, being the surplus of revenue paid in kind; and that, until July 1873, the exportation of Rice was prohibited to the people. At that date the Government, apparently convinced of the desirability of removing this burden on the principal industry of the country, allowed it to be exported by the growers. Before, however, a single season had elapsed, and therefore before time had been allowed for the measure to take effect throughout the country, the prohibition was re-imposed, and Japan continues therefore to be deprived of one important means which had long been looked for, of increasing her exports.

The prosperity of Japan and of her foreign trade may be said to depend upon her ability to increase the supply of those productions which are fitted for a foreign market. At present she possesses no accumulated wealth or capital, and pays for her Imports with the crops of the year. Seven or eight million dollars worth of Silk, and four or five million dollars worth of Tea form the bulk of the produce which she has at present to offer in exchange for foreign goods, and in these staples she has to compete with other countries, and notably with China, which supplies Silk to six times, and Tea to twelve times that amount. The Export of Silkworms' Eggs will rapidly decrease with the recovery of the Italian seed. Although the vegetable wax, camphor and tobacco of Japan are in request abroad, these commodities are produced in quantities too small, and in a manner too uncertain, to meet a standing demand of large extent. Japan may, or may not, be rich in mines, but the comparatively small amount of minerals yet brought to the surface, furnishes only a limited surplus for foreign export. Successful mining necessitates the employment of capital, which the Japanese do not possess, and also the employment of foreign skill, which, under the system of management at present pursued by the Japanese Government, implies economical failure.

The cultivation of Rice is probably therefore the most promising field of industry that the country possesses. Every peasant in Japan has a perfect knowledge of its culture, and would need no foreign aid in bringing under cultivation the large tracts of rich land which are now left untilled. It seems a pity that in this respect the native farmer should not be permitted to improve his condition, and that of his country, by being allowed to dispose of his produce in foreign as well as in home markets. The prohibition on the export of Rice deprives him of the opportunity of sending abroad any surplus crop, and he has no inducement, therefore, to grow more grain than he knows he can dispose of in his own country.

Another obstruction to the growth of Japanese commerce may be traced to the disposition of the Japanese to

indulge in speculative or shadowy schemes in the hope of becoming quickly rich, and in particular to the strong inclination which prevails among officials, and favoured traders, to run all commerce into the mould of guilds and monopolies. The Japanese merchant has yet to learn his trade, nor are his efforts likely to be successful, until he is allowed to do this in a free and open field, and until the nascent commerce of the country is relieved from the weight of the combinations and restrictions which at present choke its growth and impede enterprise.

It is satisfactory to notice that Mr. Consul Gower reports the opening of the Railway between Hiogo and Osaka, a distance of twenty miles. This section, combined with that between Yokohama and Yedo, makes thirty-eight miles of Railway which the Japanese Government have completed since railway works first commenced in 1870. As the passenger traffic, in the face of high rates, is very large, so large as to render the Government quite indifferent to the issue of season, or return tickets, it may be presumed that these two short lines, which are very well conducted, prove remunerative to the Government. In the matter, however, of Public Works of all descriptions the Government refrain from publishing any accounts, either of their progress or their cost, and therefore little is known, or can be learned, relative to this interesting subject of enquiry. Scantily provided as Japan is with navigable rivers, and as pack-horses or coolies form the only means of transport which the country possesses, the construction of ordinary roads suited to vehicles becomes a question of the first importance, which it is to be hoped will receive the serious attention of the Government. The experiment in road construction already made in Yezo is unfortunately confined to an unpopulated district, and cannot therefore be expected to answer commercially. Roads of a much smaller size and less costly character than the broad unfinished line which has been cut from Hakodate to Satsporo, if made in the cultivated and populous districts of the Empire, could not fail to increase very materially the productive power of the country.

Treasure.—The Return of Treasure shows an excess in the amount exported of very nearly Three millions of dollars. The balance of Trade which, in 1873, was against Japan to more than that amount, appears to have been met by shipments of native Gold *Yen*, which being nowhere current out of Japan as coin are unfortunately sent away as bullion only to be melted down, and all the cost of coinage is thus lost to the country.

Tonnage.—The Tonnage Returns for 1873 show an improvement on those of 1872. The British Tonnage increased from 204,077 tons to 234,459 tons; that of all other nations from 756,427 Tons to 804,948 tons. Of the latter amount not less than 674,718 tons belong to the fine steamers of the Pacific Mail Company. It should be remembered, however, that each Pacific Mail Steamer is entered twice at Yokohama on each round voyage out and home to San Francisco, and twice at Hiogo and twice at Nagasaki on each round voyage from Yokohama to Shanghai and back.

H. B. M.'s Legation, Yedo,
August, 1874.

A.—GENERAL SUMMARY OF FOREIGN TRADE WITH JAPAN, 1873.

DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

PORT.	1873.			1872.		
	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.	TOTAL.	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.	TOTAL.
Kanagawa	19,535,758	15,095,218	34,630,976	20,063,125	15,456,805	35,519,930
Hiogo and Osaka	6,265,599	3,116,035	9,381,634	4,246,779	5,678,224	9,925,003
Nagasaki	1,626,775	1,899,793	3,526,568	1,856,549	2,742,786	4,599,335
Hakodate	15,936	549,948	565,884	21,988	416,717	438,705
Total.....\$	27,444,068	20,660,994	48,105,062	26,188,441	24,294,532	50,482,973

LOCAL TRADE BETWEEN THE OPEN PORTS OF JAPAN.

PORT.	1873.			1872.		
	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.	TOTAL.	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.	TOTAL.
Kanagawa .....	...	No Returns.	...	...	No Returns.	...
Hiogo and Osaka	44,611	206,183	250,794	2,702,081	792,002	3,494,082
Nagasaki	181,867	99,142	281,009	72,749	203,172	275,919
Hakodate	33,478	39,455	72,933	233,695	259,536	493,231
Total.....\$	259,956	344,780	604,736	3,008,523	1,254,710	4,263,233

B.—SUMMARY OF IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

IMPORTS.

DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDISE.	KANAGAWA.	HIOGO AND OSAKA.	NAGASAKI.	HAKODATE.	TOTAL 1873.	TOTAL 1872.
	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Cotton Manufactures	6,913,961	2,430,568	448,959	...	9,793,488	10,065,155
Woollen do.	2,725,917	1,864,285	288,938	...	4,879,140	6,335,014
Mixed Cotton and Woollen ...	2,425,867	...	...	...	2,425,167	1,237,166
Metals	210,408	166,305	74,489	...	451,202	416,642
Arms and Ammunition	570,145	...	7,500	...	577,645	83,617
Miscellaneous, Foreign	4,514,698	1,310,072	354,321	...	6,452,884	4,689,927
Eastern Produce.....	2,174,762	494,369	460,062	15,936	2,863,842	3,360,920
Total\$	19,535,758	6,265,599	1,626,775	15,936	27,444,068	26,188,441

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk	7,050,656	114,825	...	...	7,165,481	7,353,623
Silkworm's Eggs	3,032,360	100	...	...	3,032,460	1,963,159
Tea	3,339,941	753,454	305,316	...	4,398,711	5,445,438
Copper (ore and slabs)	206,945	490,025	68,845	...	765,815	1,353,545
Tobacco	60,840	68,579	145,110	...	274,529	669,340
Wax (Vegetable)	1,820	257,494	118,356	...	377,670	347,542
Camphor	1,079	49,961	19,986	...	71,026	152,879
Coal	8,780	13,288	467,210	...	489,278	324,000
Dried Fish	86,377	151,224	268,982	209,816	716,399	573,527
Rice .....	...	515,571	6,138	...	521,709	3,122,931
Miscellaneous	1,306,420	701,514	499,850	340,132	2,847,916	2,988,548
Total\$	15,095,218	3,116,035	1,899,793	549,948	20,660,994	24,294,532

C.—TREASURE IMPORTED AND EXPORTED AT THE OPEN PORTS, DIRECT AND INDIRECT.

PORT.	FROM AND TO OTHER COUNTRIES.		FROM TO OPEN PORTS.		TOTAL 1873.	TOTAL 1872.
	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.		
Kanagawa	\$5,596,584	\$4,574,315	\$3,082,355	\$619,835	\$13,873,089	\$16,234,327
Hiogo and Osaka	4,006,765	8,392,244	...	...	12,399,009	14,274,329
Nagasaki	496,154	114,926	688,007	116,470	1,415,557	1,633,382
Hakodate .....	...	...	...	...	...	709,982
Total.....\$	10,099,503	13,081,485	3,770,362	736,305	27,687,655	32,852,020

D.—RETURN OF SHIPPING ENTERED AT ALL THE OPEN PORTS.
BRITISH.

PORT.	1873.		1872.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Kanagawa (General)	114	78,603	101	55,395
Do. (Mail steamers)	26	22,713	31	24,823
Hiogo and Osaka.....	109	74,081	127	84,648
Nagasaki.....	141	55,221	107	36,353
Hakodate	15	3,841	16	2,858
	405	234,459	382	204,077

FOREIGN.

FLAG.	KANAGAWA.		HIOGO AND OSAKA.		NAGASAKI.		HAKODATE.		TOTAL 1873		TOTAL 1872	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
American (General).....	26	10,441	8	3,817	56	33,000	7	1,114	97	48,372	69	54,265
Do. (Mail steamers) ..	112	269,418	100	185,716	96	179,682	26	39,902	334	674,718	293	629,136
French (General).....	2	915	5	2,852	2	1,000	...	...	9	4,767	20	11,767
Do. (Mail steamers) ...	27	26,901	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	26,901	28	27,000
German	29	12,607	27	10,353	26	5,017	5	1,345	87	29,322	78	25,056
Dutch .....	...	...	2	1,391	...	...	...	...	2	1,391	7	1,716
Belgian	2	1,170	1	585	...	...	...	...	3	1,755	...	...
Swedish and Norwegian ...	5	1,702	6	1,685	1	180	...	...	12	3,567	6	1,815
Danish	2	628	...	...	2	1,011	1	25	5	1,664	5	1,441
Russian	2	1,092	3	2,072	4	1,245	1	498	10	4,907	5	1,143
Hawaiian	1	330	3	720	...	...	...	...	4	1,050	7	1,962
Non-Treaty Powers .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chinese	2	1,174	7	5,360	...	...	...	...	9	6,534	2	1,126
Total	210	326,375	162	214,551	187	221,135	40	42,884	599	804,948	520	756,427

BRITISH LEGATION,
Yedo, August, 1874.

KANAGAWA.

1873.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR KANAGAWA FOR 1873.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Kanagawa, April 14th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honour to furnish you with a summary of the Trade for the year ended December 31st 1873 accompanied with the following Returns.

- Enclosure I.—Return of the Import Trade.
- Enclosure II.—Return of the Export Trade.
- Enclosure III.—Return of Shipping.
- Enclosure IV.—Return of Export and Import of Treasure.
- Enclosure V.—Return of duties collected.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The figures for 1873 shew as follows:

Imports	...	...	\$19,535,758
Exports	...	...	\$15,095,218

Total \$34,630,976

being \$523,040 in excess of 1872.

The following are comparative tables for the two years.

	1873.	1872.
Imports	\$19,535,758	\$20,063,125
Exports	15,095,218	14,044,811
	\$34,630,976	\$34,107,936

or to particularize

IMPORTS.		1873.	1872.
Cotton Manufactures	...	\$6,913,961	\$8,374,703
Woollen Manufactures	...	2,725,917	4,654,191
Mixed Cotton and Woollen	...	2,425,867	1,237,166
Arms and Ammunition	...	210,408	83,617
Metals	...	570,145	318,974
Miscellaneous, foreign	...	4,514,698	3,293,213
Miscellaneous, local	...	2,174,762	2,101,261
		19,535,758	20,063,125
EXPORTS.		1873.	1872.
Silk, Raw	...	\$7,050,656	\$7,178,500
Silkworm egg Cards	...	3,032,360	1,920,787
Tea	...	3,339,941	3,061,625
Copper	...	206,955	443,378
Miscellaneous	...	1,465,306	1,440,521
		15,095,218	14,044,811

In Imports, Cotton manufactures exhibit a decrease of	...	...	\$1,460,742
Woollens a decrease of	...	...	1,928,274
Mixed Cottons and Woollens an increase of	...	...	1,188,701
Arms and Ammunition	...	...	126,791
Metals	...	...	251,171
Miscellaneous foreign	...	...	1,221,485
Miscellaneous local	...	...	73,501

In Exports.

Silk shews a decrease of	...	...	\$127,844
Silkworm Egg Cards and increase of	...	...	1,111,573
Tea an increase of	...	...	278,316
Copper an increase of	...	...	236,423
Miscellaneous an increase of	...	...	24,785

It will thus be seen that the value of the import trade for 1873 falls short of that of 1872 by \$527,367. While the export trade for 1873 is in excess of that of 1872 by \$1,050,407. Shewing as before stated a total increase of \$523,040 in the value of the trade for 1873 over that of 1872.

Under the heading Cotton manufactures it appears that the trade in Grey Shirtings has kept very steady.

The figures of 1873 are rather in excess of those of 1872, but this is probably only owing to the fact that T. Cloths formed a separate item in the returns for 1872 and do not so appear in the tables for 1873.

There has been a considerably increased importation in Chintzes, Velvets, Turkey Reds, Muslins and Cambrics. This, however, may be accounted for by the stocks of most of these goods having been light at the end of 1872. Shipments to this during the past year have been considerably in excess of requirements and consequently business has been of an unprofitable character.

Cotton Yarn.—The large importation in 1872 which led to an accumulation of stock has certainly not been without its effects upon this staple, and the past year has been characterized by the supply being far in excess of the demand, leading to prices ruinous to importers.

In spite of the importation having fallen from 121,950 piculs in 1872 to 83,128 piculs in 1873, the stock is still more than ample for the requirements of the Japanese.

In Woollens there is a considerable falling off and Camlets once quite an important article under this heading have now dwindled down to comparative insignificance.

Flannel shews an import value of \$180,130 in 1873 as compared with \$1,284,160 in 1872. The excessive importation both of this article and of cloth in 1872 were initiated by too sanguine merchants both here and at home who conceived the idea that Japan would generally adopt European made garments. This however has proved to be a mistake for except at prices far below cost, the natives do not seem to be sufficiently wealthy to purchase. On such goods as these with the one exception of French Mousselines the losses incurred have been exceedingly heavy.

Blankets shew a diminution, for although this class of goods is much used by Japanese, competition amongst foreign merchants has rendered the trade in them unprofitable.

Under the heading Mixed Cottons and Woollens I have nothing particular to notice, except that a large increase is exhibited in Cotton and Woollen mixtures which may be partially accounted for from the probability that a large proportion of Orleans and Alpacas, the importation of which appears from the returns to have fallen off (but such I am assured by merchants is not the case), have been entered under this denomination.

As regards Metals I have to notice that Lead figures for a limited amount, but the trade in manufactured Iron has increased considerably, namely, from 58,891 piculs valued at \$285,982, imported in 1872 to 88,058 piculs and some odd cases valued at \$400,313 imported in 1873.

Pig Iron and Kentledge on the other hand shew a decline, the importation in 1873 only reaching 1048 piculs valued at \$1,351 against 10,381 piculs valued at \$23,357 imported in 1872. I cannot help thinking however that the difference in these figure is due more to the requirements of the Railways, Lighthouse, and docks at Yokoska than to any positive expansion of the trade.

The Imports of Arms, Ammunition and Accoutrements other than for purely departmental purposes is still on a reduced scale.

To go through the various items seriatim under the heading miscellaneous would result in no practical benefit. By far the larger part of the goods imported have left a considerable loss, and many now remain in godowns totally unsaleable.

Large importations of Kerosene oil have at times been made from America, and the trade though apparently unprofitable has largely increased.

On the whole the past year has, I am convinced, been a most unprofitable one for all merchants engaged in the import business.

The close of 1872 shewed a considerable increase in the consumption of many kinds of goods, especially Cotton and Woollen Mixtures, which for the most part were readily saleable at a fair profit. On the supposition that this demand would not only continue, but probably increase, orders for more goods were sent home which proved, however, to be far in excess of the requirements of the country.

The increase in the stock of French Mousselines consequent upon the excessive importation has been latterly a serious loss to importers.

While on this subject I cannot help mentioning that the French and German manufacturers seem to be running English manufacturers very hard in the production of certain goods specially adapted for this market. The clever and careful way in which patterns are imitated is an example well worthy of attention. The present position of the import trade of this port is far from healthy, and were it not that there are so few channels open for the employment of capital in other directions, I feel certain that many of our merchants would be glad to relinquish this branch of the trade altogether, except on commission for others.

The keen competition here, the facilities afforded by Banks, the easy system of financing at home, the want of sufficiently large markets to take off the enormous production of Lancashire and Yorkshire, all militate against the import trade being a successful one. Moreover, by means of the telegraph, though still in imperfect working order, goods for which there is any demand, or of which the stock is small, can be sent for and laid down in three and a half to four months, thus at once counteracting any benefit which in former days might have accrued in consequence of the length of voyage attendant upon sailing ships.

Indeed, it is not necessary to go to Europe for supplies, as on the least margin of profits being shewn China is only too ready to supply Yokohama with any goods she may have suitable for this market, Hongkong answering any demand for Yarn, whilst Shanghai soon responds to any enquiry for Shirtings.

I proceed to deal seriatim with some of the principal articles of export.

Silk.

The export for 1873 shews 11,869 piculs 48 catties valued at \$7,050,656 against 10,252 piculs valued at \$7,158,500 exported in 1872.

The year opened unfavourably for exporters. Highly discouraging news from the home markets, and the unwillingness of Japanese silk dealers to accept any reduction on the high closing prices of December almost put a stop to business. Prices were then ruling as follows:—

Maëbashi and Shinshiu :	Exc. at 4s. 6d.
Extra ...\$850 per picul	=31s. per lb.
Best.....\$750 to 790 per pel.	=29s. 3d. to 30s. 9d. per lb.
Medium \$680 to 720	„ =26s. 9d. to 28s. 3d. „
Inferior \$600 to 660	„ =23s. 9d. to 26s. 0d. „

Quotations for Oshiu as under were purely nominal:—

Extra ...\$820 per picul	=31s. 9d. per lb.
Best.. ...\$770 to 790 per pel.	=30s. 1d. to 30s. 9d. per lb.
Medium \$720 to 750	„ =28s. 3d. to 29s. 3d. „
Inferior \$680 to 700	„ =26s. 9d. to 27s. 6d. „
Hamatszke\$640 to 680	„ =25s. 3d. to 26s. 9d. „

Towards the end of February the largest native holders commenced to consign to Europe for own account rather than accept the lower prices offered by exporters, and consignments were continued until near the close of the season.

Prices then gave way to the extent of thirty dollars per picul, and afterwards remained steady until close upon the arrival of the new silk when a further decline of twenty dollars per picul took place.

The opening prices of the new season's silk were:—

Maëbashi and Shinshiu :	Exc. at 4s. 6½d.
Medium \$580 to \$600 per picul	=23s. 7d. to 24s. 4d. per lb.
Inferior \$550 per picul	=22s. 4d. per lb. do.

but afterwards gradually fell until the lowest point was reached in September, namely:—

Maëbashi and Shinshiu :	Exc. at 4s. 4d.
Good ...\$600 to 640 per pel.	=23s. 2d. to 24s. 8d. per lb.
Medium \$550 to 580	„ =21s. 4d. to 22s. 6d. „
Inferior \$490 to 530	„ =19s. 0d. to 20s. 6d. „

Oshiu :	
Good ...\$550 to 600 per pel.	=21s. 3d. to 23s. 2d. per lb.
Hamatszke \$480 per picul	=18s. 8d. per lb.

