

219,146.10 lbs of raw opium were imported by the Government of Formosa. In 1907, the amount of raw opium imported into Formosa was 321,794.85 lbs, while the number of licensed opium smokers decreased to 113,165.

These seemingly contradictory figures may be explained by the following facts:-

(a)-- In 1901 a fanatical sect called "Foiluan-Chiangpihui" described on pages 61 and 62 of our Report, came into existence, and for a time had such influence that in the fiscal years 1901-1902 and 1902-1903 the amount of opium paste sold to licensed merchants decreased to 118,773 and 131,182 kilograms respectively; whereas, in the fiscal year 1900-1901 the amount of paste sold by the Government of Formosa was 205,877 kilograms. (Vide page 60 of our Report). The sudden decrease in the amount of opium paste sold to licensed merchants in 1901 and 1902 was thus largely due to a temporary decrease in the number of smokers in consequence of the religious convictions of the sect referred to.

(b)-- The years 1901 and 1902 were remarkable for the prevalence of the smuggling of opium and the illicit manufacture of opium for smoking. In this connection two tabular statements given on page 56 of our Report may be referred to, and, considering that those statements deal only with cases in respect to which prosecutions were instituted, the magnitude of the total amount of opium smuggled into Formosa during those two years may well be surmised. It follows that, other things being equal, the amount of opium purchased by licensed merchants will decrease in proportion to the quantity that is smuggled into the island.

(c)-- Owing to the improvements introduced in recent years in various directions both in the Customs and Police Services of Formosa, their efficiency has been greatly increased, the result being that smuggling and illicit manufacture and sale of opium have practically become impossible.