

miles of automobile roads now under construction in Kweichow will make even a brief visit profitable. This trip will supply much needed information about this undescribed area which cannot be obtained otherwise. A visit to Peking is also necessary to utilize unpublished information in the hands of the Chinese Geological Survey.

4. The interpretation of the Social and economic possibilities of China on the basis of the geographic background. This includes, among others, the following items.

- a) The distribution and extent of land suitable for cultivation as determined by land forms, climate and soil.
- b) The possibilities of colonization and agricultural expansion in Manchuria, the Mongolian borderlands and elsewhere.
- c) The possible industrial development in relation to mineral resources, transportation and markets.
- d) The contrast between the north and the south as related to climate, resources, outside contacts and racial characteristics.
- e) The concentration of population, occupations, standards of living and fundamental economic problems.

#### Importance

The studies made so far represent the first comprehensive attempt to organize the geographic facts concerning China and interpret them in terms of natural regions. Similar interpretations are available for many other parts of the world and are greatly needed for an adequate understanding of this country.

With the growing importance of the Pacific basin it is desirable that China's possibilities of mineral production, industrial development, agricultural expansion and increased living standards be clearly understood. All of these problems have a geographic basis, for it is the distinctive function of geography to interpret the relationship between the physical environment and human activities.

This book will bring together the best available information concerning topography, climate, agricultural possibilities, mineral resources, population densities and the general geography of China. The organization and interpretation will represent a distinct contribution toward an understanding of China's problems and possibilities. This information is not available at present. No arrangements have yet been made concerning publication.