So far silk shipments had been fairly profitable to exporters, the new Maëbashi of fine size being well liked in Europe and freely bought by manufacturers in place of Italian silks at a much lower cost. Prices were soon influenced here by the favourable out-turn of early shipments, and rapidly advanced until in December the highest prices were paid. Quotations at the close of the year were:—

Maëbashi and Shinshiu :	Exc. at 4s. 3½d.
Extra ...\$710 to 740 per pel.	=27s. 4d. to 28s. 0d. per lb.
Best.....\$680 to 700	„ =25s. 10d. to 26s. 7d. „
Good ...\$640 to 660	„ =24s. 5d. to 25s. 2d. „
Medium \$600 to 620	„ =23s. 0d. to 23s. 8d. „
Inferior \$550	„ =21s. 3d. „

Oshiu :	
Best ....\$680 to 700 per pel.	=25s. 10d. to 26s. 7d. per lb.
Good ...\$630 to 660	„ =24s. 1d. to 25s. 2d. „
Medium \$550 to 600	„ =21s. 2d. to 23s. 0d. „
H'tszke \$480 to 510	„ =18s. 8d. to 19s. 7d. „

Upon the whole the business of the year must be considered as highly unsatisfactory to silk exporters, for the results of shipments made during the first half year were disastrous in the extreme, and the profits of the new silk will in no way compensate for prior losses. Heavy shipments moreover were made from here at the high prices established in October and current until the end of December. These shipments reach falling markets in Europe with a general depression of the silk trade quite without precedent.

Much has been written on the mode of preparing Japanese silk for the market, but as the subject is an interesting one and is constantly developing new phases, I do not hesitate to devote a few lines to it. Cocoons are availed of for two purposes, that is, either for the reproduction of seed or for reeling into silk. In the case of the former care is taken to preserve the chrysalis, and the cocoons are carefully stored in a place of safety. When it is intended to use the cocoons for silk they are dried in the sun. Two or three exposures will ensure the destruction of the chrysalis, and thus prevent the egress of either *uji* or butterfly. The mode of drying generally in use amongst the Japanese is by exposure to the sun's rays, though drying either by artificial heat or steam is not unknown. If dried in the sun the cocoons should be left till after sunset

and until they are slightly moist with dew. If taken in when hot from the effects of the sun, it tends to make the silk brittle and difficulties will be experienced in reeling. With a climate of pretty equable temperature, say 70 Fahret. the worm takes seven or eight days to change into the grub; if the cocoons are picked off the spinning beds too soon, in fact before the change is perfectly effected, it results that when the cocoons are undergoing the drying process the feet of the silk worm are entangled in the cocoon fibre and the silk is consequently damaged. It is a mistake to keep cocoons too long after they are dried: the fresher the cocoons the better the silk; the thread, too, is more easily reeled and the silk will be heavier. About 10 days after the worm has spun its cocoon, the chrysalis has changed into a butterfly or developed an "Uji," and makes its egress by eating through the cocoon fibre. If the cocoon is intended for silk great care is taken to preserve it from injury of any kind. When the cocoons are eight or nine days old they are placed on baskets and laid out in the sun to dry. Two day's drying will effectually kill the chrysalis, and the cocoons are then placed where a draught can play freely on them. If it is intended to steam them they are placed in a basket steamer, specially made for this purpose, over a cauldron of hot water. Two or three mulberry leaves are put in the basket with the cocoons and the whole is then covered with a stout wrapping paper. So soon as the mulberry leaves have completely changed color the chrysalis may be reckoned on as killed. Another plan is to place a large box with a series of drawers or shelves over a fire. At the bottom of each drawer a layer of thick paper is placed and on this the cocoons are laid. Two or three mulberry leaves are then put into each drawer. The drawer should be constantly shifted so that each may receive the same amount of heat; when the leaves pulverize to the touch the killing process is looked upon as effected.

The water in which the cocoons are immersed prior to reeling is the best and purest that can be obtained, and however good of its kind is generally filtered before use. If ordinary well water or water in the least degree tinged with mud is used the thread is apt to lose in weight and natural gloss.

Silk is reeled either by hand or machinery. The latter has been brought to bear recently upon the industry in question, but hand reeling is most in vogue and has been so from time immemorial. Hand-reeling is carried out in the following fashion.

About 8½ lbs. weight of cocoons are taken, and these are divided into thirty parts: one portion is put into boiling water and the thread reeled off first from five or six cocoons increasing to seven or eight. This number will turn out the best silk; for medium and inferior silk 8, 9 to 10 or 12 cocoons are used. A small ring made either of horse hair or human hair is attached to the edge of the basin containing the cocoons and the hot water. The thread is run through this ring and then passed in and out of the first and second fingers of the left hand, the right hand meanwhile turning the handle of the reel. Japanese seem to think that by the hand process greater evenness of thread and an absence of impurities is obtained than by machinery. Cocoons are easily reeled at first, but the process gradually becomes a matter of difficulty and requires a careful and expert hand.

The alleged superiority of hand-reeled silk to that turned out by machinery is combated by the fact that the latter commands a far higher price in the Yokohama market than the former, and the large outlay that has been made on the establishment at Tomioka, where silk is reeled by machinery under foreign supervision, not to mention other establishments in Yedo and elsewhere, tends to confirm the success achieved over hand-reeling.

Silk-worm Egg Cards.

Exported in 1873 1,409,537 cards valued at \$3,032,360 against 1,280,525 cards valued at \$1,920,787 exported in 1872. I am inclined to think however that the valuation placed by me on the export for 1872 was too low, namely \$1.50 per card, and that \$2.40 would have been a fairer valuation thus giving \$3,073,260 as the value of the export for that year.

The market opened later than in any previous year, the

first purchases being made in the beginning of October. Although at first buyers were by no means prepared to pay the high prices asked by Japanese, still as it became known that the export would be restricted (owing to Government legislation in that direction) to about 1,250,000 to 1,300,000 cards, and as the season was very far advanced without any purchases having been effected buyers were obliged to give in and sellers obtained almost the prices asked.

One of the most notable features of the market was the great demand for cards from the district of Shimamura in Joshu. This seed, it seems, is not so much affected by the changes of temperature and hatches well even in unfavorable seasons when the more delicate kinds from Shinshu and Oshu have given poor results. The quantity of Shimamura cards available for export was only 30,000, and these were immediately bought up on arrival at \$3.80 to \$4.15 per card. Cards from Yonezawa were also much in request at \$3.30 to \$3.50.

By the end of October settlements had reached to 950,000, the average cost of these being fully as high as that of the preceeding years. Prices after the departure of the cargo for Europe at once fell 75 cents, and continued steadily to decline until the close of the season when inferior cards were to be had at 75 cents to \$1.50. Notwithstanding the strong measures taken by the Government to prevent the sale of cards intended for home use, about 100,000 found their way to Yedo and were bought there at from 50 cents to \$1.

It was evident from this that the quantity set apart for home use was by far in excess of requirements. These low prices brought the average cost of the season's cards down to about \$2.20, whereas the average of the previous year was, I think, higher as above stated.

The rearing of silkworms has always received great attention at the hands of the Japanese, and has now attained to a high degree of perfection. The commencement of the season varies in the different parts of the country, according as the temperature happens to be high or low. Where the climate has a pretty equable temperature the silkworm egg cards are taken out of store about the beginning of April and hung up in some quiet nook of the house. After the lapse of twenty-two or twenty-three days the worms will appear; they are carefully watched and paper is wrapped round the cards which are now placed in a basket tray. They are looked at every morning and brushed off lightly with a feather fan on to another piece of paper. Mulberry leaves are then taken, cut very fine, and well sifted, tossed so as to get rid of leaf fibre, and then mixed with a certain proportion of millet bran. With this the worms are fed. Fresh paper is wrapped round the cards, and this course is pursued for three days when all the worms will be out. The paper with the worms on it is then placed on clean basket trays over a layer of matting. The worms are fed about five times a day. After three days the paper is removed and the worms are transferred to matting. This stage is known as the *kami nuki*. One card will probably multiply itself sixty times so far as the number of worms goes. As a rule about ten days elapse before the first sleep is entered upon, but this depends upon the temperature. When the worms are observed to be preparing for the first sleep they are sprinkled with millet bran and covered with a net, mulberry leaves being placed over the net. After a couple of hours the net is raised, and the worms brought away with the mulberry leaves to which they will have attached themselves. They are then placed in a fresh basket tray, and the one from which they have been taken is well cleaned. When the worms have roused themselves from the first sleep they are sprinkled with rice bran and covered with a net as before, after which they are shifted to a fresh basket. The same course is pursued when the worms go through the second and third sleep, but for the fourth sleep the net is not used. The period that elapses between the second, third, and fourth sleeps is from six to seven days at each stage. Much attention is paid to cleanliness, as neglect in this respect exposes the worm to disease. Mulberry leaves are given with an unsparing hand, the leaves being chopped coarser and coarser as the worms grow in size. Sieves of different sizes are used so as to meet the feeding requirements with fine or coarse leaves. As a rule the

worms are fed five times a day, but in hot weather when the leaves are apt to get dry, they are given as often as eight or more times in a day; in cool weather the leaves are given perhaps only three times, but with no reduction in the actual quantity. The leaves are measured out with great nicety. An important feature in the rearing of silk worms is the giving the proper quantity of food, and neither overfeeding nor, on the contrary, starving the worms. After the fourth sleep the leaves are given whole. The worms have now attained full size and soon cease feeding altogether. When they are observed to be seeking for a place to spin in, the best are picked out and placed on the *mabushi*, a contrivance made either of straw or light twigs, and intended to facilitate the spinning of the cocoons. The cocoons are spun in three days. Those selected for silk are dried in the manner before described, either in the sun or by artificial heat, or by steam. If the reproduction of eggs is desired the cocoons are ranged in baskets. After thirteen or fourteen days the chrysalis will have changed into a moth and will emerge from the cocoons. The male and female moths are then mated. About 100, 120, or 130 female moths are then placed on a card which is surrounded with a frame work of oiled or varnished wood so as to prevent the moths from escaping off the card. In a very short space of time, say about twelve hours, the card will be covered with eggs. Strings are then run through the cards, which are strung up in some quiet corner. In autumn they are stowed away in boxes, and so left until the following spring.

The great thing to guard against is disease, so that careful watching of the worms day and night is most essential. If the weather is exceptionally hot, then the worms are kept cool, if on the other hand, cold, then proper warmth is looked after.

There are several varieties of the mulberry. Exposed and open ground is generally selected for a plantation, with a stream near at hand. The ground is always well drained. With worms intended for reproduction more than ordinary care is exercised in the selection of leaves for their food. The mulberry trees known as *Ichibei* (an early kind) *Yotsu me* and *Awo-jiku* (late kinds) are most fancied. Yonezawa in Dewa, Yanagawa in Oshiu, Uyeda in Shinshiu, and Shimamura in Jōshiu are celebrated for their Silk-worm eggs. The provinces of Oshiu, Dewa, Koshiu, Shinshiu, and Jōshiu have the best reputation for silk. Shimonita and Ōmana in Jōshiu have also a high name, and so too have Maebashi and Takasaki in Jōshiu. According to native returns 193,500 cards were produced in Oshiu in 1872, of which 116,680 are said to have been exported to foreign countries.

Tea.—Exported in 1873 11,339,466 lbs. valued at \$3,339,941, against, exported in 1872, 11,663,333 lbs. valued at \$3,061,625. The following prices were ruling at the commencement of 1873:—

Common.....	\$23 to \$24	per picul.
Good Common.....	\$25 to \$27	”
Medium.....	\$29 to \$32	”
Good Medium.....	\$35 to \$37	”
Fine.....	\$35 to \$37	”
Finest.....	\$38 to \$40	”
Choice	\$42 to \$45	”

The highest prices paid for new Teas in May 1873 at the commencement of the tea season were \$50 to \$60, and \$65 to \$75 per picul respectively.

Tea is said to have been first introduced into Japan from China in the year 782, but it did not come into universal use until 1190. A few words on its culture. The districts which have a reputation for the best tea are those of Uji, Daigo, and Togano situated in Yamashiro. Suruga in Omi takes next rank, but the shrub is very generally grown throughout the Empire. The ground best adapted for its cultivation exhibits a reddish soil, mixed with small stones, open to the South and East but shut in from the North and West. Plantations are situated in warm but yet temperate climates. The plant blossoms late in autumn, and the nut or seed follows the flower. These nuts however do not ripen until the winter of the ensuing year. When ripe the nut bursts, and the seed falls to the ground. This is known as the “Ochiko” and is reckoned the best for sowing. It is then placed in bags and stored. The

seeds are sown in the course of the last month of the year. Patches of ground measuring six feet square are marked out. These are divided off in three parts in each of which holes of little over a foot in diameter are dug. Manure is used, and after the lapse of two days a small quantity of seed is sown in each hole; about an inch of light soil is then sprinkled over the seed. The seedlings will shew up early in summer. In the ensuing year the seedlings are carefully protected from the cold. In the second year liquid manure is applied, but solid manure is not used until the third year. If the plantation is a very good one the leaves are picked immediately after the third year. The time for picking depends upon the temperature of the season, but the most fitting time is when the shrub is in what is known as the three-leaf-stage, and when summer has well set in. This picking makes the best tea. When four or more leaves appear they are somewhat dry in consistency and make inferior tea. Choosing a fine bright day the women and children in the tea growing districts get together each with basket in hand and set to work picking. The best leaves forming first class tea are plucked, and after thirty days comes the second picking for medium teas.

The leaves are taken to the houses and boiling water got ready in a range of cauldrons filled with water to 5-10ths of their capacity. About half a pound of leaves are then placed in each steamer over these cauldrons, a lid is placed on the steamer, and the leaves are thus steamed for a brief period, then taken off spread on matting and cooled with a fan. They are then removed to the firing pan, tossed and rubbed rapidly to and fro with the hands until the steam has dried off. They are then shifted to a pan placed over a light fire, where having been left for one night they will be found to be completely dried. The leaves are then passed through a sieve to get rid of the stalks and a rough cleaning process is gone through to remove conspicuous impurities, after which they are again carefully sifted. The sieves are made of different sizes, each of a successive grade adapted to every stage of sorting from rough to fine. They are classified into 1st, 2nd and 3rd class, and an expert is employed who parcels out the leaves into good, medium and inferior. When this has been done the tea is again fired, cooled, and placed either in cedar wood boxes or packed up in matting, and is now ready for transmission to different parts of the country, or it is placed in jars with the lids carefully secured so as to exclude all air. For storage a well ventilated place is selected, damp being very injurious to tea. When sudden changes take place in the temperature, as is not unfrequently the case at all seasons of the year, the leaves are taken out and refired so as to ensure their retaining full colour and flavour.

“Powder tea” is esteemed a great luxury by Japanese, and although coming from the same seed as ordinary tea is cultivated in a different manner thus developing a leaf different in consistency and flavour. This tea of two kinds known as “Koicha,” and “Usucha” is made from very old shrubs selected from the best grounds or plantations. These shrubs are very freely manured, some ten times in the year for “Koicha” and some six times for “Usucha.” About the end of March or beginning of April, these shrubs are surrounded on all sides, in addition to being covered with a bamboo screen work so as to protect from frost. This screen work is removed when summer is well set in. When the leaves have been picked, they are steamed for about half a minute, spread out on matting and cooled. Then follows the same process as with ordinary tea, namely, firing first over a quick and then over a slow fire, the only difference being that the leaves are turned about with a stick and not with the hand. When about half dried the leaves are placed on trays and dried gradually before a light fire after which they are passed through bamboo sieves; finally they are spread out on sheets of paper, each leaf being picked out singly. Great care is shewn in the mode of storage of this particular kind of tea. The leaves are placed in tin or white metal jars, which again are enclosed in wooden boxes and packed with a certain quantity of common leaf. This preserves the scent and flavor for a long time. When about to use for drinking a sufficient quantity is taken out of the metal jar placed in a small hand tea-mill and slowly ground into a very fine powder,

The powder is then removed with a feather and placed in an air-tight jar. Boiling water is then got ready and when just at boiling point about one quarter of an ounce of tea powder is put into a tea cup and boiling water poured on to suit taste. The whole is then rapidly stirred with a bamboo stick especially made for the purpose until a good froth is produced. The tea should then be drunk. Much ceremony is observed in the drinking of this particular tea.

Tobacco.—8071.57 piculs valued at \$60,840 exported in 1873 against 2,821 piculs valued at \$22,568 exported in 1872.

According to a native authority tobacco was introduced into Japan in the year 1605, and was first planted at Nagasaki in Hizen. It is now very generally grown throughout the country. Japanese give the following description of its mode of culture.

In those provinces where a high degree of temperature prevails the plant lives throughout the winter, but it is nevertheless customary to sow fresh seed in the early spring of each successive year. The plants appear in due time and by the third month of the year have attained a height of five or six inches. In the sixth month they will have grown to some six feet with a full round stem. The leaves are long and pointed, about one foot in length and completely envelop the stalk. Both stem and leaf are covered with a fine hairy substance. In Autumn a great number of flowers spring from the tip of the stem. These are about an inch in length and of a pale purple tint. To these succeed small round seeds inside of which are three small chambers containing a great number of light red seeds. The leaves differ in form in different provinces, some being round and wide, others narrow and pointed, and others thick and long. The first kind are produced in Osumi, Satsuma, Iyo, and Awa; the second in Kodziki and Satsu. The mode of cultivation also varies in the different provinces. In Osumi, Satsuma, Hiuga, Iyo and Kadzusa, the seed is sown late in autumn and transplanted in the spring of the ensuing year, while in other places the seed is sown in early spring and transplanted a little later on. The sowing and transplanting are however dependant on the temperature of the locality, and each place follows its own customs.

In Awa, where a great deal of tobacco is grown the seed is sown in early spring in fields well exposed to the sun and duly prepared for its reception. Well sifted stable manure is strewn over the field and the seedlings appear after the lapse of about twenty days. The old manure is then swept away and liquid manure applied from time to time. If the plants are too dense they are thinned out. The larger plants are now planted out into fields well prepared for the purpose in rows with about eight inches space between each plant, the furrows between each row being about two feet wide. They are again well sprinkled with liquid manure, also with the lees of oil at intervals of about seven days. A covering of wheat or millet bran is now laid over the furrows.

The bitter taste of the leaf is in a measure an effectual safeguard against the ravages of insects, but the leaves are nevertheless carefully tended to prevent damage from such cause. If the reproduction from seed is not desired the flowers should be cut off and the stem pruned down, otherwise the leaves will lose in scent and flavour. In Osumi exceptional attention is paid to the cultivation of the tobacco plant. The lees of oil if liberally used, and stable manure sparsely applied have great effect on the plant producing a small leaf with an excellent flavour, while if the opposite course is followed the leaves grow to an immense size but are very inferior in taste. The manuring of tobacco differs from that of other plants in that manure is plentifully applied both to the roots and leaves.

Gathering the leaves. In the height of summer when the flowers are of a light tint, two or three of the leaves nearest the root are gathered. These are called first leaves but produce Tobacco of second quality. After the lapse of a fortnight the leaves are gathered by twos, and from these the best tobacco is produced. Any remaining leaves are afterwards broken off along with the stem and dried. These form the lowest quality of tobacco. After gathering, the leaves are arranged in regular layers and cover-

ed with straw matting which is removed in a couple of days. The leaves are now of a light yellow colour. They are then fastened by the stem in twos and threes to a rope slung in a smoke room, and after being so left for 14 or 15 days, they are dried for two or three days in the sun, after which they are exposed for a couple of nights in order that they may be moistened with dew. They are then smoothed out and arranged in layers, the stems being fastened together, pressed down with boards and packed away in a dark room.

