

They are the most inert and conservative of peoples. But there are signs of change. One of these, may seem trivial, but it is deeply significant. There is a movement in China amongst the upper classes to abandon the very ancient custom of compressing female feet into deformity, a custom so old as to have acquired almost a religious sanction. The revolt against this custom has in it the elements of social revolution. The question too of reforming the Chinese language, which, at present, presents one of the most formidable obstacles to a higher civilization, is being discussed by Chinese statesmen. The terrible superstition which has caused armed revolts against the country being even surveyed for railway purposes, is being broken down by the evils they feared to result from such work being proved to be imaginary. If the movement extends for allowing female feet to grow naturally, there will be an enormous demand for boots and shoes for Chinese women and girls, after the styles of Europe and this continent. This will create a large trade in which Canada doubtless will share. Such a movement will develop others, and as civilization and freer internal intercourse add to the earning and spending powers of the Chinese there will be a gradual adoption of such habits as will create a general demand for the thousand and one articles in common use in Europe which are unknown to the Chinese. As foreign trade extends, foreign customs will more and more come into fashion, and foreign influences will increase as the rigidity of ancient habits gives way, and the people are brought into closer contact with foreign travellers. Let the printing press once get into active work in China—where it was known long before it was in Europe, but never popularized—and its effects will be as great as they have been in all civilized nations.

The following information as to the foreign trade of China is from official sources. In 1891 the imports were \$95,200,000 and exports, \$70,700,000, a total foreign trade of \$165,900,000. In 1895, the latest year for which details are to hand, the imports were \$126,000,000, and the exports, \$100,310,000, a total of \$226,310,000. The American consular reports for 1897 give the total foreign trade of China as \$271,000,000, which shows the increase from 1891 to 1897 to have been \$105,100,000, or 63 1-3 per cent. In this connection it will be interesting to observe what countries shared in this enlarged foreign trade of China, which is shown in the following table of comparisons:—

	1891.	1895.	Increase.
Great Britain.....	\$30,380,000	\$31,172,000	\$792,000
Canada.....	1,017,200	1,255,800	238,600
Other Colonies.....	87,902,800	118,072,200	31,169,400
Total Brit. Empire..	\$118,300,000	\$150,500,000	\$32,200,000
United States.....	11,716,000	14,331,000	2,615,000
Japan.....	8,054,000	22,412,000	14,358,000
Russia.....	7,147,700	8,089,400	1,841,700
Other European Countries.....	14,114,800	21,361,200	7,246,400
Macao.....	3,902,500	3,370,500	dec. 532,000
Other Countries.....	2,716,300	5,401,900	2,685,600
Totals of China's foreign trade.....	\$165,971,300	\$226,368,000	\$60,396,700

From the above it appears that Great Britain and her colonies in 1895 did two-thirds of the foreign trade of China. The total tonnage inwards and outwards from Chinese ports last year was 33,752,362 tons of which 65 per cent. was British; China had 23 per cent.; Germany 5 per cent.; Japan 2 per cent.; Sweden and Norway 2 per cent.; and the balance of 3 per cent. was divided between France, the United States, and all other countries. Judging by the existing conditions there seems every reason to anticipate enormous advantages accruing to the British Empire from those developments in China, which are being expected in the future. It is reasonable to anticipate that, as the demand for foreign goods develops in China, the manufacturers of Canada will do a largely increased trade with that colossal Empire.

ANOTHER INTERESTING CASE FOR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

Life insurance circles in England are much interested in a startling crime alleged to have been committed in Tangier, the diplomatic capital of Morocco. Owen McDonnell Callan is charged with attempting to murder Hubert Birkin who is the heir to a fortune of half a million pounds sterling upon the death of his grandfather Mr. William Clift Maxton. One thing that makes the case of special interest to life insurance men is the fact that Mr Birkin a few months ago obtained policies from about fifteen of the principal life insurance companies doing business in London, aggregating somewhere in the neighbourhood of seventy-five thousand pounds. The policies are conditional upon Mr. Birkin dying before his grandfather and upon his living in the meanwhile north of parallel 35 North Latitude. The grandfather is eighty-seven years old and Mr. Birkin is now in Tangier which is situated in Latitude 35° 47' 12" N.

Callan is a gentleman who is well rather than favourably known in London society. His father was at one time a member of Parliament. Callan the younger came prominently before the public some years ago in connection with what was called the Bogus Baby Case. He conspired with a woman to blackmail a gentleman by pretending that the latter was the father of a baby which it was proven never had any existence. Both conspirators served terms of imprisonment for this offence. About two months ago Birkin arrived at Tangier with Callan for his travelling companion. At midnight on May 19, Birkin states that Callan attempted to throw him out of the window of their hotel. Birkin broke away, he says, and ran down stairs but was pursued by Callan who fired a revolver at him the bullet passing through both his cheeks and then beat him on the head with a life preserver. Birkin was seriously but it is hoped not fatally hurt, and Callan was arrested and brought before the British Consular Court. The prisoner alleges that Birkin is insane and that he tried to throw himself out of the window; that when Callan tried to