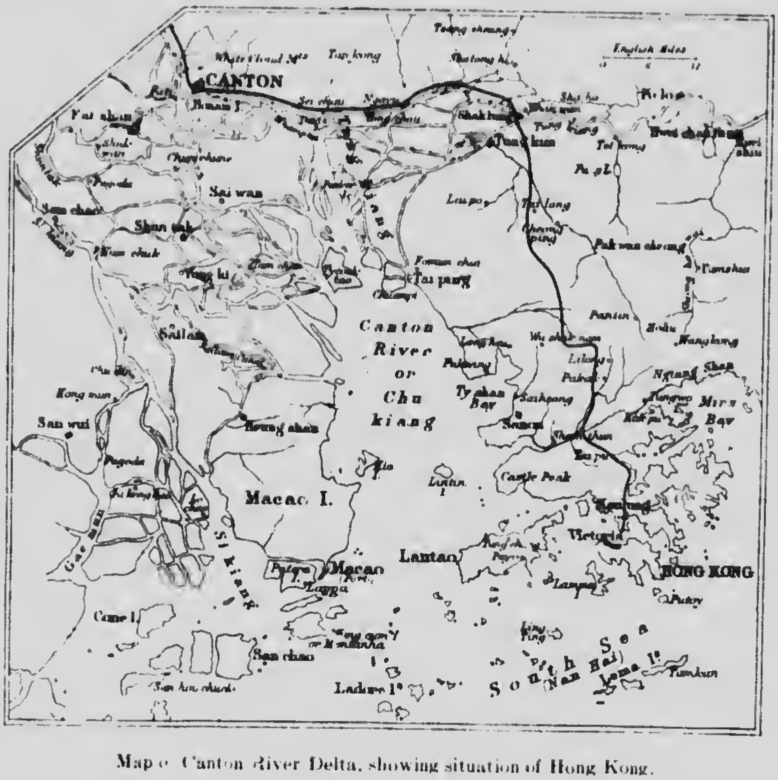
TRADE POSITION OF HONG KONG.

Hong Kong, June 20, 1918. The British colony of Hong Kong is the principal emporium of trade for South China, filling the same function which for the North China and Yangtze valley is fulfilled by Shanghai. Although extending over a comparatively small area, it is one of the most important Crown colonies of the British Empire, and has been of great assistance to British trade interests in the Far East. The port serves as the distributing centre of imported foreign goods for a large extent of territory, and in the export of Chinese products ranks second only to Shanghai. The value of the trade of the colony is estimated at over $250,000,000 gold a year, and it may be stated that approximately one-fourth of the imports and one-third of the exports of the collective foreign trade of China in normal times are financed and distributed through Hong Kong.



Map of Canton River Delta, showing situation of Hong Kong.

STATISTICS OF TRADE.

Hong Kong has always been a free port and statistics of trade have hitherto not been published. For this reason it is difficult to convey a proper conception of the nature and volume of the trade of the port. Last year a special department was estab-