Chopping the leaves. Any sand adhering to the leaves is removed with a brush. The stems having been cut off, the leaves are rolled round, firmly pressed down with a thin board, and cut exactly in the centre. The two halves are then placed one on top of each other in such manner that the edges exactly correspond, and being in this position firmly compressed between two boards they are cut into fine strips, the degree of fineness depending on the skill of the cutter. A machine made of hard wood but with the vital parts of iron is used by some persons for this purpose. This machine was devised about sixty years ago by a skilful Yedo mechanic, the idea being taken from those used in Osaka and Kiyoto for cutting thread used for weaving into silk embroidery. Since then numerous improvements have been made in it, and it is now extremely well adapted for the economization of labour. Another machine was invented about eight years since also by a Yedo mechanic. It is smaller than the first mentioned, but being very easily worked is much in use. Tobacco is sometimes cut in the following crude manner. The leaves are piled one on top of the other, tightly compressed into the consistency of a board and then cut into shavings with a carpenter's plane. This is, however, about the worst method, and even the best tobacco if treated in such fashion loses its flavor and valuable qualities.

I append the following table shewing the provinces where the best, medium, and inferior tobaccos are grown. Dividing them into classes they stand as follows:—

- First-class Leaf.
 - Ōsumi, Kodzuke, Satsuma, Setsu, Musashi, Tamba, Kadzusa.
- Second-class.
 - Sagami, Shinano, Nagato, Hizen, Hibachi, Shimodzuke.
- Third-class.
 - Awa, Tajima, Bishiu, Ōmi, Tango, Iwaki, Iwashiro.

Wax, Vegetable and Bee's.

The export of this from Kanagawa has never attained to any very high figure. The returns for 1873 shew only. :—

Vegetable Wax, 150 piculs valued at \$1,820. Bees Wax, 8 piculs and 25 catties valued at \$101.

In 1872 the export of Vegetable Wax was 418 piculs valued at \$6,270, but at Kobe and Nagasaki it figures with some prominence amongst the export returns.

The trees from which wax is made are the *urushi* or lacquer tree, the *yama-urushi*, the *hage-urushi* (the last mentioned better known as the *rô-no-ki*) and the *ko-ga-no-ki*. The wax is made from the rind of the fruit. In places where wax is manufactured to any great extent, the *urushi* is not availed of for its lacquer. As the trees are not cut for several years they may be seen in the wax producing districts growing to a height of 35 or 40 feet. In districts where the trees are used for their lacquer or varnish they are cut every seven or ten years. The mode of obtaining wax from the *urushi* or lacquer tree is as follows.

Late in the autumn the branches, heavy with fruit, are lopped off and taken into the house. The fruit is pounded up with a pestle, and then shaken in a basket-sieve so as to separate seed from rind. From this rind the wax is made. The mode of ex-pressing it differs here and there but in no very important particulars. The following brief description is taken from the mode as followed out in Sendai and Aidzu. Boiling water is got ready in an iron cauldron over which a lattice works of sticks is placed, and on these some matting. The sifted rinds of the fruit are then laid out on the matting and steamed, after which they are placed in hempen bags and again steamed. The bag with its contents is then put in a wooden trough, wedges or blocks are inserted in the

trough and driven home on to the bag with heavy blows from a mallet. An aperture at the bottom of the trough provides for the egress of the wax. The trough and wedges are made of *kiaki* wood, and the mallets and blocks of wild mulberry, a very hard wood and well suited to the purpose. A small quantity of oil, in the proportion of about 1/10th is added to the wax, to allow of its being expressed more easily. It then goes through another steaming process and is again pounded in the trough.

Wax from the *yama urushi* or wild lacquer tree is obtained thus. The fruit is collected at the latter end of summer and is at once steamed without being pounded with a pestle as is the case with the *urushi* wax. The wax is purified by melting. A large tub of cold water is taken and placed under a wooden tank having a small aperture close to the bottom. The melted wax is then poured into this tank and escapes through the aperture into the tub beneath, while doing so it is stirred rapidly with the hand, after which it is placed either in matting or shallow boxes and dried in the open air for about 15 days.

The *hage-urushi*, from which wax is largely obtained, grows in the south-western of the Empire. This tree was first brought from the Loochoo Islands to Sakurajima, an island near Satsuma. Its production has so increased that there are now no less than seven different species, *Marumi*, *Yasutomi*, *Inotsume*, *Ogawa*, *Tanaka*, *Fukiange*, *Matsuyama*, the last mentioned being regarded as the best. The *hage-urushi* tree is raised from seed or from slips. *Koga* wax is made from the fruit of the *koga* tree which differs from the *urushi* and *hage-urushi* trees. It is an ever-green and is largely grown in Otsugōri in the northern part of Nagato. It flowers in the middle of summer, the fruit ripening in autumn when it is plucked and soaked in water for four or five days, after which it is trodden out with the feet, thus separating the outer rind. The *koga* wax contains a large proportion of natural oil which in a measure restricts its use to cold and temperate districts. Candles made of it show a very bright light, and if some contrivance could be hit upon for extracting the oil, the consumption of this wax would be increased, as it is very cheap compared with the other kinds. Refuse wax is used for manuring purposes.

Bee's wax is obtained in this way. After the honey has been taken from the comb the latter is put into boiling water, and allowing to simmer. It soon dissolves and floats to the surface. A wire net work with raised sides is then inserted in the boiler and pressed down, thus causing the wax to rise through and above the net, the refuse part of the comb remaining at the bottom. The wax is taken out and placed in cold water where it soon hardens. It is then lumped together and again melted, after which it is placed in moulds and is now ready for the market. The amount of wax obtainable from a comb is equal to about one third of the weight. Wax is also made from the combs of insects which build on the Ibōta tree. This wax is of the purest white, and is prepared in the same way as bee's wax.

Hemp.

Japan is known to produce hemp of the finest quality, but it has as yet found no market out of the country. It can only be laid down in England at so high a price as to effectually shut it out from competition with Manilla hemp, the latter well answering all the purposes to which coarser hemp is applied—namely, cordage and sail cloth. Hempen cloths are freely used by the Japanese, and it is not improbable that before long machinery may be brought to bear upon this industry. I proceed to give a brief account of its culture and preparation in this country.

Hemp grows wild throughout Japan, but care is more especially given to its preparation in the Northern Districts, where it is made up into piece goods known as *Echigo Chijimi*, *Echigo Jōfu*, *Yonegawa Chijimi*, etc. The plant is perennial and attains to a growth of six feet and upwards; the stem is covered with a short hairy substance; the leaves are heart shaped with a sharp point; the surface of the leaf bluish in color and the back white; both sides are furry and rough to the touch. In the summer small sprouts of about two or three inches in length appear at the point where the leaves join the stem. These throw out blossoms which develop into small white flowers, the female flowers being next the leaf, the male

next the stalk. There are three descriptions of the plant, one called *Akagin*, a second *Shiragin*, and a third *Shirappa*. The last named has a much whiter leaf than the two former. There is no very material difference in the quality of the three plants, but such as may exist depends on the amount of care bestowed on the cultivation. The plant being a perennial there is no occasion to sow seed, propagation being carried on by means of shoots taken from the roots. The proper time for doing this is in autumn when the shoots are planted out at a distance of three feet apart. Notwithstanding this space between the plants the ground is completely covered in a very short time. The new plants are not fit for use until after a three year's growth. They are generally protected with a fencing, and the ground is kept free from weeds and creepers. The best plant grows very straight with the leaves at regular intervals. The inferior kinds grow crooked and bear a great number of leaves. The fibre is obtained in the following manner.

When the summer has set in the plantation is fired, after which the ground is well prepared with manure and so left till the close of summer, when the shoots will have attained their full height. They are then cut and soaked in running water for about four hours. After immersion the stalks are broken in about three places thus separating the rind from the pith. In the interstice thus made the thumb of the left hand is inserted and the stalks shredded. The shredded parts are then placed in layers. They are now laid out on a board set up with a foot piece at one end so as to make an inclined plane. A small edged tool is then grasped in the right hand, the shreds being firmly held down with the left and the inner white coating is then scraped off. The shreds are now hung on a frame, after which they are again placed on the board and this time the outer green pith is scraped off. The fibre is now tied together in bundles and dried. This scraping or stripping of the outer green peel requires much deftness and is only done by an experienced hand. Only one day is occupied in doing the above, so that a man cuts just as much and no more than he can get through in the day's work. When the fibre has been tied together in bundles it is hung up to dry and carefully guarded from wet. This dried fibre is woven into cloth and all kinds of piece goods. The coarser kinds are also made into an inferior description of cloth very brown in color and known as *Akari momen*. The outer green bark or peel is also dried, macerated and made into paper pulp, used for the coarsest kinds of papers. It is sometimes used in its dried state by the poorer classes as a stuffing for mattresses. The best of the outer or surface fibre is also made up into material very strong in texture and of a mouse color known as *Kara hagi momen*. The pith, or what is left after obtaining the fibre, is utilized in finishing off the thatch of houses.

A man well up in the cultivation of hemp will raise 130 lbs. of hemp from a piece of ground measuring 30 tsubos (a tsubo being six feet square) but the average production is about eighty-five pounds for the same measurement of ground.

Rice.

The prohibition on the export of rice has ceased to exist, its free export having been declared by Government order dated July 15th 1873. The Custom House Returns for the year give the export of rice as almost *nil*,—one hundred and seventy one piculs, but probably no notice has been taken of the export on Government account, and further, although the prohibition against the export has been withdrawn there has been no inducement to ship. The Chamber of Commerce Returns place the export of 1873 at 215,984 piculs valued at \$347,832 and this export was confined entirely to the first six months of the year and consisted probably of coast shipments. The Returns for Hiogo and Osaka shew an export of 154,432 piculs valued at \$520,678.74 shipped during the year 1873.

Rice is largely grown within this Consulate district. The plant is known under the name of *Ine*, the grain before the husk is removed is designed as *momi* (paddy), without the husk it is known as *kome* or rice. The hill or upland rice which is sown on dry soil is called *Okabo*, ordinary rice is as is generally known grown on

irrigated lands. The early kinds are small in grain and not sweet, but they meet a want when as in the height of summer there may be an absence of grain of any kind. The ordinary or late crops are big in grain and sweet in flavor. In Japan, as I suppose is the case in all rice-growing countries, attention is paid to what particular kind of grain thrives in a fat and what in a thin soil, also what kinds of rice are adapted to a cold and what to a warm climate. The Japanese have several kinds of rice to which distinctive names are given, these being either universal throughout the country or confined to particular districts. I give a few of the most prominent kinds:—

Cha-urigashi.—Small grain, thin leaf, and stalk, and brown in colour.

Sando-bake.—Exhibits a reddish husk but a white grain.

Ama-husa-mochi.—Reddish husk with dark grain. This kind is largely used in making rice cakes or loaves.

Sh'to-fushi wase.—Has a very dark husk and is much bearded. It throws out grain when it has attained a very short growth. In some places two crops of this kind are gathered in one year.

Yawata Ine.—A long grain without beard. *Komi-no*—large and long grain, short beard, and great length of stalk.

Murasaki Nae.—Husk, stalk and beard have a somewhat purplish tint; the grain is however quite white.

Watakshi Gome.—Of which there are two descriptions—red and white. This kind is very dry in grain and lacks sweetness; it is, however, very digestible. The rice from this grain is not obtained by the ordinary process with a flail but by a process of boiling.

Nido Ine. This is sown early in spring and reaped in summer; the second crop is then sown immediately and reaped early in winter. This species of rice is known in Tosa as *Toya Roku*. In Hiuga there is no second sowing but a second crop is obtained of the first seedlings.

Prior to sowing, the seed (rice grain) is always soaked in water. The length of immersion depending on whether the sowing is for early ordinary or late crops. The sowings are, however, generally made between the middle of February and the end of April. The rice is taken just as it is packed in bags and immersed in water, a stream, well, or pond all answering the purpose equally well. It is there left to soak for ten, fifteen or twenty days and then taken out and warm water poured over the bags which are now covered with an additional covering of matting so as to induce warmth and force the sprouting of the grain. Another plan is to open the bags after they have been soaked and to dry the grain for two or three days taking care to turn it about frequently. It is brought indoors about dusk and covered with matting. The rice is sown when the grain is on the point of sprouting. Exposure to the sun's rays after immersion will also force on the sprouting. In some parts of the country the rice is sown almost immediately after it has been taken out of the water and when the husks of the grain have just burst and no more. The ground for the reception of the seedling is chosen with an eye to richness of soil and good facilities for irrigation. Towards the end of autumn it is well ploughed and stable manure is mixed with the up-turned soil. When spring comes round the soil is gone over with a spade, and all lumpy soil broken at each stroke of the spade or hoe; trefoil, young bamboo leaves or indeed green leaves of any kinds, fish manure or refuse oil, is mixed with the soil which is manured besides and then flooded. The water channels are well banked up all round, and care is taken to keep the ground free from weeds, further the surface of the soil is smoothed down so as to present no irregularities. When the water has cleared and all muddy particles sunk to the bottom the seed is sown broadcast. This work is only entrusted to experienced hands otherwise the seed would appear in patches. After the sowing the water is drawn off; a fine day is chosen for this so that the warm rays of the sun may penetrate the soil. The soil is left dry from morning to evening when it is again flooded and so left till morning. The water is not allowed to be more than two or three inches deep. If the weather looks like rain

the water is drawn off otherwise the rain would wash away the seedlings altogether. When the seedlings are well up fish manure or refuse oil is scattered over them to force them on and induce a thick growth. Transplanting takes place in from 45 to 55 days after sowing. In this work the wives and daughters of the farmers are largely employed. The seedlings are planted out in tufts two three four or five plants going to the tuft according to the practice prevailing in different localities. The tufts are planted out in lines with a space of from one to two feet between each tuft, much dexterity is displayed in this and a knowledge of the capabilities of the soil is essential so as to know whether to plant the rice out close or far apart. So soon as the planting out is over the proprietor goes round his lands to see with a practised eye whether any irregularities exist: whatever he notices amiss he rectifies at once. From fifteen to twenty thousand tufts are required for three hundred tsuboes of ground (a tsubo measuring six feet square.) In sowing, a little over a pint and a half of grain will suffice for thirty tsuboes of ground. After planting out, the ground is gone over with a light hand rake and hoe, and care is taken that the soil does not press too heavily at the roots of the seedlings. All foot marks are carefully erased, and the ground constantly weeded. When the plants are well forward and full in grain the water is taken off the fields so that the sun may penetrate the soil and thus harden the grain. When the earth has become thoroughly hard at the roots of the plants it is accepted as a sign that the grain has attained a proper consistency of hardness.

Of the *okabo* (hill or upland rice) there are both early and late kinds but they do not differ much in leaf or grain from the ordinary paddy. The ground for this description of rice is first well manured either with stable or liquid manure and then laid out in furrows. About three and a half pints of seed are required for thirty tsuboes of ground. The seed is sown much in the same manner as millet or wheat. Prior to sowing it is immersed in water for a few days, exposed to the sun, and then sown when the husks are about to burst open.

Rice crops suffer much from the depredations of birds and vermin, and all sorts of appliances are resorted to, to scare these away. Either straw ropes with clappers attached are stretched across the fields or scarecrows are placed here and there. A favorite contrivance particularly noticeable in hilly districts is this—a hollowed bamboo of a foot or so in length in which a small stick is inserted; this is supported on a couple of props right and left which just keep it at a balance. It is then placed in such a position as to allow any of the small natural rivulets of water that abound to play into it, thus causing it to clatter up and down: it effectively scares away birds and the like.

Harvesting. When harvest time comes round, the crops are cut with a sickle, the rice is bound in sheaves and left to dry in the sun for about five days, or it is suspended ears down from a bamboo frame. It is then taken into the barns and passed through a toothed instrument which roughly separates the ears from the stalks. It is then run through a sieve and again dried in the sun. Afterwards it is winnowed by which process the good and inferior grains are separated, the one falling to the right the other to the left of the winnowing machine: another aperture provides for the egress of dust, refuse stalk, &c. The grain is then tossed over matting and left exposed for a short time. It is then placed in a mortar and the husk separated from the grain, after which it is again winnowed and passed through a funnel placed on an inclined plane. The best and heaviest grain finding its way down the incline, the light kind being caught in a wire-work net. The rice is now measured out and made up into bags holding from twelve to twenty-two gallons of grain. The size of a rice bag is held to be a test of the physique of the men of any particular district where rice is grown. The bigger the bag, the stronger and better built the men. The province of Owari is noted for the size of its rice bags; the smallest are those of Hiizen and Dewa. I append a table of the provinces where the best kinds of rice are grown and also a table shewing the relative produce of a good and also a bad harvest. Rice of the first quality is grown in the province of Mino, Higo, Ise, Owari, Tôtômi, Hiizen, Hiuga, Yamashiro, Yamato, Suruga, Idzu, Ômi and Mi-

kawa. Second quality is grown in Harima, Tama, Tango and Tajima. Third quality in Kadzusa, Shimōsa, Musashi, Kaga, Echigo and Shinano.

RELATIVE PRODUCE WITH A GOOD HARVEST.

$\frac{1}{4}$ -acre of best ground produces 816 lbs. of rice, of medium ground 583 lbs., and of inferior ground 467 lbs.

WITH A BAD HARVEST.

$\frac{1}{4}$ -acre of best ground produces 467 lbs., of medium ground 350 lbs., and of inferior ground 289 lbs.

The above table is based on the average products of a well known rice district in Hiizen.

Shipping.

Direct trade in British vessels from and to Great Britain and Colonies. In 1873 eighty-seven vessels with a tonnage of 75,176 tons, all with cargoes, entered the port against eighty-eight vessels with a tonnage of 59,811 tons entering in 1872. The increase in entries with cargo tonnage for the past year is 16,879 tons over 1872, but with numerically one ship less. The clearances in 1873 amounted to 36 vessels with a tonnage of 31,419 tons against 57 vessels with a tonnage of 39,893 tons clearing in 1872. All the clearances in 1873 were with cargo, while of the clearances for 1872, fifty-five ships with a tonnage of 38,475 tons, were with cargoes, the remainder clearing in ballast. There is a decrease therefore for the past year under the total clearances of 21 vessels with a tonnage of 8,474 tons, and of those with cargoes of 19 vessels with a cargo tonnage of 7,056 tons as compared with 1872.

Indirect or carrying trade in British ships from and to other countries.

The total entries for 1873 give 20 vessels with a tonnage of 11,002 tons; the total clearances 34 vessels with a tonnage of 25,707 tons.

The entries with cargoes were 18 vessels with a cargo tonnage of 10,069 tons. The clearances 25 vessels with a cargo tonnage of 20,999 tons. Comparing these figures with 1872, the total entries under the above heading for 1872 were 27 vessels with a tonnage of 11,802 tons; the clearances 32 vessels with a tonnage of 17,564 tons, of the entries in 1872, 25 vessels with a tonnage of 10,621 tons were with cargoes, and the clearances 23 vessels with a cargo tonnage of 12,945 tons. The total entries for 1873 shew a decrease of 7 in the number of vessels, as compared with 1872, the tonnage, however, remains much the same. The clearances shew an increase of 2 vessels and in tonnage an increase of 8,143 tons. The entries with cargoes shew a decrease of 7 in the number of vessels with but little difference in the total cargo tonnage. The clearances shew a numerical increase of 2 vessels and a cargo increase of 8,054 tons. Indirect or carrying trade in British vessels from or to open ports in Japan. In the total entries there is an increase of 13 vessels with an increase in the tonnage of 6,169 tons. In the clearances there is an increase of 26 vessels and an increase in the tonnage of 21,825 tons as compared with 1872. Of the entries all were with cargoes, against 16 vessels with a tonnage of 8,355 tons entered with cargoes in 1872. Of the clearances 32 vessels with a tonnage of 24,003 tons were with cargoes against 29 vessels with a tonnage of 16,409 tons cleared in 1872. There is an increase therefore over 1872 of entries with cargoes of 14 vessels with a cargo tonnage of 6,419 tons, and of the clearances an increase of 4 ships with a cargo tonnage of 7,549 tons.

