

The mode of carrying on trade does not appear to differ very materially from that pursued at Singapore, being by credit, barter, or for cash, according to the terms of each particular transaction. Of foreign imports, cotton manufactures hold the most important place; and this branch of trade would be most materially benefited by any improvement in the tariff, or rather by a moderate and equitable tariff being substituted for the present oppressive and almost prohibitory tonnage duties.

The articles most suited for the import trade may be stated to be—White and gray long cloths, ditto maddapollams, ditto cambrics, ditto jaconets, book lappets; velvets, plain and figured; checked fancy muslins, American drills, cotton umbrellas; figured long cloths, white and dyed; dyed cambrics, dyed long cloths; prints, chintz furnitures, and neutrals; Siam chowls or dresses, Turkey-red cloth, gray cotton twist, Turkey-red ditto, imperial-red and blue ditto, long ells, ladies' cloths, Spanish stripes, merinos of assorted colours, canvas; iron, steel, lead, and spelter; earthenware, assorted; glassware and lamps, assorted; hardware, assorted; muskets, gun-locks; brimstone, bees'-wax, cowries, flint stones, musket flints, &c.

Siam is naturally very fertile, and were proper encouragement afforded to the cultivators we might expect to see the produce of those articles of export which are the subjects of cultivation increased to a very large extent; while the articles of commerce, which, though the produce of the country are not raised by cultivation, but collected from the forests, would also no doubt be brought to market in greater abundance. Amongst articles produced by cultivation sugar holds the first place in importance. In some remarks on the monopoly of this article by the King of Siam which were published a few months ago in the *Free Press*, we showed at what a rapid rate the production of this article had proceeded previous to 1840, the year in which the King first established his monopoly. The amount produced in that year was estimated at 257,000 piculs, while in 1846 it could not be stated at more than 150,000, so rapidly has the withering effects of the royal monopoly told upon its production, while at the same time it has deteriorated in quality. The extension of sugar cultivation would no doubt be very great, were the produce left to find its way into the merchants' hands, without having to pass through those of the King or his officers. At present the crop is farmed to three or four Government officers (naturalised Chinese) who pay to Government from 1 to 1½ ticals per picul on the whole quantity produced, and compel the cultivators to deliver it to them at small and unremunerative prices, hence leaving no inducement to improved or extended cultivation.

The cultivators of sugar are all free Chinese emigrants who pay a poll tax to Government. They have no titles to the land, but hold it on sufferance, locating themselves where they find ground suitable for their purpose, and shifting to another spot when the soil they are on has become exhausted. They pay no land tax, but a duty on what is produced. The cultivation of rice is carried on in much the same way, not by Chinese, however, but by Siamese or Peguan ryots principally. The export of rice being prohibited, none finds its way out of the country, except what is smuggled, or is exported by the King on his own account.