

CANTON.

Canton is the largest city in South China with a population variously estimated at from 1,000,000 to 2,500,000. It has long been the principal seat of government for South China, formerly comprising with Tientsin and Nanking one of the three great vice-royalties of China. Canton is an important industrial centre and its situation at the point, where three main trade routes converge from the east, north and west, gives the city an important position in the domestic trade of that part of the country. There is a prettily laid out foreign settlement, which was created in 1859 by the embanking and reclaiming of a mud flat half a mile long and a fifth of a mile wide and known as the Shameen. Four-fifths of this reclamation was assigned as a British concession and one-fifth as a French concession. The foreigners living here comprise a self-governing community to the number of about 1,500. On the Shameen are also established most of the branches of the foreign firms doing business in Canton. There are practically only three local foreign firms in Canton, the remainder being branches mostly of Hong Kong houses. The names of the three firms referred to may be obtained on application. The value of the foreign trade of Canton for 1916 was given in the customs returns at 109,081,638 Haikwan taels. The principal exports are silk and its products, cassia eggs, fans, leather, straw mats, matting and paper.



Treaty Port of Wuchow.—West River.

SWATOW.

Swatow is a busy little port, being the gateway for a fairly extensive hinterland. This hinterland is a stretch of territory extending from north to south and bordered by two ranges of hills, one of which cuts it off from the ports of the Canton River delta and the other from the ports of Fukien—Amoy and Foochow. This explains the relatively large foreign trade of Swatow as compared with that of the two latter ports, the following being the figures for 1916:—

	Haikwan taels.
Swatow	58,529,443
Amoy	17,397,562
Foochow	20,114,610