Yokohama still labours under all the disadvantages attendant on a comparatively open roadstead, and with few or no facilities for landing or shipping cargo, though the improvements recently made by the Japanese Government at the principal landing place should not be allowed to pass unnoticed.

I have heard that it is proposed to run out two stone jetties in such shape as will form a sheltered anchorage and at the same time admit of ships discharging and loading along side, but the project, if indeed such exists, has not yet been made public, and I simply quote from hearsay.

Purchasing power of money.

I have given some attention to the subject of the purchasing power of money in this district, the wages of the artizan and agricultural classes and the social economy

generally of those classes of the people with whom we are almost daily in contact, but this led me into a field of research which I can scarcely bring within the scope of this report. Moreover inquiries under these headings are met with replies so inconsistent and difficult of explanations that one hesitates to place before readers mere crude statements without satisfactory explanations. To instance this I may mention that I have been credibly informed that the cost of the daily necessities of life in Yokohama is so high that Japanese find it cheaper to incur the expense of a journey by rail to Kanagawa and back buying their supplies in that town, than to purchase them in Yokohama. At first sight this would seem to be absurd and would probably be reckoned as a mis-statement, for under ordinary circumstances the difference of price of necessities at Kanagawa and Yokohama would consist only in the additional cost of conveyance from the former to the latter place, but this enhanced cost lies more, I fear, in the fact that nearly everything brought to Yokohama is so taxed both openly and secretly as to make prices almost ruinous to native consumers. I hesitate in saying this is so emphatically, but from such information as I have been able to obtain it points in this direction. As is well known, a market exists in Yokohama for the supply of daily necessities both for foreign and Japanese tables, and every small retail vendor is compelled to purchase in this market. Fish, fowl, game, and all garden produce are forced into this market by order of the authorities and a per centum tax levied. The seller has therefore not only to make his profit but to recoup himself in the amount of his tax and the rental of his stall. Except that the market brings to a focus produce of this kind and is thus a convenience it would seem to be in other respects the reverse of a benefit. Apart from the tax, which may be fair enough, I have no doubt but that a system of petty extortion exists which increases tenfold the price of all articles. If there was such an officer as "Inspector of markets" the desirability of which I pointed out some time since to the proper Japanese authorities, there would be less ground of complaint on this score, for the purchaser would have some guarantee of the quality of the food bought. Anyone who has seen a Japanese butcher's shop will agree with me that there is good work for an Inspector in that direction.

Looking to the position of the artizan and labourer in this district both may be considered as well to do. Little or no distress exists amongst the agricultural classes. Their wants are few and they are content to live on without seeking materially to improve their circumstances. Great changes have taken place of late years in the character and condition of the artizan class, and the growing taste on the part of Japanese for brick or stone faced houses has bought forward a class of men who make a speciality of this work, namely, stone masons and bricklayers. It is not many years since the former held a very inferior position in the trades, but they have now pushed themselves to the front rank and a first class hand will earn his five *bus* a day—say five to six shillings at piece work. The following may be taken as the average of wages ruling in this district for artizans.

Carpenters	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	2	Bus per diem.
Plasterers	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	2	" " "
Stonemasons	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	3	" " "
Blacksmiths	1	to	3	" " "
Bricklayers	1	to	0	" " "
Tilers	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	3	" " "
Paper hangers	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	3	" " "
House Painters & Decorators	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	to	3	" " "
Joiners	3			" " "

Good hands employed in piece work will however earn far in excess of the above. The lowest figure on which the above can livewith any thing approaching to comfort is about 11 *bus* per mensem for food. House rent may be put down at 6 *bus* a month. For the 11 *bus* a man will get three good meals a day. His breakfast of rice, bean soup and radish; his dinner of cold rice, salt fish or sweet potatoes, and his supper of rice and some little adjunct. The employer will generally find the workmen in tea (of a common kind) at their dinner, and if the work progresses well an occasional allowance of saké or

wine. Cost of clothing may be put down at 16 or 20 *bus* per annum. Boarding houses are common institutes for unmarried men, the charge being about 8 *tempos* a day which would compute to 9 or 10 shillings a month. A comparison of earnings and disbursements will shew that there is yet a good margin for petty luxuries, amusements, etc. I should doubt if the Japanese artizan unless married was a saving man. A married couple of this class can not live well under 28 or 30 *bus* a month. I give Yokohama rates which are extremely high. In the interior living is probably much cheaper. There is no doubt that the rate of living in and about Yokohama for all classes of Japanese has increased to an unprecedented extent of late years. Ten years ago a Japanese officer standing attached to any of the local Governments offices here could live comfortably as a married man on twenty-two dollars a month. This would admit of his keeping a good table, dressing well, keep of servants and a horse. The same mode of living cannot be indulged in now under seventy-five or eighty dollars a month. In 1860 a Japanese servant would cost his master, keep and wages included about eighteen dollars per annum. The estimated cost now is twenty-five dollars. I give a few instances of the rise in prices of some articles in daily use amongst the Japanese.

In 1860 *isshô* (a certain measure) of *saké* or wine cost eight *tempos*. The same quantity cannot now be bought

under twenty *tempos*. One *riô* (of money) would then purchase 2 to 5 *shô* (measure) of rice: the same amount will now only purchase half the quantity. Oil was five or six *tempos* per *isshô* (measurement) and now the like quantity costs thirty-two *tempos*. A certain weight of Charcoal could be bought for three *tempos*. The same weight now costs eighteen. If certain commodities have become dear the Japanese must set off as against these the greater cheapness of transit and locomotion as compared with former years. Japanese steamers are now conveying passengers to Kobe and Osaka—a distance of some 360 miles for eight dollars a head and finding them in food on the passage, a great saving both in economy of time and expenditure as compared with the journey by road. I regret that I have been unable to obtain reliable statistics of the trade done by native steamers. No records under this heading are kept at the Custom House, and my enquiries at the agencies of the different steamship companies for information in this direction have not met with success.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant.

(Signed) RUSSELL ROBERTSON.
SIR HARRY PARKES, K.C.B.

whom we are
into a field of
the scope of
these headings
difficult of ex-
before readers
explanations.
I have been
daily neces-
Japanese find
ney by rail to
in that town,
first sight this
y be reckoned
umstances the
wa and Yoko-
cost of con-
e, but this en-
nearly every-
oth openly and
to native con-
phatically, but
e to obtain it
own, a market
ly necessities
l every small
a this market,
re forced into
a per centum
only to make
amount of his
that the mar-
kind and is
other respects
x, which may
t a system of
d the price of
Inspector of
ted out some
there would
for the pur-
quality of the
ese butcher's
work for an

d labourer in
to do. Little
ltural classes,
ve on without
ances. Great
the character
owing taste on
ed houses has
speciality of
layers. It is
very inferior
ushed them-
and will earn
at piece work.
of wages rul-

Bus per diem.
" " "
" " "
" " "
" " "
" " "
" " "
" " "
" " "

however earn
re on which
ng to comfort
se rent may
l *bus* a man
kfast of rice,
e, salt fish or
d some little
the workmen
, and if the
e of saké or

RETURN OF THE IMPORT TRADE OF KANAGAWA.—Continued.

ING,
\$
50.17 312,181
60 29,573
20.03 594
34.67 10,950
28 957
37.48 937
04.21 3,699
00 430
40 42,750
15 1,160
97.41 8,348
73 60,013
39 5,127
30.89 991
8.20 12,039
8 11,356
30.62 7,029
71.44 7,575
4 2,717
6.66 10,216
7.49 14,058
36.57 2,156
00.97 7,817
1 625
1 1,951
3 27
1 1,015
06.86 2,698
3 2,651
5 1,101
7 6,130
0 1,272
.....\$570,145
4,698.
7 107,608
5.12 14,947
4 28,182
5 7,626
0 8,608
7 2,449
8.41 8,101
6 68,911
2.58 119,539
7 3,136
4.74 33,866
3.29 14,903
3.34 39,704
7.71 3,298
7.19 40,237
8 165,851
7 20,423
08 103,489
0 38,780
1 71,576
1 38,780
1 314,210
1 92,107
1 71,806
7 82,758
4 19,643
6 72,676
0 107,318
3 34,611
5 114,495
5 68,960
6 107,629
9 132,461
5 1,579
6.13 1,732
0.79 4,409

MISCELLANEOUS (FOREIGN)—Continued.

			\$
Kerosine Oil	piculs.	33,268	186,581
Matches	case.	845	17,721
Netting Machines	"	769	41,836
Sewing Machines	"	517	25,059
Cotton Gin	"	11	5,639
Steam Engine	"	246	26,288
Railway Carriages... ..	"	25	2,118
Railway Tickets	"	24	1,364
Machinery (brick making)	"	10	2,000
" (iron works)... ..	"	7	1,592
" (Gas)	"	93	3,083
" (printing)	"	178	30,656
" (mining)	"	5	2,224
" (silk reeling)	"	64	3,155
" (miscellaneous)	"	776	65,525
Telegraph Instruments...	"	177	18,452
Telegraph Wire	"	5,186	37,544
Engraving Instruments...	"	6	1,020
Photographic Apparatus	"	210	8,681
Pumps	"	82	11,550
Steam Boiler	"	47	17,909
Surveying Instruments...	"	49	10,525
Surgical Instruments	"	61	7,434
Chemical Instruments	"	49	3,836
Kitchen Apparatus	"	103	4,720
Porcelain	"	762	17,744
Musical Instruments	"	38	4,784
Stoves	pieces.	315	4,749
Scales	"	126	2,557
Umbrella Stays	cases.	268	17,585
Potash	"	49	4,097
Medicinal Spirits	"	10	1,150
Prussian Blue	piculs.	195.07	9,593
Ultra Marine... ..	"	284.85	3,894
Verdigris	"	53.64	1,615
Dyers Saffron... ..	"	2	1,556
Dye Powder	"	1,169	172,419
Paints	"	43.30	3,120
"	cases.	21	35,349
Planks	pieces.	182	2,247
Timber	"	202	4,306
Silk Manufactures... ..	"	2,579	22,083
Silk and Cotton Mixtures	"	1,943	36,898
Mosquito Netting	"	996	4,382
Hemp & Cotton Mixtures	"	106	7,423
Silk Edgings	cases.	34	6,268
Lace	"	73	3,303
Gold Thread	"	4	1,454
Silk Yarn	"	8	1,139
Hemp Thread	piculs.	345.80	4,917
Towels	doz.	1,349	2,292
Coral	piculs.	9.73	24,348
Eau de Cologne	cases.	1,214	20,739
Perfumery	"	120	5,222
Dressing Appurtenances	"	80	2,736
Butter	"	1,373	20,509
Sodawater	"	459	2,235
Cigarettes	"	27	3,055
Cement	piculs.	11,166.56	11,410
Saddlery... ..	cases.	60	7,697
Carriages	"	158	18,560
Buttons	"	114	11,913
Household Ornaments	"	18	1,557
Lamp Wicks	"	33	2,384
Brushes	"	56	6,102
Pictures	"	10	1,844
Articles de Paris	"	112	7,610
Curiosities	"	172	9,887
Trunks	doz.	48	1,045
Books	pkges.	20	1,916
"	pieces.	556,767	48,684
Caps	doz.	39,634	244,316
Clothing	piece.	16,007	22,345
Shirts	doz.	9,663	33,001
"	cases.	7	1,100
Collars	"	8,746	10,747
Tippets	"	50,519	143,974

MISCELLANEOUS (FOREIGN)—Continued.

		\$	\$
Neck Ties	cases.	1,700	2,988
Gloves	"	41,913	42,046
Locks	"	16,100	19,408
Rain Coats	piece.	531	1,230
Braces	doz.	865	2,318
Flour	piculs.	7,872.27	34,083
Cattle	head.	196	1,528
Horses	"	22	4,340
Pigs	"	138	2,879
Coal	tons.	5,238	201,676
Pitch	piculs.	380.59	7,050
Tea Lead	"	8,782.07	75,909
Cables	"	24.42	422
Gum	cases,	27	2,729
Knives	"	12	1,247
Sundries	pkgs.		370.864

Total Miscellaneous Foreign.....\$4,514,698

MISCELLANEOUS (LOCAL)—\$2,174,762.

Rhubarb	piculs.	102.16	1,190
Buffalo Horn	"	322.34	1,747
Rhinoceros Horn	"	9.31	6,119
Ivory	"	63.03	14,518
Sea Horse Teeth	"	120.44	6,737
Putchuk... ..	"	68.35	1,026
Cigars	"	264.07	46,443
Vermillion	"	162.49	17,973
Rattans	"	1,451.87	18,226
Sapan Wood	"	1,617.15	2,159
Alum	"	869	1,444
Sugar (Brown)	"	323,365.37	1,362,330
Sugar (White)	"	43,137.21	271,928
Sugar Candy	"	3,126.43	28,329
Quicksilver	"	19.11	2,425
Medicines	"	3,107.22	42,477
Tortoiseshell	"	72.35	45,700
Bean Oil... ..	"	14,909.60	108,660
Rapeseed Oil	"	192	1,448
Ground Nut Oil	"	1,448.25	10,548
Musk	"	1.11	7,327
Aloes Wood	"	22.32	5,980
Ginseng	"	41.35	8,167
Camphor... ..	"	33.19	6,494
Saffron	"	6.30	5,353
Liquorice	"	356.72	1,566
Gall Nuts	"	289.80	2,320
Safflower	"	50.87	5,850
Hamps	"	475.66	4,074
Silk (Coarse)... ..	"	24	1,350
Chinese Shoes	pair.	6,777	2,095
Coffee	piculs.	637.01	11,693
Tea	"	184.97	4,286
Sassamum Seed	"	2,252.32	6,767
Rapeseed	"	3,130.00	5,384
Shitan	"	1,187.81	1,558
Rice	"	8,122.83	12,233
Sheep	head.	5,910	34,890
Rabbits	"	14,900	25,410
Poultry	"	12,525	8,599
Tea firing pans	pieces.	560	1,487
Tea matting	"	457,690	20,452

Total Miscellaneous Local.....\$2,174,762

TO SUMMARIZE.

Cotton Manufactures	6,913,261
Woollen Manufactures	2,725,917
Mixed Cotton and Woollens	2,425,867
Arms and Ammunition	210,408
Metals	570,145
Miscellaneous Foreign	4,514,698
Miscellaneous Local	2,174,762

\$19,535,758

**RETURN OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF KANAGAWA FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1873.**

Silk, raw	catties	1,186,948	\$7,050,656	Sulphur	catties	62,771	1,500
„ skin	„	125,391	103,027	Coal	tons	1,465	8,780
„ floss	„	188,833	168,107	Potatoes	catties	465,610	3,049
„ waste	„	69,403	65,306	Sharks Fins	„	48,582	9,783
Silk-worm-egg Cards	cards	1,409,537	3,032,360	Camphor	„	8,088	1,079
Tea... ..	catties	8,504,684	3,339,941	Vegetable Wax	„	15,078	1,820
Cocoons (pierced)	„	343,421	243,299	Bees Wax	„	825	100
Cocoons (waste)	„	16,674	4,795	Silk, manufactured	pieces	792	3,691
Lacquer Ware	cases	6,612	124,738	Cotton Cloths	„	1,611	1,331
Copper Ore	catties	709,758	121,530	Silk Dresses	„	832	8,862
Seaweed (long)	„	6,007,401	86,681	Hemp Thread	catties	3,000	1,544
Seaweed (cut)	„	325,931	18,746	Tea Dust	„	147,542	2,449
Copper Slabs	„	407,482	69,323	Stores	cases	1,916	4,754
Tobacco Leaf... ..	„	807,157	60,840	Oil	catties	30,178	1,789
Ginseng	„	34,015	62,335	Tea Packing-paper	cases	37	1,001
Awabi, dried	„	242,581	57,512	Plants	„	340	1,893
Curios	cases	2,689	50,486	Waste Floss Silk	catties	16,220	9,130
Bronze	catties	322,216	38,797	Furniture	pkgs.	55	1,330
Mushroom	„	121,849	34,170	Tiger Skins	pieces	5	1,887
Crockery	cases	2,100	47,308	Screen	cases	68	3,442
Bronze Ware... ..	„	583	29,915	Saltpetre	catties	43,300	2,971
Soy... ..	catties	50,056	22,130	Walking Sticks	pieces	1,100	2,224
Broken Bronze	„	19,914	19,156	Umbrellas	„	29,296	2,004
Copper	„	119,195	16,092	Buttons	cases	2	1,201
Cuttle Fish	„	157,306	18,418	Fire-engine Gear	pieces	2,211	1,476
Lead	„	719,699	36,115	Tooth Powder	cases	172	1,542
Copper Ware... ..	cases	191	16,508	Sundries... ..	„		45,802
Fans	pieces	1,464,131	20,046				
Beche de mer	catties	27,116	10,447				
							Total.....\$15,095,218

**RETURN OF ALL FOREIGN SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED AT THE PORT
OF KANAGAWA IN THE YEAR, 1873.**

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
British } General	114	78,603	117	80,580
} Mail Steamers	26	22,713	26	22,713
American } General	26	10,441	28	12,977
} Mail Steamers	112	269,418	114	273,457
French } General	2	915	4	2,568
} Mail Steamers	27	26,901	26	25,893
German	29	12,607	30	12,977
Swedish and Norwegian	5	1,702	5	1,702
Belgian	2	1,170	2	1,170
Russian	2	1,092	2	1,092
Danish	2	628	2	628
Chinese	2	1,174	2	1,174
Hawaiian	1	330	2	443
Total.....	350	427,694	360	436,498

**RETURN OF IMPORT AND EXPORT OF TREASURE IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM KANAGAWA
DURING THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1873.**

IMPORTED FROM :

England and other Countries	\$ 5,596,584
Open Ports in Japan	„ 3,082,355

EXPORTED TO :

England and other Countries	\$ 4,574,315
Open Ports in Japan	„ 619,835

Total Import..... \$ 8,678,939

Total Export

Total Imported and Exported..... \$13,873,089

**RETURN OF DUTIES COLLECTED AT THE KANAGAWA CUSTOM HOUSE DURING THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1873.**

On Imports paying specific Duties	\$ 537,263
On Imports paying ad valorem Duties	„ 166,667
On Exports paying specific Duties	„ 449,733
On Exports paying ad valorem Duties	„ 35,384

Total \$ 1,189,047

(Signed) RUSSELL ROBERTSON,
Consul.

1,500
8,780
3,049
9,783
1,079
1,820
100
3,691
1,331
8,862
1,544
2,449
4,754
1,789
1,001
1,893
9,130
1,330
1,887
3,442
2,971
2,224
2,004
1,201
1,476
1,542
45,802

15,095,218

PORT

d.

Tonnage.

80,580
22,713
12,977
273,457
2,568
25,893
12,977
1,702
1,170
1,092
628
1,174
443

436,498

YOKOHAMA

96,584
82,355

78,939
74,315
19,835

94,150

73,089

YEAR ENDED

37,263
66,667
49,733
35,384

89,047

ON,

Y E D O .

1873.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR YEDO FOR 1873.

BRITISH VICE-CONSULATE.

Yedo, April 8th 1874.

SIR,—In carrying out the Consular instructions relative to annual reports on Trade, Commerce and Navigation, I can only say generally that this Vice-Consular district offers little or no information in this respect which can be of any practical use either to Her Majesty's Government, or to the mercantile community.

As explained in a former report, the port of Yedo not being open to foreign trade, all foreign goods for, and all exports to foreign countries from, this market, have to pass through the Custom House of Yokohama, and are therefore included in the Trade Returns of the Consular district of Kanagawa. Hence no reliable statistics of the local transactions between foreign and native merchants are obtained here. Moreover there is no foreign trade of any consequence carried on at this place. The few foreign merchants who on the opening of the *City* to foreign trade have tried the experiment of opening establishments here, have found it to be an unremunerative speculation, and have, with the exception of two (non-English) firms, withdrawn from this market.

