

The district back of Swatow is a large importer of beans and bean-cake and also of rice, although rice is produced in the district as well. The staple exports are sugar and tobacco. The making of grass-cloth is an important industry in Swatow. A great number of coolie emigrants leave the Swatow district every year to work on the rubber and other plantations of the Malay Straits and the East Indies. The savings of these coolies considerably augment the purchasing power of the district.

The town of Swatow is prettily situated on the Han River four miles from the mouth. There is a very good anchorage for ocean-going steamers. The foreign community lives for the most part on the south shore of the river across from the town. A railway is in operation which connects Swatow with Chao-Chao-Fu, the chief city of the district and situated 24½ miles away.

AMOY AND FOOCHOW.

The trade of the ports of Amoy and Foochow is greatly on the decline with the falling off of the traffic in local and Formosan teas. Formerly the bulk of the tea grown in Formosa was brought to Amoy to be blended, packed and matted. With the development of the port of Keelung by the Japanese this trade has disappeared. The falling off in the demand abroad for Foochow tea has similarly dealt a severe blow to the trade of that port.

The harbour of Amoy is one of the best protected on the coast, there being both an outer and inner anchorage. There is a foreign community of nearly 2,000, who live on an island in the harbour across from the Chinese city. As in the case of Swatow a great number of coolie emigrants leave Amoy every year for the south. There is still a fairly considerable trade done at Amoy and the names of local importing firms established at this port may be obtained on application to the department.

Foochow is a large city with a population of 625,000. It is the capital of the province of Fukien and is situated on the Min river at a distance of 34 miles from the sea and nine miles above Pagoda anchorage, the highest point reached by steamers. The foreign population is about 800 and the number is diminishing with the decaying trade of the port. Supplies of foreign goods for Foochow are obtained partly from Hong Kong and partly from Shanghai and the port is situated at almost an equal distance from both centres. An important industry at Foochow is the manufacture of junks, Foochow junks being seen all over the China coast. The province of Fukien is regarded by the Japanese as their special sphere of influence by reason of its proximity to Formosa and great Japanese activity both commercially and in other economic directions is to be noticed at Amoy and Foochow.

HONG KONG TRADE RETURNS.

As already stated a special department of the Hong Kong Government was formed a year ago to supervise imports and exports to and from the colony. Up to this time the only trade figures available had been the returns of the harbourmaster's department, which gave only a slight indication as to the nature of the trade of the colony. The first returns to be made available by the newly formed imports and exports department are the figures for the imports into Hong Kong during the four months ending December 31, 1917, and the exports from the colony for the second half year of 1917. These returns are given below. They do not include (1) cargo brought to the colony for transshipment only, or through bills of lading; (2) goods imported or exported by the Colonial Government or the military or naval authorities; (3) goods imported under general licenses, which comprise the whole of the imports from the Canton Delta and West River and a portion of the imports from China Coast ports, south of Shanghai; (4) exports by junks or railway.