

A law exists requiring that there should always be in the kingdom rice sufficient for three years' consumption, which is observed, although perhaps not to its full extent.

The cultivation of coffee is carried on in the hilly districts on the east coast of the Gulf of Siam, but on a very limited scale. The annual produce is not much more than 200 piculs, although it is understood to be increasing. The quality is reckoned to be nearly equal to Mocha, and it commands a high price in the English market. Cotton is grown in considerable quantities partly for home consumption, and the rest for export to China by the junks, who take it uncleaned. The cultivation of gambouge is increasing on the confines of Camboja and at Chantiboor. Pepper is cultivated on the hills on the east coast of the Gulf, and is all taken by the China junks. The nutmeg tree grows luxuriantly, but does not yield fruit. Indigo grows in a wild state in Siam, and all the dye used in the country is manufactured from these plants. The extensive low grounds are admirably suited for the cultivation of this plant, as well as many other valuable products.

The revenues of Siam can only be guessed at; but it is thought that they exceed eleven millions of ticals yearly. They are derived from a tax on all kinds of produce which is farmed out—of the tonnage duties fixed by the treaties with England and America, &c. In addition to the duties allowed by these treaties, others have been imposed in direct violation of them, although they are not directly levied on the foreign merchant, but on the goods after they have come into the hands of the native dealers, or on the produce before it is allowed to be sold for export; thus a duty of a tical per picul is imposed on iron for every picul used, and half a tical per tical on black pepper, and one tical per picul on white pepper previous to export. The export of timber is prohibited contrary to treaty. Sugar can only be purchased from the Government agents, and, in many other instances, are the provisions of these treaties entirely disregarded.

Opium still continues strictly contraband, but is smuggled into the country to a large extent. Daily seizures of smugglers take place, who, if rich, pay a heavy fine, and, if poor, are ironed and put on the public works. The officers of Government enrich themselves by means of these fines, hence they are exceedingly vigilant in looking after offenders; but the smuggling is still persevered in, as, if successful, the smuggler realises a profit of nearly 100 per cent on his venture.

The population of Bangkok, of which alone any estimate can be made, as it is the only part of Siam of which Europeans have any great knowledge from personal observation, may be roughly guessed at somewhere between six and seven hundred thousand souls. The following is a conjecture at the probable amount:—

English . . . . .	3
Americans (missionaries and their wives) . . . . .	10
Portuguese . . . . .	3
Ditto descendants . . . . .	800
French missionaries . . . . .	5
Chinese paying poll tax . . . . .	425,000

Carried forward . . . . 425,821