The expectations that were at one time entertained that the Railway between Yedo and Yokohama would effect an improvement in the direct trade with the capital, have not been realized; on the contrary, the little trade that was done previous to the opening of the Railway, has since been transferred to Yokohama. This is explained by the circumstance that, owing to the great convenience and cheapness of travelling between the two places, the native merchant of Yedo now makes all his purchases of foreign goods at Yokohama, where he finds a greater variety of articles, and probably, cheaper prices, than on the spot. The consequence is that the foreign settlement of Yedo has become literally deserted.

But while direct foreign trade has diminished, the number of foreign residents has been steadily on the increase for the last four years. A reference to the Register of the Vice Consulate shows the number of British residents to have been 3 in 1871, 48 in 1872, and 115 in 1873; while for this year it already amounts to 154.

The following return shows how they are employed.

In Japanese Government Service :—

Naval Department.....	38
Educational ..	18
Railway ..	17
Surveying ..	10
Telegraph ..	5
Mining ..	5

Home Department.....	3
Finance ..	1
Total	97
Private Civil Engineers.....	2
National Ship Company.....	6
Private Teachers.....	17
Tradesmen	2
Assistants, Artisans, &c.....	9
Commission Agents.....	1
Do. (in Japanese employ)	6
Missionaries	6
Servants.....	2
Unemployed	6

Grand Total.....154

The aggregate number of French, German and American residents who are likewise mostly employed under the Japanese Government, is about equal to that of the English; and the total number of foreigners of all nationalities including the members of the various Legations, but exclusive of married women and children, is computed at 350 individuals.

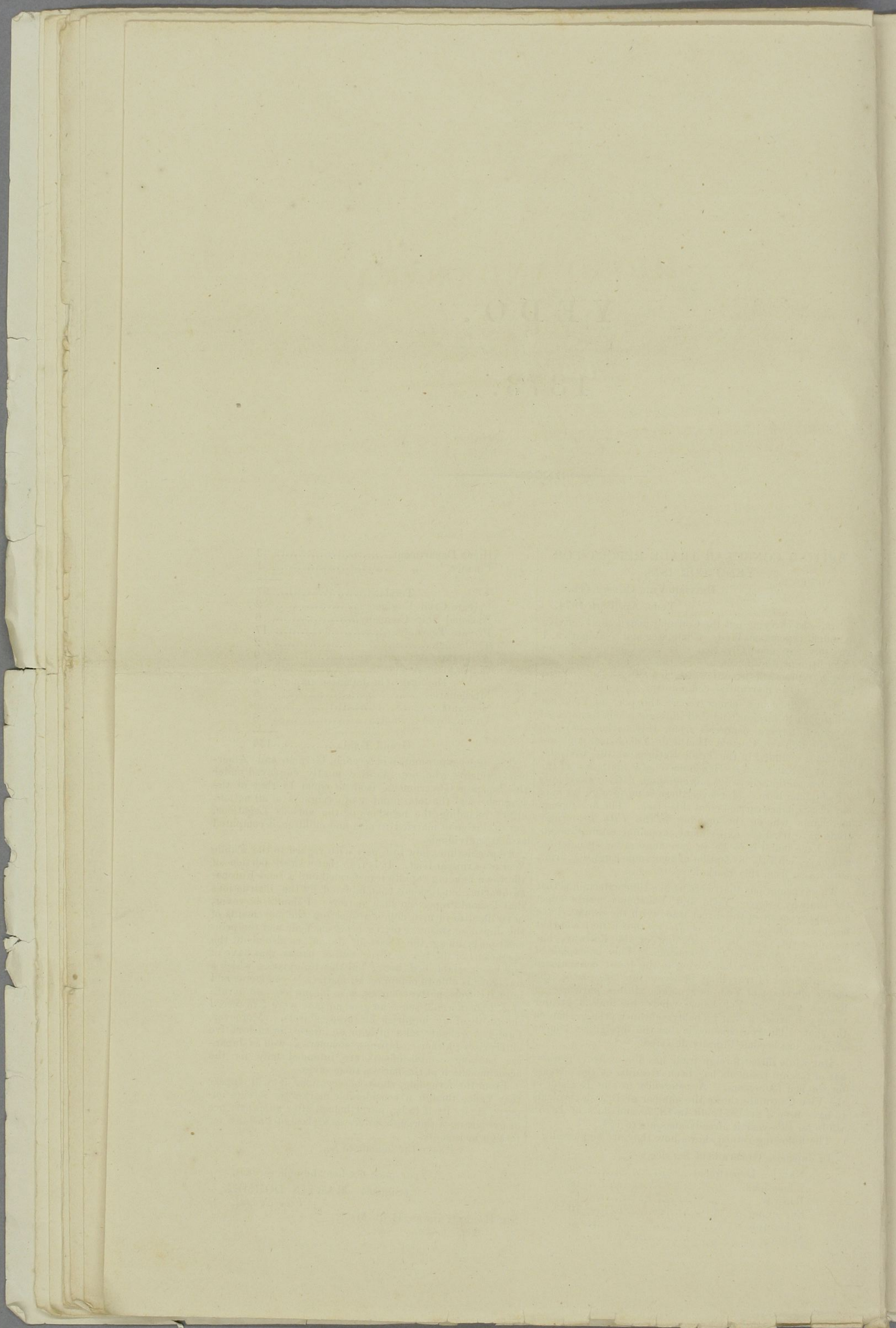
I have nothing new to report with regard to the Public Works of this district. It is true that a small portion of the town is being rapidly transformed into a semi-European quarter, but it is not contemplated by the instructions that I should report on such matters. I should, however, have liked to furnish details respecting the movements of the Japanese steamers plying between Yedo and the principal ports along the Coast of Japan, as also about the operations of the two or three native banks that have of late been established here; but the information which a foreigner is able to obtain on all matters of commerce and industry from native sources, is so incomplete and unreliable, that it would serve no good purpose were I to record the result of my inquiries on these subjects. Moreover, foreign merchants take little or no interest in such native enterprises; hitherto, Japanese steamers as well as Japanese banking establishments are intended only for the accommodation of the natives themselves.

From the foregoing short observations it will appear that Yedo, though a considerable market for foreign imports, shows itself to be, nevertheless, after an experience of five years, a thorough failure as a place of business for foreign merchants.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) MARTIN DOHMEN,
Vice Consul,

SIR HARRY PARKES, H. B. M.
&c., &c., &c.



HIOGO AND OSAKA, 1873.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR HIOGO AND OSAKA FOR 1873.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Hiogo, June 30th, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward to you the following Returns of our local trade, shipping, &c., for the year ending 31st December, 1873; viz. :—

- 1.—Imports.
- 2.—Exports.
- 3.—Shipping return, Hiogo.
- 4.—Shipping return, Osaka.
- 5.—Duties collected at Hiogo and Osaka
- 6.—Foreign Residents at Hiogo and Osaka.

These tables were principally compiled from somewhat confused returns of the local Custom House, which I finally had to procure from Yokohama.

I cannot help observing that the employment of foreigners has certainly not hitherto improved the working of that department, and that the reasonable assistance which may be expected from it, has, if anything, diminished.

IMPORTS.

Cotton Yarn.—Three kinds are brought to this market; No. 1 (mule twist) the finer kinds, or No. 38 to 42; and Nos. 2 and 3 (coarser kinds) respectively Nos. 28 to 32, and 16 to 24. There was hardly any demand for No. 1, but owing to a scarcity of No. 3 throughout the year, the sales of No. 2, imported in large quantities, improved very considerably.

Early in the year \$115 were paid for a 3 piculs bale of No. 3, which in April and May increased to \$123; during the summer the price fell to the original one, but an improvement again took place during the month of October.

As much as \$135 was obtained for No. 2, but towards the end of the year the price declined to \$124.

The greatest sales took place in April (498 bales), and the smallest in September (130 bales.)

Shirtings.—Though prices were not high, a larger business was transacted in this article than in former years. From \$2.12 to \$2.32 was paid for unbleached 7 lbs., and \$2.25 may be said to have been the average price.

8½ to 8½ lbs. averaged \$2.61, the ruling price of \$2.50 having increased to \$2.80 in December last. 9 lbs. were sold in small quantities at \$2.80 to \$2.95.

Orleans (black) never fell under \$6.50 per piece, \$8.50 being the highest price paid during the last months of the year.

Velvet (black) realized \$14 per piece in January, gradually decreased to \$9 in March, and showed no subsequent improvement; notwithstanding this, considerable sales were effected, the largest (4,110 pieces) in November, and the smallest (300 pieces) in July.

Camlets, of which the largest sales (750 pieces) took place in May, show no great difference on prices of previous years, viz. :—

Scarlet.....	\$17.00 to \$18.50
Black	14.00 to 16.00 and
Assorted Colours	15.00 to 17.00

Mousselines de laine obtained indifferent prices throughout the year.

Plain.....30-31 inches in 1872 averaged 22 cents per yard.			
„44-45 „ „	32	„	„
Figured...30-31 „ „	35	„	„
Plain.....30-31 „ 1873	18	„	„
„44-45 „ „	23	„	„
Figured...30-31 „ „	29	„	„

Thibets.—Demand gradually increased, giving an average price of 26 cents per yard; \$8 to \$10 per piece for red, and \$6 to \$9 for other colors.

Cloth.—Pilot, president and sealskin, the last imported for the first time.

Black from \$2 per yard in January fell to \$1.25 during the summer. Average price \$1.53 in 1873 or 25 cents less than the previous year. Sales in December amounted to 2,053 pieces.

Taffachelass.—Business improved in May. In June prices varied from \$3.15 to \$3.80 owing to small supplies and increasing demand. No sales in July and August, but again considerable business during the following months, 9,400 pieces having been disposed of during December. In 1873 the average prices were \$3.24 and \$2.71 and in 1872, \$3.14 and \$2.51.

Iron varied from \$4.25 to \$5 per picul. Nail-rod from \$3, increased to \$5 per picul towards the end of the year.

Hoop Iron fell from \$5.75 to \$4.75.

Lead, Timplates and Zinc shew a better average, viz. :—in 1873 \$6.75, \$9.79 and \$8.46, in 1872 \$5.75 \$7.29 and \$8.

Sugar, although produced in Satsuma, is largely imported, principally from the South of China and Formosa. The most expensive (white), said to come from Canton, obtains an average per picul of \$8.31 for 1st quality and \$7.39 for 2nd quality. Inferior kinds from Formosa and the north of Canton vary from \$3.57 to \$3.87 per picul.

During May, June and July 18,198 piculs were imported.

Raw Cotton; transactions increased considerably, owing to partial failure of native crop, and \$16.09 per picul was the average price obtained.

Petroleum was imported to such an extent to meet the increasing demand, that the ruling price of \$5 to \$6 for 2 tins, each containing 5 gallons, at the beginning of the year soon fell to \$3.25, thus causing heavy losses to speculators.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—The following comparative table shows the prices which have ruled during the last two years :—

	In 1873.	In 1872.
Ordinary best quality per picul	\$24.60	\$23.70
Middling 2nd „	29.14	27.90
Middling best „	33.89	34.05
Fine 2nd „	39.06	38.00
Fine best „	45.00	46.75
Picked 2nd „	50.94	52.83
Picked best „	56.25	57.14

Business in old season teas was dull and ceased at the beginning of April, owing to high prices.

The first shipments of the new and excellent crop commenced about the middle of May, notwithstanding exorbitant prices; but these eventually became more reasonable, experiencing however another rise in November, during which month 5,500 piculs were exported.

A rumour reached us in December last to the effect that the American duty on tea (which from 25 cents was reduced to 15 cents per pound, and ceased in 1873) was again to be levied from the 31st of January, 1874, and this actually caused higher prices to be paid in Japan, which unfortunately resulted in heavy losses to exporters.

Silk and Silkworm-egg business was dull throughout the year.

Copper.—Formerly obtainable at \$13,—and less per picul, rose to an average price of \$19.34 during last year; this greatly discouraged purchases, but nevertheless some 6,000 piculs were shipped during February, March and May.

Bronze.—Consisting of old temple bells, guns, idols &c., became an important article of export during the early part of the year; this has however gradually decreased and will naturally soon cease. It averaged \$16.15 per picul.

Tobacco.—Business improved during last year, \$5.27 per picul being the average price, or 65 cents less than the average for 1872.

Wax.—(Vegetable) was \$4, cheaper per picul than in 1872, but owing to home prices no large business could be done. Exports amounted to 1,000 piculs in February and March, but they ceased in June.

Camphor.—Averaged \$15.70 per picul, thus giving an increase of 20 cents per picul in 1873, and purchases do not compare favourably with those of the previous year.

Rice and Wheat.—Of which Government hitherto monopolised the export, were at last thrown open to private speculation during the latter half of the year.

The first shipments at \$1.60 per picul must have left a hand some profit; not so, however, subsequent purchases at \$2.62.

Shipping.—The Foreign shipping for both ports gives a total of 540 ships of 573,169 tons entered and cleared during 1873, which shews a decrease of 39 ships of 28,276 tons upon the previous year. This is principally explained by the fact of the very large quantity of rice which was exported in 1872 by the Government, who employed foreign steamers for that purpose. Another cause is that ships intended for Yokohama and Hiogo often remain at the former port, forwarding their cargo for this place in the large American mail steamers, and also receiving from this port through the medium part of their outward cargo.

This regular line of American steamers from Yokohama to Shanghai, plying weekly both ways, also accounts for the apparent excess of foreign or British shipping to this port, as shewn in the tabular forms.

The ferry-steamers still keep up an active communication between Hiogo and Osaka, and they will be able to continue it successfully if the Railway Department does not reduce its present high fares, which is 40 *sen* for 3rd class passengers, or double the average rate payable by these steamboats.

Regular communication has now also been established between Osaka-Hiogo and Yokohama-Tokio, as well as some ports in the Inland Sea, by native owned steamers with foreign captains and engineers. These vessels are gradually monopolizing the coasting trade.

NOTES ON SUBJECTS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

Hiogo. A good building for the Municipal hall and offices, with police station, small prison, and permanent sheds for fire-engines and water carts have been erected in a central part of the foreign settlement.

As no assistance could be obtained from the Governor to secure for the settlement a supply of pure water from the waterfall, without our consenting that this should become an unreasonable speculation of some natives, it was decided that five large covered wells should be sunk in the most convenient parts of the settlement. These have been satisfactorily completed, and each of them can freely supply two powerful fire-engines working simultaneously.

Trees and grass have greatly improved the appearance

of our bund, and our small but fine park is now kept in perfect order.

The public garden would also have been laid out long ago, had it not been for the characteristic and patient perseverance with which Japanese study and endeavour to insist upon all the possible means which they think will eventually free them from carrying into effect obligations originally contracted.

But this is not to be wondered at, if we consider that the convention respecting the right of foreigners to lease land, within certain limits at this port, like natives, has for years past successfully been treated as a dead letter by the Japanese Government.

The Municipal Council has contracted for the lighting of the settlement with gas from the works of an English Company, which are being rapidly erected.

Some fine dwelling houses and godowns were erected last year, and building still continues on the foreign settlement.

The rapid increase of the native town is astonishing. Fairly drained and wide streets, at right angles, now divide the Kobe part of the town into large blocks, where many houses in foreign style are erected.

On the hill slopes behind the town and settlement comparatively good roads have also been made on a cheap principle, which will consequently prove expensive owing to constant repairs. But this appears to be the rule for Government work in Japan, the exception being those for which foreign skill and advice have been accepted.

A patent slip for ships up to one thousand tons is being constructed, under the superintendence of a French Engineer, for the Government, quite adjacent to this foundry on the west side of the Kobe bay, which has for some time been in good working order.

CURRENCY, Etc.

The Mint at Osaka is in every department complete with the latest appliances, and in splendid working order, including the manufacture of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, coke and gas for the requirements of that establishment.

Number and value of coins struck from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1873:—

Denomination.	No. of Pieces.	Value in Dollars.
Gold	5,527,600	19,385,043
Silver	20,376,955	3,759,325
Copper	1,305,340	13,053
Total		\$23,157,421

The total amount of gold and silver bullion imported into the Mint during the past year was:—

Gold	914,272.85 ounces.
And Silver.....	3,618,168.71 „

The striking of copper coins only regularly commenced during last December, although a great deal of the work had been previously done by preparing the copper for coinage.

The building for the copper coinage was completed a few months ago, and is attached to the Mint. It is 440 feet long, of red and white bricks with stone basement, altogether very substantial and ornamental. The machinery is capable of striking some 140,000,000 copper pieces annually.

The following analysis of Japanese copper made by Mr. W. Gowland, F.C.S., &c., Chemist and Metallurgist to the Mint, may prove of interest.

The samples of Japanese copper which have been examined have all been remarkably free from antimony, and generally also from injurious quantities of arsenic. One sample, however, contained 159 per cent. of the latter metal, an amount which would render such copper totally unfit for the manufacture of brass and several other alloys in which great toughness combined with tenacity might be required.

Another sample contained 1.384 per cent. of lead.

Certain kinds of very crude Japanese copper, usually seen in more or less circular cakes resembling in form the "rosette" copper of Europe, are sometimes exceedingly impure, in some cases containing so much iron that a modification of the ordinary method of refining would be required for their treatment.

I may state that so far as I have at present examined Japanese copper I have found it to be generally of such

a character that when properly refined in a suitable furnace, it can be used with advantage in most cases where a pure copper is required.

Some caution however is necessary, the interfering metals met with occasionally rendering it imperative that careful analysis should be made as often as possible.

As some of the coins have undergone a trifling alteration in diameter, greatly improving their appearance, and the subsidiary silver coins have also been slightly increased in weight, it will not be amiss to note their present description. I therefore append the following table:—

Diameter.	Standard Foreign.	Diameter in English inches.	Weight Troy grains.
GOLD COINS.			
20 yens.....	$\frac{900}{1000}$	1.37	514.41
10 „	„	1.13	257.20
5 „	„	0.87	128.60
2 „	„	0.69	51.44
1 „	„	0.50	25.72
SILVER COINS.			
1 Yen	„	1.50	416.00
50 Sen	$\frac{800}{1000}$	1.22	208.00
20 „	„	0.90	83.20
10 „	„	0.72	41.60
5 „	„	0.56	20.80

The design on these coins has also been changed so as to indicate the value in large Japanese characters on the reverse, while on the obverse side the value has been introduced in Roman letters, which is a great convenience to foreigners, and will go far to encourage their being made current in the China ports, and in our neighbouring colonies, where the want of subsidiary silver currency is greatly felt.

Denomination.	Alloy.	Diameter English inches.	Weight Troy grains.
Copper Coins.			
2 sen.	98 parts Copper. 1 „ Tin. 1 „ Zinc.	1.25	220.
1 „		1.10	110.
$\frac{1}{2}$ „		0.87	55.
1 riu.		0.62	14.

Roman letters and numbers are also indicated on the obverse of the copper coins.

The old gold coins, such as the "Obang," "Kobang," "Nibu" and "Nishiu" are no longer in circulation; this is also the case with the silver "bu" and "ishiu."

The old copper coins, however, are still in circulation, and do not bear any fixed value as compared with the gold and silver yen; these being used at the rate of the day, and will continue so until gradually replaced by the new denomination.

These old coins respectively represent 12, 16, 24 and 100 iron cash. The latter, the *Tohiyaku*, first coined between 1830 and 1843, and subsequently called *tempo*, under which it is still known to foreigners, varies very considerably in fineness and weight. It contains from 77 to 85 per cent of copper, and the alloy consists of tin and lead, some coins containing from 8 to 12 per cent of the latter metal; their weight varying from 265.50 to 371.90 grains troy.

On the 31st of December last one *yen* was equal to 124 *tempo*s, but the rate varies from 96 to 130.

The new "scale dollar" is in circulation among foreigners, who keep their books and their accounts with the local branches of the "Hongkong and Shanghai" and "Oriental" Banks, in this denomination of coin.

Price-currents of all Imports and Exports are also drawn up in this coin, and in transactions with the natives both the *yen* and the dollar are used.

The new pure Mexican dollar is equal to 1.0043 silver yen; but the dollar usually current here can be taken as the equivalent of a silver *yen*.

Gold yen, as compared with Mexican dollars, were during last year at a discount varying from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Silver yen, the coining of which was not continued during 1873, were also at a discount of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The gold and silver yen are not yet generally in circulation among the Japanese, paper money called "Kinsatsu" and "Yen-satsu" being the circulating medium.

Both sorts are issued by Government and are not ex-

changeable either in gold or silver at the Treasury, or at the authorized native banks. They bear neither date nor signature, and the amount in circulation is not accurately known.

Although this paper money does not possess the advantages which in Europe would place it on an equal footing with gold and silver, the Japanese take it at par with *yen*, and when required for remittances to the interior, it is sometimes even at a small premium.

When Kinsatsu was first issued in 1868 it was at a discount, and at one time as low as 50 per cent; the Government have, however, since succeeded in making it circulate at par.

The "Kinsatsu" printed on Japanese paper are of the following denominations:—

10, 5 and 1 "rio" (or yen), "nibu," "ichibu," "nishiu" and "ishiu," respectively worth 50, 25, $12\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{4}$ *sen* of a *yen*.

The "Yen-satsu," with Japanese and Roman characters, on Foreign paper, consist of:—1000, 500, 200, 100, 50, 25, 10.5, 2 and 1 *yen*,—50, 20 and 10 *sen*.

The Japanese bank ("Mitsui") circulates notes of 10, 5 and 1 *yen*, which on presentation are payable at the office in gold *yen*.

The local trade is much indebted to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for their issue of 100, 50, 10 and 5 Mexican dollar notes payable to bearer. A stop has thus been put to the needless loss of time and labour entailed by the inspection of Mexican dollars, and the influence, often used in a most arbitrary manner, of the Chinese shroffs, has thus been very considerably diminished.

Telegraphic Communication.—This was opened with Nagasaki during last year, this port having already been in communication with Yokohama since 1872. Nagasaki is the end station of the "Great Northern Telegraph Company" which connects with the European telegraph net. The Japanese telegraphs under the control of native officials, assisted by foreigners, are the property of the Government. The line north of Hiogo runs through Osaka, Kioto, Hikone, Nagoya, Toyohashi, Shizuoka, Numazu and Yokohama to Tokio (Yedo). The southern line runs north of the Inland Sea to Shimonoseki, thence across the straits to Kokura on the Kiushiu island, and ultimately through Fukuoka and Saga to Nagasaki.

Telegraphy in Japan has not yet answered the expectations entertained, as the Japanese officials do not show any great aptitude for this duty, and the communication between Nagasaki and Yokohama is continually interrupted.

Telegrams to Europe must be addressed to some persons in Nagasaki for transmission by the "Great Northern," as the Japanese Telegraph Department does not undertake this duty.

Japanese Postal Department.—The Japanese Government have established regular postal communication with the principal places throughout the country, and the transport duties are performed by pedestrian couriers. It takes them four days from this to Yokohama, and five to Nagasaki; to these ports mails are however often forwarded in Japanese owned steamers. A uniform rate of postage throughout the country has been recently adopted, being 2 *sen* per weight of two Japanese *momme*.

Postage stamps on European principles have also been adopted, and consist of 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 *sen* and 1 *yen* in value.

Railways.—Notwithstanding the rapidly increasing requirement felt for means of good land communication with Osaka and the interior, the authorities could never be induced to make a carriage road or in any way improve the miserable pathway existing between these two important places; all hope of ultimately inducing the authorities to do something under this head was entirely, and I think for ever, removed by the slow construction of a railway which at last was completed and opened to the public on the 11th of May last.

This small section of 20 miles has six stations, viz:—Kobe, Sannomiya, Sumiyoshi, Nishinomiya, Kansaki and Osaka. The trip is performed in a little over an hour; from 7 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. or every hour and a half; trains from each terminus start simultaneously, and cross each other on a double line half way.

The Hiogo terminus, or Kawasaki station, is situated

on the west side of the harbour, and has three lines of rail and a platform about 300 feet in length. It is also provided with a pier 450 feet long and 40 broad, where sea-going ships of 20 feet draught can load and discharge cargo.

Sannomiya is a small station behind the Foreign settlement at this port.

The brick-built station at Osaka is said to be the finest as yet erected in Japan; this also connects by rail with the Japanese Mint and the river bank opposite the foreign settlement, which latter, if worked, will prove a great convenience, as the principal station is very far from the present business part of the town.

The incline nowhere exceeds one in a hundred throughout the line, which crosses all rivers and streams at right angles. This has caused the construction of three tunnels running under their beds, many bridges and a large number of culverts to facilitate the artificial irrigation which is indispensable for the agriculture of this part of the country. The combined length of these tunnels is 750 feet, and the number of bridges and culverts amount to 208, besides a large bridge 1190 feet long over the Mukogawa.

The continuation of this line to Kioto has been commenced; it is said that it will be extended round the Biwa lake to Tsuruga on the West Coast, which will greatly add to the commercial importance of Hiogo and Osaka.

Anchorage.—The bays of Kobe and Hiogo,—the former set apart for foreign shipping, the latter used exclusively for Japanese owned vessels—are separated by a narrow land spit formed by the silting up of the heavy granite sand discharged by the "Minatogawa" at its entrance. Both bays are situated on the N. W. side of the Osaka gulf.

The superficial area of the bay of Kobe is about 4 square miles; it is open on the S. E. side, the greatest depth being 5½ fathoms, which for a distance of about 200 yards gradually lessens towards the beach.

The entrance to this anchorage is safe and easy, and having a mud bottom it is also considered excellent. A stone wall, extending over two thirds of the length of the bay, has been built in front of that part of the native town called Kobe and the Foreign settlement. There are two cambers in the bay for boats and small river steamers, and in front of these Custom-house buildings have been erected.

The bay of Hiogo is in many respects similar to that of Kobe, but if anything it is less exposed to the prevail-

ing westerly winds; southerly, and south-easterly gales, when very strong, sometimes prevent communication with the shipping in these harbours.

The superficial measurement of the Isumi sea, known to Foreigners as the Gulf of Osaka, is about 418 square miles. The depth of the Isumi straits is about 28 fathoms, and the average in other parts of the gulf may fairly be said to be 10 fathoms.

At Kobe high water is an hour later than in the straits. The difference between high and low water is seldom more than six feet and usually less than four. As the Kobe and Hiogo bays are surrounded by high land, the tides are very irregular, and principally depend on the prevailing winds.

Every day—Sunday and holidays excepted—a gun placed near the Western Custom-house is fired at noon, giving the mean time.

Ships' provisions are not more expensive than in the other open ports:—

Beef 10 cents per pound.
Bread 9 Do.
Water one dollar per ton.

Pilots are not appointed by the Government, and they have agreed to charge according to the following scale which is not unreasonable:—

Kii channel to Kobe \$3 per foot.
do. Osaka 4 do.
Kobe to Osaka 1 do.
Osaka or Kobe (Hiogo) to Nagasaki
through Inland sea 6 do.
Osaka or Kobe to Yokohama 6 do.

But \$74 to \$75 from this to Yokohama or Nagasaki are often accepted for vessels in ballast or of very light draught.

In conclusion I beg to draw your attention to return 6 shewing a steady increase of Foreign residents both here and at Osaka.

I add some notes received from Mr. Vice Consul Annesley on subjects specially referring to Osaka where he resides.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) ABEL A. J. GOWER.

Sir HARRY S. PARKES,

Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary.
&c., &c., &c.

OSAKA.

NOTES BY MR. VICE CONSUL ANNESLEY,

Agriculture.—The new crop of rice is not only short in quantity but deficient in quality, which will tend to keep the price of this grain high, and in a great degree check its export by Foreigners.

The vast plains around Osaka are extensively cultivated, the numerous rivers which intersect the soil greatly contribute to the rapid growth of Rice, Cotton, Wheat, Rape-seed, Beans, &c. The wax-tree is also considerably planted generally on the banks of rivers.

Population and Industries.—The population of Osaka according to the census taken in 1872 is set down at 530,885 inhabitants; there is also a large fluctuating population. There are in Osaka 1,380 Buddhist temples and 538 Shinto shrines. The neighbouring City of Kioto returns 567,334 inhabitants with 3,514 Buddhist temples and 2,413 Shinto shrines. The bridges in Osaka are stated to number 1,251, and annually cost large sums to keep them in repair. Osaka possesses a large arsenal, where all kinds of guns are cast, and gun-carriages and appurtenances manufactured, saddles, bridles, harness and all sorts of military accoutrements are made and beautifully finished after foreign models. The works in this establishment are carried on by Japanese artificers, unaided by any foreign supervision whatever, and are very creditable to the Japanese Government.

A steam paper mill is being erected in this city, and

when finished will be worked under the superintendence of a foreigner. The mill is guaranteed to turn out at least one ton of paper daily from either rags or bark, or rags and bark mixed, or rags, straw and bark mixed. The paper is to be of any quality or fineness desired.

Several kinds of foreign machines have been introduced into Osaka; the most noticeable are:—

Spinning-machines worked by steam and also by water. Small American hand spinning-machines intended for household use are being imported, which will be capable of spinning 25 catties of thread a day; whereas the machines now in use, which are made of wood and bamboo, can only produce about a catty and a-half a day. Knitting-machines; some 680 of these useful machines are at work, they manufacture drawers, singlets, socks, gloves, &c., and also silk cardigan jackets.

Shoe and Boot-making machine. This ingenious instrument can turn out 50 pairs of boots or shoes daily, requiring but little additional finish after leaving the machine. They are sold very cheap, but are not to be recommended if a strong article is desired.

Weaving machines have been imported into Osaka, but are not yet in working order. It is estimated, however, that the goods which this machine would manufacture can be laid down at a cheaper rate than if made on the spot.

Steam machinery for the manufacture of Grey Shirtings (unbleached) is in full operation at Sakai in the neighbourhood of Osaka.

A large oil-pressing machine worked by steam under

foreign superintendence is producing a considerable quantity of oil made from rape-seed cake.

A brewery on an extensive scale is at work, and brews beer of a fair quality from hops obtained from America; this liquor is much consumed by the Japanese. Tailoring establishments are numerous dispersed about Osaka; all kinds of clothing in imitation of foreign patterns are made and exhibited for sale, and sewing machines are in great requisition in these establishments; but judging from the style of garments made in Osaka, the native tailors have still to acquire the art of "cutting" as it is known to foreigners.

Travelling boxes and portmanteaux of solid leather are extensively made here, and are well and handsomely finished.

Glass-blowing is carried on; little progress has however been effected in this department. Kerosine lamps are made and retailed at a very moderate price; these facts, together with the large quantity of Kerosine oil which has found its way into Osaka and which is sold at a low rate, encourage the hope that the paper lanterns and smoking oil lamps used by the natives in lighting up their dwellings will be speedily superseded.

Public Works.—The Japanese Government have erected on the opposite bank of the river Kizu, facing the Foreign Settlement, a large building intended as a city-hall, which is to contain all the different Departments of the local Government with the exception of the Custom-house. It is an imposing looking edifice and built on a foreign model, has long columns in front, and is surmounted by a high dome. It is, however, to be regretted that the original designs for this building, as furnished by Major Kinder, Director of the Imperial Mint, were not more correctly adhered to, and the valuable advice of that gentleman accepted. I am informed that the Japanese, in their anxiety to build this structure unaided by foreign superintendence, have used wood where stone should have been employed in columns, windows, arches &c. and have ignored all the principles of modern architecture.

The municipal buildings are nearly completed, and they will consist of a municipal hall, with accommodation for the municipal police, well built houses for a Shand and Mason fire engine, and a red brick prison containing four cells and a covered prison yard.

Some iron bridges have been constructed, under foreign superintendence, over the rivers flowing through different parts of Osaka. An iron and wood bridge, admitting of being opened in the centre, connects the foreign settlement with the opposite side of the Ajikawa. It is also proposed to make an additional bridge over the Kizugawa leading to the city hall.

This miniature settlement continues to be well lighted, and kept in good order. The streets are well paved and clean. Trees, planted on both sides, afford agreeable shade in summer, and a few more houses and godowns have been erected in the settlement.

During the past year the only works carried on to facilitate the navigation of the river leading to this settlement have been the occasional use of some dredging machines, and the employment of many small boats on the bar which are very useful in dredging by hand the mouth of the river; but these works should be constantly maintained so as to keep a sufficient depth for the free running of the ferry-steamers.

Some foreign engineers have been surveying the Ajikawa as far as Kioto with the view of deepening this river sufficiently to admit of steamers of light draught navigating the whole length up to that *Fu*; and also to construct a canal connecting the river with lake Biwa, of such a depth as will allow the passage of such steamers.

This undertaking, if carried out, would place the West Coast of Japan, together with many fertile districts of commercial importance, within easy reach of Osaka and Hiogo.

Osaka contains seventy-two primary schools, one college and one academy, which are attended by about 10,000 pupils. The college and academy are under the direction of English teachers. There is also a school for girls under the care of a foreign instructress.

The garrison of Osaka usually comprises eight battalions of foot-soldiers; (640 men and 100 officers form a battalion) also two companies of artillery. Some regiments of cavalry are sometimes quartered here.

I may mention as an interesting fact that Divine Service in the Japanese language is daily performed in the neat little church belonging to the American Missionary Society. It is well attended by the natives, and the responses are given by them from translations into Japanese of the Book of Common Prayer.

At present vessels calling here have to anchor at a considerable distance from the shore and in a very open position; this fact, together with the length of the river from the settlement to the sea, renders it extremely difficult to send merchandize for shipment, and moreover when the weather is at all boisterous it is impossible to send off cargo-boats, owing to the danger attending the crossing of the river unless in smooth water. The fees charged by the Custom-house authorities for permission to ship cargo after regulation hours are so exorbitant that few sailing vessels can afford to avail themselves of this permission, and they are frequently compelled at the sacrifice of much valuable time to wait until fine weather will allow them to load.

Consequently few vessels visit this port, as merchants prefer to send their goods in native junks to Hiogo, and ship them from that port.

I am informed that an *octroi* duty of one per cent is levied by the Japanese authorities on all goods in charge of Japanese passing to and from the foreign settlement; as this tax directly affects the free trade and interests of foreigners it is very desirable that it should be abrogated.

**SUMMARY OF THE FOREIGN EXPORT TRADE OF HIOGO AND OSAKA
FOR THE YEAR, 1873.**

SILK.	{ Raw.....	252.29	catties }	
	{ Waste.....	556.36	„ }	\$114,825
Silkworms Eggs.....	1,272	cards.....	100	
Tea.....	3,739,481	lbs.	753,454	
Copper.....	198.39	piculs.....	490,025	
Tobacco.....	8,998	„.....	68,579	
Wax (vegetable).....	14,947	„.....	257,440	
Camphor.....	3,154	„.....	49,961	
Dried fish.....	10,918	„.....	151,224	
Coal.....	669	tons.....	13,288	
Rice.....	154,432	piculs.....	515,571	
Lacquered ware.....	251	cases.....	29,476	
Porcelain.....	1,352	„.....	34,287	
Seaweed.....	65,262	piculs.....	135,942	
Wheat.....	23,636	„.....	50,942	
Miscellaneous.....			657,000	
				<hr/>
			Total.....	\$3,322,218

Amount of Treasure Exported during year.....\$6,927,439

**SUMMARY OF THE FOREIGN IMPORT TRADE OF HIOGO AND OSAKA
FOR THE YEAR, 1873.**

Cotton Manufactures										\$2,430,568
Woollen „										1,864,285
Metals										166,305
Boots and Shoes										19,330
Beer, Wine, and Spirits										76,994
Carpets										14,450
Clocks										25,247
Drugs										93,946
Glassware										40,757
Haberdashery										45,916
Leather										30,024
Medicines										33,511
Kerosine Oil										93,970
Stationery										22,982
Umbrellas										91,444
Window Glass										26,960
Miscellaneous (Foreign)										437,579
„ (Japanese Government)										256,962
Sugar (white) 20,713 piculs										147,528
„ (brown) 29,850 „										95,427
Sugar candy 2,573 „										23,918
Oil, Bean 9,407 „										46,273
Other Eastern produce										225,835
Total Imports										\$6,310,211

Amount of Treasure Imported during the year.....\$3,304,549.

**A RETURN OF DUTIES COLLECTED AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE AT HIOGO AND OSAKA
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1873.**

ON IMPORTS (Hiogo).										
Specific duties										\$184,905
Ad valorem										45,285
										\$230,190
ON EXPORTS (Hiogo).										
Specific duties										\$48,645
Ad valorem										28,772
										\$77,417
Total duties on Imports and Exports (Hiogo).....										\$307,609,957
ON IMPORTS (Osaka).										
Specific duties										\$4,962
Ad valorem										5,801
										\$10,763
ON EXPORTS (Osaka).										
Specific duties										\$21,653
Ad balorem										12,476
										\$34,130
Total duties on Imports and Exports (Osaka).....										\$44,893
Grand total of Duties for Hiogo and Osaka.....										\$352,503

**RETURN OF FOREIGN RESIDENCE.
AT HIOGO AND OSAKA.**

NATIONALITY.	HIOGO.					OSAKA.				
	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873
British	64	112	124	179	210	28	22	34	40	64
German	38	40	41	50	62	8	7	6	7	2
American	38	38	39	43	24	12	3	2	7	22
French	17	27	19	28	31	11	20	21	13	9
Dutch	14	26	26	21	28	5	6	5	9	21
Portuguese	7	5	6	11	16	...	...	...	3	3
Spanish .....	...	6	11	11	8	...	...	...	...	...
Austro-Hungarian	5	10	9	10	9	...	...	...	...	...
Danish .....	...	2	6	9	10	...	1	...	...	...
Swiss .....	...	...	3	5	5	...	3	4	1	7
Swedish Norwegian .....	...	4	4	4	8	...	...	...	...	...
Italian	2	1	3	1	1	...	1	1	1	1
Hawaiian .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Russian .....	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total	185	271	291	373	415	64	63	73	81	129

RETURN OF FOREIGN SHIPPING AT THE PORT OF HIOGO IN THE YEAR, 1873.

NATIONALITY.	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	TOTAL NO. OF SHIPS.			TOTAL TONNAGE.			TOTAL NO. OF SHIPS.			TOTAL TONNAGE.		
	With cargo.	In ballast	Total.	With cargo.	In ballast	Total.	With cargo.	In ballast	Total.	With cargo.	In ballast	Total.
British	66	15	81	42,905	10,739	53,644	65	14	79	41,664	9,271	50,935
American.....	6	2	8	2,361	1,306	3,667	8	...	8	3,667	...	3,667
„ Mail Steamers	100	...	100	185,716	...	185,716	100	...	100	185,716	...	185,716
German	9	10	19	3,428	3,706	7,134	17	2	19	6,572	562	7,134
Hawaiian	3	...	3	720	...	720	3	...	3	720	...	720
Dutch .....	...	1	1	696	...	696	1	...	1	696	...	696
Swedish	2	1	3	592	283	875	3	...	3	875	...	875
Norwegian	1	2	3	180	630	810	3	...	3	810	...	810
French .....	...	3	3	...	1,640	1,640	3	...	3	1,640	...	1,640
Belgian	1	...	1	585	...	585	1	...	1	585	...	585
Chinese	7	...	7	5,360	...	5,360	7	...	7	5,360	...	5,360
Russian	1	1	2	741	590	1,331	1	1	2	741	590	1,331
	196	35	231	243,284	18,894	262,178	212	17	229	249,046	10,423	259,469

RETURN OF FOREIGN SHIPPING AT THE PORT OF OSAKA DURING THE YEAR 1873.

NATIONALITY.	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	Total No. of Vessels.			Total Tonnage.			Total No. of Vessels.			Total Tonnage.		
	With Cargo	In ballast	Total.	With Cargo	In ballast	Total.	With Cargo	In ballast	Total.	With Cargo	In ballast	Total.
British	1	27	28	871	19,566	20,437	27	...	27	19,201	...	19,201
German .....	...	8	8	...	3,219	3,219	8	...	8	3,219	...	3,219
American.....	...	1	1	...	150	150	...	...	...	...	...	...
French.....	...	2	2	...	1,212	1,212	2	...	2	1,212	...	1,212
Dutch .....	...	1	1	...	695	695	1	...	1	695	...	695
Russian .....	...	1.	1	...	741	741	1	...	1	741	...	741
	1	40	41	871	26,483	26,454	39	...	39	25,068	...	25,068

\$2,430,568
1,864,285
166,305
19,330
76,994
14,450
25,247
93,946
40,757
45,916
30,024
33,511
93,970
22,982
91,444
26,960
437,579
256,962
147,528
95,427
23,918
46,273
225,835

\$6,310,211

OSAKA

230,190

\$77,417

9,957

\$10,763

\$34,130

\$44,893

\$352,503

1872	1873
40	64
7	2
7	22
13	9
9	21
3	3
...	...
...	...
...	...
1	7
...	...
1	1
...	...
...	...
81	129

LETTERS OF FOREIGN SHIPPING AT THE PORT OF HONG KONG IN THE YEAR 1873.

Nationality	Export			Clearance		
	Total No. of Ships	Total Tonnage	Total Value of Goods	Total No. of Ships	Total Tonnage	Total Value of Goods
British	12	12,000	1,200,000	14	14,000	1,400,000
American	5	5,000	500,000	8	8,000	800,000
French	100	100,000	10,000,000	100	100,000	10,000,000
Spanish	10	10,000	1,000,000	15	15,000	1,500,000
Portuguese	3	3,000	300,000	3	3,000	300,000
Chinese	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Japanese	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Other	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Total	132	132,000	13,200,000	132	132,000	13,200,000

LETTERS OF FOREIGN SHIPPING AT THE PORT OF CANTON DURING THE YEAR 1873.

Nationality	Export			Clearance		
	Total No. of Ships	Total Tonnage	Total Value of Goods	Total No. of Ships	Total Tonnage	Total Value of Goods
British	15	15,000	1,500,000	18	18,000	1,800,000
American	8	8,000	800,000	12	12,000	1,200,000
French	100	100,000	10,000,000	100	100,000	10,000,000
Spanish	10	10,000	1,000,000	15	15,000	1,500,000
Portuguese	3	3,000	300,000	3	3,000	300,000
Chinese	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Japanese	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Other	1	1,000	100,000	1	1,000	100,000
Total	139	139,000	13,900,000	139	139,000	13,900,000

NAGASAKI.

1873.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR NAGASAKI FOR 1873.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Nagasaki, 28th March, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith the following Returns showing the trade and shipping of this port for the year 1873.

Table showing import trade from England and other countries.

Export trade to England and other countries.
Return of treasure imported and exported.
Return of Foreign shipping.
British and Foreign shipping (C.)

The returns for the year 1873 when compared with the previous year show, I regret to say, no improvement in the trade of the port, on the contrary a decline is perceptible. It is very difficult to understand the fluctuations of trade at this port for one or two reasons. In the first place there is a difficulty in getting reliable statistics, though the better regulations now existing at the Custom House renders this not so insuperable an obstacle as formerly.

Then the trade of this port is much in the hands of the Chinese for such articles as medicines, dried fish, isinglass, seaweed, mushrooms, &c., which taken altogether form a considerable part of the export, and Europeans not going much in for these things really know very little of the market for them, or the causes which affect their greater or less consumption in China. The Chinese all complain that trade has been very bad last year, so it may be presumed some of the deficiency noted in the tables is thus accounted for.

With Europeans, tea and tobacco form two important items of export, the former especially, and I imagine part of the falling off may be attributed to the course the market for them took last year. The native holders did not commence selling any of their goods until very late in the season (about the middle of November), so that the chief bulk of last year's supply of tea and tobacco will come into the imports of this year.

The falling off in the value of Imports must, I am inclined to think, be attributed to an overstocked market previously. The Import trade has been a bad one for some time, and people here, and at home, are, I hope, at last waking up to the idea that it is no use to continue in

a losing business. The capabilities of this small market are generally overestimated by persons living at a distance, and when an article is required here it is shipped in quantities that would be more suitable to the Chinese ports or Yokohama.

IMPORTS.

The value of Imports, as it will be observed on reference to Table No. 1, amounts to \$1,626,775 against \$1,856,549 of the previous year showing a decrease of \$129,774. The following figures will show the decrease that has taken place in the principal article of Import.

	1872.	1873.	Decrease.
Shirtings.....	\$211,363	\$175,123	\$36,240
T-Cloths	68,829	2,547	66,282
Handkerchiefs	5,741	4,522	1,219
Chintz	41,259	16,061	25,198
Muslins, &c.	19,371	13,355	6,016
Taffachelass	20,980	5,726	15,254
Cotton Yarn	83,664	62,130	21,534

EXPORTS.

Tea.—With the exception of coal this is by far the most considerable item of export from this port, and the heavy falling off shown during the past year, as appearing in the annexed Tables, calls for some explanations.

At the commencement of the year stocks of the previous season's tea, still unsold, were smaller than usual, the bulk of the purchases of 1872 having been made earlier than is often the case. Shipments during the first portion of the year under review were therefore necessarily limited, and the bareness of the market here, and favourable advices from home caused high prices to rule. The native dealers here anticipating that equally good or better rates would be obtainable for the few new crop teas made their contracts with the producers upon a high basis, so that when the new leaf came to market the offers of foreign buyers based upon a depressed state of things in London and New York, were much below the expectation of native holders. The Japanese merchants having little knowledge of any but their own markets thought that by holding they would eventually be able to force foreigners to give them at least such rates as would cover them from loss, and it was consequently not until about the middle of November that European buyers were able to operate to any considerable extent. The eventual opening of the market was the result of a concession on

both sides, for with a low rate of exchange, moderate freight and the probability of improvement in the consuming markets, foreigners were able to advance their bids a little and thus meet the declining views of the tea-men. From this time till the end of the year purchases were made upon a large scale, but the opening of the season having been so long deferred the greater portion of the crop must now necessarily figure among the exports for 1874.

The deficiency in the quantity of tea exported is thus, in a great measure accounted for, but it may also be readily imagined that the dead lock above alluded to has acted very prejudicially on the tea trade here, by driving part of the produce of adjacent districts to other open ports where purchasers were in the market, and on this account it is quite possible that the whole season's export of tea from this port (from June 1873 to June 1874) may fall considerably short of the usual average.

As regards quality, the teas of this season compare favourably with those of last, both in flavour and appearance, and settlements having been made for the most part at prices below those of last year, exporters anticipate favourable results from their shipments.

Tobacco.—This article shows a falling off in the year's export of \$228,998, the Export of 1872 amounting to \$374,108, while that for the past year is only \$145,110. Somewhat similar causes to those above named may be adduced to account for the large deficiency. At the commencement of the year stocks of old leaf were but small and the heavy shipments of 1872 not having arrived in sufficient quantity to overstock the London market, prices there had not yet experienced the serious decline which eventually took place. Some buyers here over-estimating the home requirements willingly gave full rates for the small quantities still in native hands, and thus the season closed with prices which induced Japanese dealers to offer high rates for the new crop.

Before this had commenced to arrive in Nagasaki, however, which in the ordinary course it should have done early in August, news of the previous year's shipments had come to hand with account sales showing heavy losses to exporters

The latter naturally declined further purchases, except upon a considerably reduced basis, and a great portion of the new leaf was therefore retained in the country districts pending the commencement of business, which was not fairly entered upon until late in November, when natives, finding it inconvenient to hold longer, came down in their prices. The result however, as with Tea, is that much of the Export properly belonging to the year 1873 will be shipped in 1874, and should the new season open early, the amount for the year will be a large one.

So far as quality goes there is no very great difference to notice, but the quantity of * leaf offered this season is proportionably much greater than in former years. Many of the parcels of Higo leaf shown seem to have suffered from heating and mildew, presumably from their having been held back so long.

Vegetable Wax.—The falling off in the amount of the article is very readily to be accounted for by the very heavy decline in its value on the London market. In December 1872 good quality wax was worth over 100 shillings per cwt. in London, but from that time it gradually declined and in June 1873 it was quoted at 65 shillings—at which price or somewhat lower, it has since remained. The larger quantities shipped from this and other Treaty ports in the latter part of 1872, and early part of 1873, were doubtless the cause of this heavy drop in the home value. Vegetable wax is an article for which there is apparently only a limited demand, and not capable of enlarging to the same extent as with many other products when the price becomes cheaper. It may be readily supposed that the heavy loss such a decline must have occasioned the shippers would check the export as soon as it became known, and such in fact has been the case, for although prices here have considerably declined, the quantity exported during the latter part of the year has been quite small.

Porcelain.—This shows an increase from \$31,626 in 1872 to \$87,175 in 1873. As it is almost the only

* Word omitted in the original.

article of manufacture exported, it may deserve a few words of notice. A great improvement has of late taken place, both in design and colouring of the ornamental vases, which constitute the principal portion of what is exported. Indeed, in this branch of art, the taste possessed by the Japanese appears to be of a high order, and as they become better acquainted with the styles most appreciated in Europe, it seems likely the potteries of Hizen may obtain some celebrity for their production,

Camphor.—The quantity of this sent forward about corresponds with the export of 1872. The value of the drug here has ranged slightly higher, but towards the close of the year it has had a downward tendency in correspondence with the London market.

Copper.—Has not been largely dealt in, but *Bronze*, chiefly in the shape of old guns, again figures as a considerable item of trade. A large portion of what has been bought here by foreigners has been shipped coastwise to Kobe for export from thence.

Rice.—Will probably become an important article of export ere long, as it is at present at Kobe and Yokohama. A great quantity of what is shipped at those ports actually passes this harbour in junks, *en route*. The difficulty of obtaining suitable ships at the right time has been one reason that none has gone forward from here hitherto.

Coal.—I need not remark that one of the principal articles of trade in Nagasaki is coal, and it is a pity to see so many of the mines in the vicinity of this port still remain undeveloped.

The Takashima mine has not falsified the predictions made of its producing qualities. A large increase has taken place in the production of coals, from 41,300 tons, to 82,460 tons, viz:—

Shipped to China	Tons	27,257
" Yokohama and Hiogo	"	14,358
" Vladivostock	"	795
Consumed by Pacific Mail steamers	"	14,578
" Local steamers	"	4,122
" Men-of-war	"	4,822
Stored in Nagasaki	"	16,528
		82,460

Should the Takashima mine ever get exhausted the supply can be kept up from other mines in the neighbourhood.

The Island of Koyaki, at the mouth of this harbour, contains many seams of coal which, for a great many years, have been worked intermittently by Japanese from the outcrops by inclined drifts. The coal was carried up on men's backs in baskets, and the water was raised by means of bamboo pumps, or water wheels, when in great quantity. There is one seam at Koyaki, of very good bituminous coal of five feet, another of seven feet thick, besides minor seams. Several of the mines on this island have been abandoned during the past year, on account of not having proper appliances to work them. The coal having been all got from some distance from the outcrop, the raising of water and the maintenance of ventilation by the Japanese method being too difficult and expensive, the output from these mines must steadily decrease, and ultimately disappear, unless some improved European system of working is adopted.

The Island of Matsushima is the next nearest point from which coal is obtained. The island is large, being about ten times the size of Takashima. There are several seams of coal, viz:—

One	9 inches thick.
" 2 feet 6	" "
" 1 foot 6	" "
" 8	" "
" 2 feet	" "
" 4	" "

The most valuable of these is the 4 feet seam. It has been entirely worked out near its outcrop or surface. In 1871, application was made to foreigners for capital and assistance, chiefly to work this seam on a European method. It was never carried into effect. The Government stopped this enterprise, and since that time they have taken no measures to develop the resources of this island.

Karatsu on the mainland, is another district in which coals are found. The seams rarely exceed 3 feet in thickness, and the coals are of a more bituminous nature.

Ores.—Samples of native ores have been brought into Nagasaki by the natives, chiefly stibine or antimony glance, lead ore, (Galena), copper pyrites, (containing from a few to 30 % copper), zinc blende, to which may be added plumbago. The quantities exhibited have only been sample lots, no dependence, therefore, could be placed on the regularity of the supply. Were foreigners allowed to develop these mines it would greatly tend to increase the trade of this port.

These samples of ores have come from Higo, Hinga, Tsushima and other neighbouring places. From the quantity of clay ironstone found in the coal measures, this neighbourhood might be made an iron smelting centre.

EXCHANGE.

The rate for six month's sight bills on London has been unusually low during the year, averaging only 4s. 4½d. against 4s. 8½d. per Mexican dollar in 1872. It has fluctuated between 4s. 6½d., the rate in January and 4s. 3d. to which it receded in November and December. This depression owes its immediate cause to the lowness of Exchange in Shanghai, through which port the Nagasaki rate is calculated. It has necessarily exercised a prejudicial effect on Imports, but is in favour of Exports.

Currency.

Yen have now become the regular circulating medium in Nagasaki and Kiushiu, principally in the form of paper notes, partially in gold, but no wise in the shape of silver coin. Considering that *yen* now form the coin of the Empire and are readily accepted by all, it is a mistake, one would imagine, to continue describing them as being at a discount. Paper Notes may some day be at a discount, as regards the standard *yen*, (whether gold or silver ones) and then they will require a separate quotation; but now we have only to treat with Paper, Gold and Silver all being the same commercial value, at least here in Nagasaki. Therefore this Paper, Gold and Silver being the standard, can under its denomination of *yen* be considered as a fixed value; and when the term discount is mentioned, it should not apply to the standard coin of Japan but to the other and alien coins, such as the Mexican dollar or the obsolete coinage of the Tokugawa or previous Government. Instead of describing *yen* as being at a discount, it is the other coins which vary, and which should be quoted as at a premium, or discount, as the case may be. For illustration it is sufficient here to speak of Mexican dollars, and these should now be described in commercial language as being at a premium. It is an error to speak of *yen* as being at a discount. That coin is the standard, the Mexican dollar is a mere article of barter, principally used by foreigners, and the value it has, from day to day, should be represented by the terms premium, par or discount.

It is useless to seek for a cause why money should vary in its value, as it is to try and specify why produce or imports do not maintain an uniform price. The principle of supply and demand regulate both in precisely the same manner. For instance when shirtings are scarce and wanted, their value rises, when abundant and not wanted they fall. In the same manner when dollars are wanted they rise to a premium, and when not wanted they fall to a discount.

Mexican dollars represent a method of remittance to foreign countries (like tea, silk or tobacco) and when the Japanese *yen* has the same selling value in China, or elsewhere, as the Mexican dollar, then only will the rate here be at par between those two coins.

These remarks on the changing value of money are of course trite and well known, but they have to be repeated as often as the question is asked "Why are dollars or *yen* at a discount?"

It would be more correct to say dollars are at a premium, or a discount, instead of saying *yen* are up or down.

Shipping.

It will be observed on reference to return C. that 270 British vessels have entered and cleared during 1873, of a tonnage of 109,853, against 211 vessels of 72,458 tons,

in 1872, which shows an increase of 59 vessels of 37,395 tons in favor of last year. The preponderance of this shipping has been engaged in the coal trade, preference being given to steamers for light freight. The total amount of tonnage, British and foreign, entered and cleared has been 561,155, against 477,376 of the previous year showing an increase of 83,779 tons.

Foreign Residents.

British.....	110
American	38
Portuguese.....	13
German	20
Russian	5
Swiss.....	2
Dutch	14
Norwegian	2
Swedish	2
French.....	16
Spanish	2
Austro-Hungarian.....	2
Chinese	723

General Remarks.

The query now arises, what can be done to ameliorate trade? One of the most important desiderata is a good road which can be used for wheel carriages. A road of this description to Tokitsu might be very easily made, and if connected with a good pier, or landing place, produce from the districts near the bay of Omura could be transported to Nagasaki, at considerably less expense than at present; but I understand, the road which would be more important than any other in connecting this port with the adjacent districts would be the one to Aba, and thence to Yagami. From Yagami there is a tolerably good road leading to Isahaya and the interior. The road at this end might start by a zig-zag ascent up the ravine where the present Mogi road runs, and after reaching the top of the hill slant down along the sides of the range to Aba. There may be some other easier ascent, but that would be a matter for a surveyor to determine. After reaching Aba the difficulties would be comparatively small, I imagine. It is to be hoped that the Japanese will be induced to see the immense importance of good roads in developing the resources of the country.

I am glad to observe that a Judicial Court has been established at this Port, and a Judge appointed by the Government at Yedo. The want of some Commercial Code, and a Bankruptcy Act, which would enable Foreigners to make contracts with natives with some chance of getting them carried out has been hitherto much felt. It is therefore anticipated that the new Tribunal will effect some benefit in this respect.

The patent slip that was erected a few years ago, appears to be answering very well: 22 vessels of 8,145 tons were docked there during last year.

No progress has been made with the Dry Dock, but I understand that a French Engineer has already arrived to proceed with its construction.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) MARCUS FLOWERS.

Sir HARRY S. PARKES, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.

RETURN OF THE IMPORT TRADE OF NAGASAKI FOR THE YEAR, 1873.
FROM ENGLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

COTTON MANUFACTURES, \$448,959.			SUNDRIES, \$814,389.			
Grey & White Shirtings	Yards.	2,490,471	175,123	Machinery	896	30,519
Drills	"	162,460	14,621	Arms Accoutrements &c.		7,500
T. Cloths	"	36,349	2,547	White Sugar	Piculs.	11,694
Handkerchiefs	Dozen.	4,522	4,522	Brown "	"	13,364
Chintz	Yards.	214,159	16,061	Candy " & Loaf.....	"	2,282
Velvets & Satinets		184,903	51,848	Wine & Spirits, Beer &c.	Cases.	5,080
Muslins and Cambrics		154,706	13,355	General Stores	"	2,619
Taffachelass		25,450	5,726	Kerosene Oil.....	"	10,707
Turkey Reds.....		104,600	9,414	Articles de Paris	"	928
Dyed Shirtings Nos. 1 & 2		399,730	36,760	Furniture	"	221
Singlets &c.		7,996	35,982	Window Glass	"	1,499
Canvas		29,419	6,185	Lamps, Glass Ware &c.	"	1,047
Cotton Goods.....		70,763	5,600	Clothing.....	"	40
" Yarn		1,635	62,130	Books	"	19
" Thread		5.77	2,885	Medicine Prepared	"	191
Miscellaneous			6,200	Drugs.....	Piculs.	4,301
				Tea Lead	"	461
				Rope	"	244
				Leather	"	192
				Tortoise Shell	"	5.50
				Catgut	"	19
				Pea Oil	"	4,713
				Sesamum Seed	"	1,682
				Raw Cotton	"	8,883
				Rice	"	10,957
				Peas &c.....	"	25,801
				Flour	Barrels	1,563
				Paints and Paint Oil.....	Piculs.	1,041
				Indigo	"	72
				Vermillion	"	19
				Sapan Wood.....	"	1,462
				Rhinoceros Horn	"	4.25
				Clocks and Watches.....		4,500
				Coals (Australian)	Tons.	2,053
				Tobacco and Cigars	lbs.	4,737
				Soap Bar and Toilet.....		2,000
				Salt Beef	Casks.	250
				Hats and Caps	Dozen.	2,786
				Gloves, Socks &c.....	Pairs.	3,000
				Silk Goods.....	Pieces.	2,866
				Miscellaneous		3,850
						Total.....\$1,626,775

RETURN OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF NAGASAKI FOR THE YEAR, 1873.
TO ENGLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Tea.....	Piculs.	7,877	252,064	Ginseng	Picul.	319	95,700
" Inferior quality	"	7,769	46,614	Irico	"	1,129	53,063
" Dust	"	3,319	6,638	Cuttle Fish	"	10,358	175,996
Tobacco	"	9,674	145,110	Giunang....	"	365	821
Seaweed (unent)	"	10,137	28,946	Sulphur	"	1,249	3,676
" (cut)	"	1,625	4,381	Sharks Fins	"	333	13,220
Fish Salt and Dried	"	270	2,700	Dried Shell Fish	"	839	10,547
Wax Vegetable.....	"	9,863	118,356	Cassia Bark	"	2,804	4,486
" Bees	"	44	1,988	Peony Bark	"	570	4,850
Timber	Planks & logs.	1,165,024	78,753	Paper	"	2,586	25,146
Drugs &c.	Piculs.	1,820	9,669	Lead	"	1,640	9,020
Camphor	"	1,297	19,986	Lacquer Ware	Cases.	189	4,725
Porcelain	Cases.	3,487	87,175	Saltpetre	Piculs.	1,500	10,500
Awabi	Piculs.	1,027	26,676	Rice	"	3,069	6,138
" Shell	"	1,187	1,780	Charcoal	"	3,257	1,086
Mushrooms	"	2,464	69,804	Coke	Tons.	358	5,370
Isinglass	"	303	7,878	Copper, Bronze &c.....	Piculs.	4,683	68,845
Coal (large small & dust)	Tons.	93,442	467,210	Miscellaneous			28,876
							Total.....\$1,899,793

RETURN OF TREASURE IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM NAGASAKI DURING THE
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1873.

Imported from Shanghai.....	496,154.00
" " Open Ports in Japan.....	688,007.00
Exported to Shanghai	114,926.00
" " Open Ports in Japan	116,470.00
Total.....	1,415,557.00

RETURN OF FOREIGN SHIPPING AT THE PORT NAGASAKI IN THE YEAR 1873.
SAILING VESSELS.

FLAG.	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	No. of Vessels.			Tonnage.			No. of Vessels.			Tonnage.		
	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.
American	11	15	26	8,306	7,229	15,000	26	...	26	15,000	...	15,000
North German	14	12	26	5,017	4,416	9,433	25	2	27	8,176	1,482	9,658
Dutch .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
French	2	...	2	1,000	...	1,000	2	—	2	1,000	...	1,000
Danish .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swedish .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Norwegian	1	...	1	180	...	180	1	...	1	180	...	180
Russian .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

STEAMERS.

Pacific Mail Steamers	96	...	96	179,682	...	179,682	96	...	96	179,682	...	179,682
American	30	...	30	18,000	...	18,000	30	...	30	18,000	...	18,000
North German .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	4	...	4	1,245	...	1,245	4	...	4	1,245	...	1,245
Danish .....	...	2	2	...	1,011	1,011	...	2	2	...	1,011	1,011

SHIPPING RETURN.
BRITISH.

ENTERED.				CLEARED.				TOTAL ENTERED AND CLEARED.			
No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.
141	55,221	1,886	...	139	54,632	1,815	...	270	109,853	3,701	...

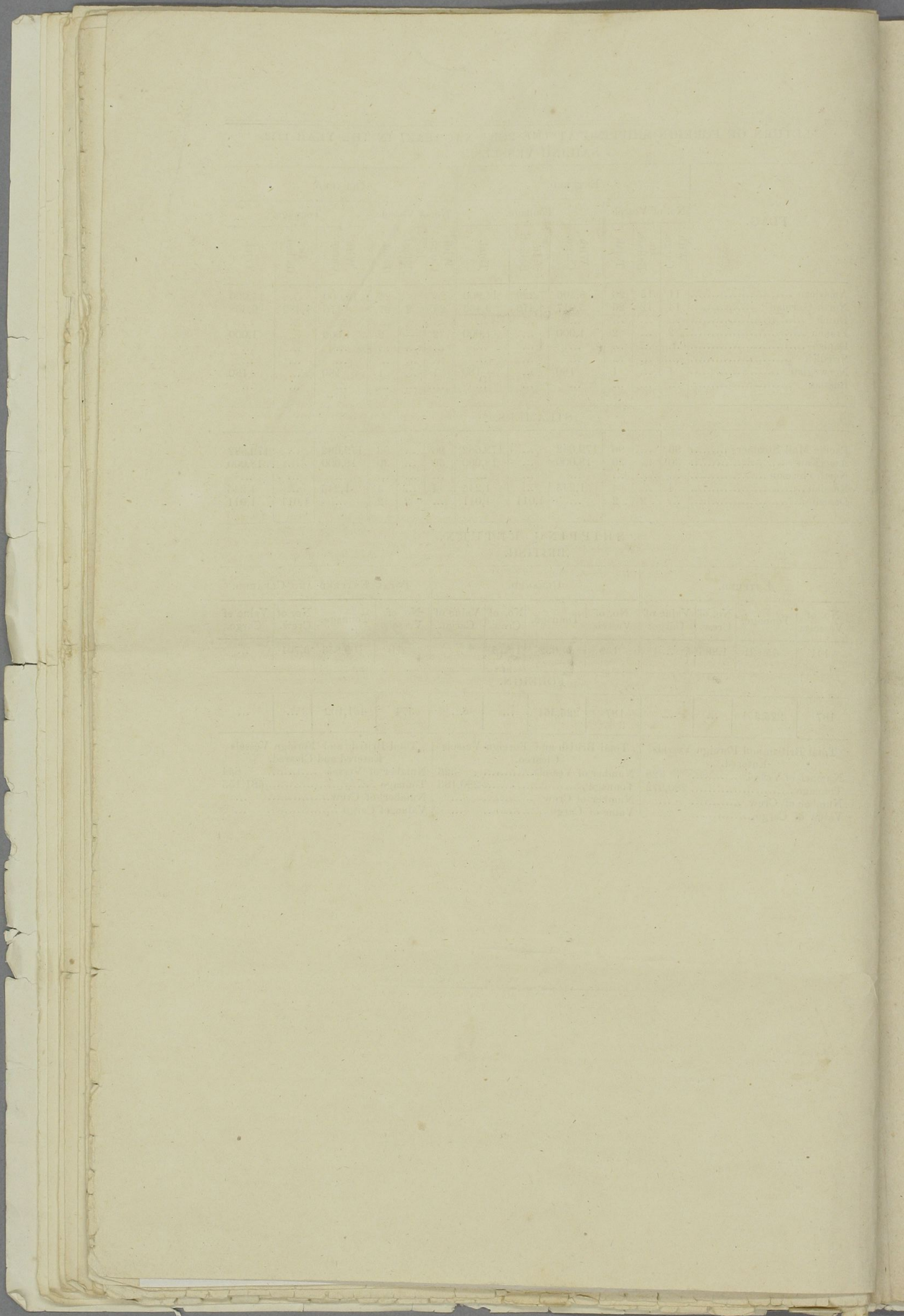
FOREIGN.

187	225,551	187	225,551	374	451,102
-----	---------	-----	-----	-----	---------	-----	-----	-----	---------	-----	-----

Total British and Foreign Vessels Entered.			Total British and Foreign Vessels Cleared.			Total British and Foreign Vessels Entered and Cleared.		
Number of Vessels.....	328		Number of Vessels.....	326		Number of Vessels	654	
Tonnage	280,972		Tonnage	280,183		Tonnage	561,155	
Number of Crew .....	...		Number of Crew .....	...		Number of Crew.....	...	
Value of Cargo.....	...		Value of Cargo .....	...		Value of Cargo.....	...	

30,519
7,500
99,675
53,998
25,102
50,800
78,570
42,828
9,280
2,210
7,495
10,470
1,420
5,000
6,803
20,643
5,071
2,928
3,200
2,946
4,084
35,297
6,307
146,569
21,959
32,251
14,067
11,532
2,880
1,140
4,752
1,478
4,500
25,428
5,230
2,000
7,500
4,262
300
12,545
3,850
\$1,626,775

NG THE
4.00
7.00
5.00
0.00
7.00



HAKODATE.

1873.

BRITISH CONSULAR TRADE REPORT FOR HAKODATE FOR 1873.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Hakodate, 10th March, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Shipping and Commercial Returns for last year, with an accompanying Report on the trade of Hakodate.

Shipping.

	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
1873.....	55	41,016
1872.....	54	31,988
Increase.....	1	9,038

The increase in the tonnage of Foreign Shipping is attributable to the P. M. S. Ships visiting this port not only more regularly but more frequently than last year, very nearly one half of the ships total being Pacific Mail Steamers.

There is very little demand for sailing vessels now, which is still further diminished by the natives importing and exporting in their own sailing ships and steamers; two lines of steamers most punctually visiting this port once a month, the one coming from Osaka, Yokohama and Shinagawa, and the other from non-opened Ports in Japan.

I have been informed that a Japanese Company is being organized to start a line of steamers between Hakodate and Shanghai, to run regularly once a month, and if possible, to commence the coming spring. I also learn, that a Yokohama Foreign Insurance Company will accept risks in said steamers, provided they are commanded by Foreign Masters with a Foreign Engineer on board.

Imports.

1872	£57,528
1873	11,119
Decrease	£46,409

The Imports have suffered a considerable decrease, owing to the natives importing so largely now in their own vessels.

Exports.

1872	£152,157
1873	132,216
Decrease	£19,541

The Exports are likewise less than those of last year, arising in a great measure from the facts, that the natives export on their own account in foreign vessels, and in their own also. And then so many of the Japanese merchants have failed in carrying out their contracts, thereby causing heavy losses to the foreigner, for they can but seldom obtain any redress for breach of contract, the Governor here not having sufficient authority to settle the larger claims, and the Governor General is ordinarily absent in Yedo, so that there is continual delay caused by referring to that city for instructions, and in the mean time the Japanese makes away with what he owns, the upshot being that he is made a bankrupt, the foreign merchant losing greater part if not all the advances he has made. But a reform is promised. A new Judicial Court is shortly to be opened, to which disputes and contracts between foreigners and natives will be referred for settlement, with full powers to the presiding Judge to give a decision in any case brought before him.

General Remarks.

Colonization.—But poor progress has been made towards the colonization of this island, started five years ago. I hear of no more arrivals of colonists. A new road has been made from Hakodate to Mori, and from Moruran to Satsporo, the new capital of this island, but there are rumours now that this latter is to be given up, as it is found to be inconvenient and inaccessible in winter, on account of the bad state of the roads. Last autumn an American stage coach was run by the Government three times a week from Hakodate to Mori, a distance of 20 miles, which, however, had to be discontinued towards the end of the year, the above-mentioned road being unfit for vehicles of the size and weight of a stage coach during the winter months. As soon as these improve, however, the stage communication will be reopened, and carried on to Satsporo, Volcano Bay being crossed in a steamer.

Hakodate, however, has benefited by this island having occupied the attention of Central Government. The streets have been considerably widened, doing away with several narrow streets and lanes, which it is to be hoped will in case of conflagration prevent the flames from spreading so rapidly. The dwellings of the officials have been taken down and in their stead detached bungalows erected in foreign style. To sum up, the Japanese population, trade and buildings, of a better description, are increasing with astonishing rapidity in every direction.

Japanese Hospital and its dependencies.

Though the courtesy of Dr. Eldridge M.D., under whose direction the establishments are, I am enabled to furnish the following particulars.

Hakodate, March, 1874.

R. EUSDEN, Esq.,
H. B. M.'s Consul.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your queries of this afternoon, I have the honour to reply.

1st.—There are five large hospitals in the district of Hokaido; four in Yesso, at Hakodate, Satsporo, Matsmai and Issashi, and one in Saghalien. In addition to those every village of any size has a dispensary under charge of a native doctor.

2nd.—There are about forty doctors employed in the same district, on duty at the hospitals and dispensaries.

3rd.—There are seven native physicians on duty at the Hakodate Hospital. Of this number two are well educated and able men, and all of them have a fair amount of knowledge and ability.

4th.—Hakodate Hospital when full can accommodate one hundred and twenty patients.

5th.—The average number of patients in Hakodate Hospitals is sixty,

6th.—The number of out patients examined and prescribed for at Hakodate Hospital averages fifty per diem.

7th.—I have twenty young men regularly entered as students of medicine, beside which my daily lectures are attended by the doctors of the hospital and by several physicians of the town, which brings my class up to thirty-three.

8th.—My method of instruction is by daily lectures as well as by bedside other clinical demonstration. The curriculum of study is that usual in schools elsewhere, so far as que man can do the work.

I am, etc.,
(Signed) STUART ELDRIDGE, M.D.,
Chief Surgeon, Hokaido.

In connection with the above I ought to mention that Dr. Eldridge publishes once every two months an illustrated medical journal, which I have no doubt will be greatly appreciated by the medical student in Japan, as it is written in Japanese.

Postal communication with Yedo has been considerably improved, and is performed pretty regularly in ten days between two places, a small steamer communicating with Awamori three times a week, each time taking over and bringing back numbers of Japanese, who I am informed come over here in the first instance to purchase foreign goods, which are to be found in every shop, some of which deal in nothing but foreign imports.

This spring telegraphic communication with Yedo is to be established; everything is completed, the cable between this place and the main coast being alone required. The line extends to Satsuro.

Minerals.

Gold.—It has always been surmised there was gold in this Island, but the spot was unknown and it was strenuously denied by the officials. A visitor to Hakodate, on his way to Saghalien via this Island, has told me, that he came across a party, consisting of four Japanese and five Ainos, busy washing gold on Government account. This was at Tofui in the Tokeby or Biro district about 160 *ri* from here on the Eastern Coast. The gold is found in the seasand, all along the beach for miles, which is covered with thick layers of this black auriferous sand. The simple process consisted in taking up a small basket of sand, washing its contents by the seaside and collecting the gold, which is prevented from running off by a small sieve at the bottom of each basket. The said gentleman saw specimens of gold taken at different places; all being equally fine and rich samples. The Ainos ride over those fields of treasure, little knowing what they are trampling under foot.

Coal.—From the sailors of the late British schooner *Swallow*, wrecked at Nemero, who were conveyed from that place to Hakodate overland, I have learned that there

are immense quantities of Coal between Akish and Yeri-mo on the eastern coast of this Island. They say the mines are untouched, stretching all along the coast for miles, consequently the specimen I got from them, and which I had the honour to forward you in November last was only surface coal.

Fish, Game. etc.—Whilst at home on leave last year, and here too, I have many a time been asked for particulars in regard to the production of fish, etc. in this Island with a view to curing and tinning for exportation. I therefore subjoin the accompanying list, attaching to each speciality the time when it is in season, as also the price. The prices marked are Hakodate market prices, the higher figure denoting that when the article in question first comes into season.

Fish.

Name.	When in Season.	Price.
Cod	Nov. to Apr. incl.	16 cts. to 38 cts. each.
Herrings	Jan. to Apr. "	8 to 12 for 25 cents.
Salmon.....	Sep. to Dec. "	12 cts. to 37 cts. each.
Salmon Trout,	Dec. to Aug. "	6 cts. to 25 cts. each.

Game.

Name.	When in Season.	Price.
Grouse	Oct. to Mar. incl.	30 cts. to 50 cts. each.
Hares	Nov. to Apr. "	50 cts. to 75 cts. each.
Quail.....	June to Aug. "	12 cts. each.
Snipe.....	July to Oct. "	12 cts. each.
Teal	Sept. to Jan. "	12 cts. to 18 cts. each.
Leg of Venison	Nov. to Apr. "	37 cts. to \$1 each.
Woodcock	Sept. (scarce)	25 cts. each.
Wild Duck	Oct. to Apr. "	40 cts. each.
Leg of Bear	Dec. to Apr. "	\$1.75 each.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

R. EUSDEN.

Sir HARRY S. PARKES,
Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary,
&c., &c., &c.

RETURN OF THE EXPORT TRADE OF HAKODATE FOR THE YEAR 1873.

DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDIZE.		QUANTITY.	VALUE.
To England and other Countries.			\$
Tobacco	Piculs.	416	1,735
Seaweed	"		15
Fish Salt or dried.....	"		7,552
Miscellaneous			29,753
To open Ports in Japan.			
Seaweed	Piculs.		324,679
Fish Salt or dried.....			209,816
Miscellaneous			15,453
Totals.....			\$589,403

Equal at 4s. 6d. per cent \$ to £132,616.

RETURN OF IMPORT TRADE OF HAKODATE, FOR THE YEAR 1873.

DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDIZE.		QUANTITY.	VALUE.
From England and others countries.			\$
Sugar Brown	Bags.	172	620
Coals	Tons.	1,706	11,280
Miscellaneous			4,036
From other Ports in Japan.			
WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES.			
Cloth			206
Blankets	Pairs.	1,000	1,034
Miscellaneous			7,775
METALS.			
Iron	Piculs.	260	910
Tin Plates.....	"	20	200
Sugar Brown	"	1,126	5,749
Coals	Tons.	560	5,040
Miscellaneous			12,144
Total.....			\$48,994

Equal at 4s. 6d. to the \$ to £11,024,11.8

RETURN OF FOREIGN SHIPPING ENTERING AND CLEARING FROM HAKODATE DURING THE YEAR 1873.

ENTERED.			CLEARED.		
Flag.	No.	Tonnage.	Flag.	No.	Tonnage.
American	33	41,016	American.....	34	41,044
British	15	3,841	British	16	4,139
German	5	1,345	German	5	1,345
Russian	1	498	Russian	1	498
Danish	1	25	Danish	1	25
Total.....	55	46,725	Total.....	57	47,051

SHIPPING RETURN.
BRITISH.

ENTERED.				CLEARED.				TOTAL ENTERED AND CLEARED.			
No. of Vessels	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.
15	3,841	114	£6,048	16	4,139	138	£44,580	31	7,980	252	£50,628

FOREIGN.

ENTERED.				CLEARED.				TOTAL ENTERED AND CLEARED.			
No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Crew.	Value of Cargo.
40	42,884	1,521	£5,038	41	42,912	1,535	£88,033	81	85,796	3,056	£93,071

Total British and Foreign Entered.			Total British and Foreign Cleared.			Total British and Foreign Entered and Cleared.		
Number of Vessels.....	55		Number of Vessels	57		Number of Vessels.....	112	
Tonnage	46,725		Tonnage	47,051		Tonnage	93,776	
Number of Crew	1,635		Number of Crew	1,673		Number of Crew.....	3,308	
Value of Cargo	£11,116		Value of Cargo.....	£132,613		Value of Cargo.....	£143,729	

(Signed) R. EUSDEN
H. B. M.'s Consul.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Hakodate, 31st December, 1873.

ish and Yeri-
They say the
ong the coast
ot from them,
a in November

on leave last
been asked for
ish, etc. in this
or exportation.
, attaching to
son, as also the
market prices,
article in ques-

Price.
to 38 cts. each.
2 for 25 cents.
to 37 cts. each.
to 25 cts. each.

Price.
to 50 cts. each.
to 75 cts. each.
each.
each.
to 18 cts. each.
to \$1 each.
each.
each.
each.

e Sorvant,
. EUSDEN.

73.

VALUE.
\$
1,735
15
7,952
29,753
324,679
209,816
15,453
\$589,403

VALUE.
\$
620
11,280
4,036
206
1,034
7,775
910
200
5,749
5,040
12,144
\$48,994

日本、外國貿易
英領事、報告

日本、外国貿易
英領事、報告

