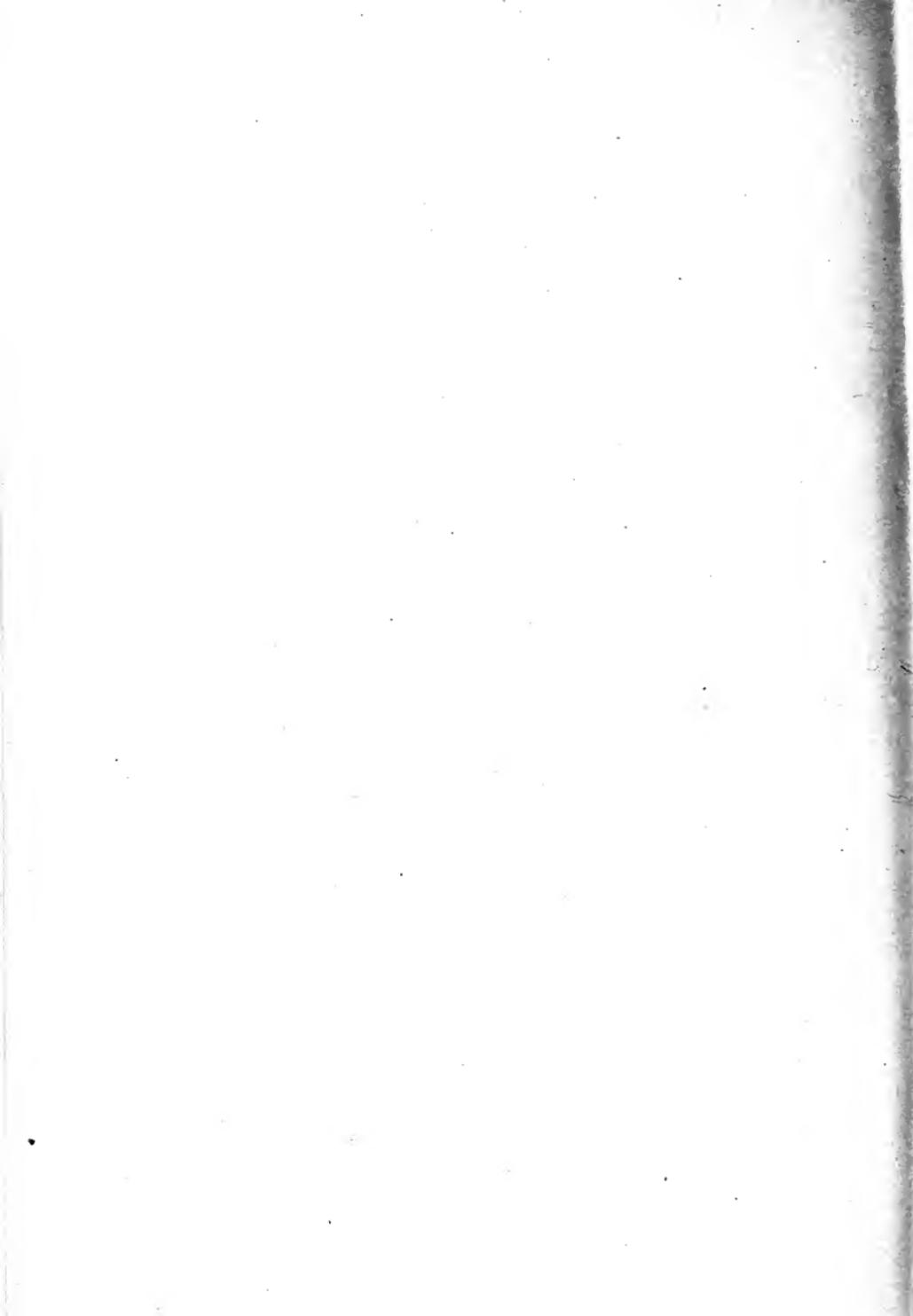


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ASIA :

A RATIONAL AND SUGGESTIVE TEXT-BOOK OF
GEOGRAPHY FOR PUPILS IN PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

With 15 MAPS and DIAGRAMS, and 23 ILLUSTRATIONS.

By

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GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA.

ASIA—GENERAL.

Position.

Asia is the most easterly of the continents forming the Old World, being joined to Europe on the W. and forming with it the land mass of *Eurasia*. There is no definite geographical boundary between the two continents, the comparatively low *Ural Mountains* not forming an effective barrier.

In the S.W. corner, Asia is joined to Africa by the *Isthmus of Suez*, which is about 13 miles broad. On the N.E. it is separated from the continent of North America by *Behring Strait*, which is about 40 miles wide. The N. part of this is very shallow; hence, possibly, land communication existed between Asia and America in the past. Asia lies almost entirely within the *Northern Hemisphere*, only some islands of the East Indies extending S. of the Equator.

Size.

Asia is the largest of the continents, being nearly *five* times the size of Europe. It contains $17\frac{1}{4}$ million square miles—roughly about one-third of the land area of the world. Its extreme breadth from E. to W. is greater than its extreme length from N. to S. These distances are respectively about 6,000 and 5,350 miles.

Coast Line.

This is *not greatly indented*, being 51,200 miles in length, three times the minimum required to circumscribe its area, and giving 1 mile of coast to 337 square miles of area; hence, there are vast districts far removed from the sea.

The Altai Mts., which are usually considered the centre of the continent, are about 1,600 miles from any arm of the sea.

North.—The land bordering the *Arctic Ocean* lies almost entirely N. of the Arctic Circle, and is for the most part low and flat.

In the W., according to Nansen, it closely resembles the Norwegian coast with its numerous fiords, and has every appearance of glacial action; but from *Chelyuskin*, the most northerly point, there is no sign of this in an eastward direction.

East.—There are really two coasts—the *coast of the mainland* and that of the *fringing islands*. The true coast has a general N.E. to S.W. trend, and is steep and irregular, save where vast deltas have been built up by the great rivers; but between this and the *Pacific* is an almost continuous chain of islands enclosing four seas:—

- (1) *Sea of Okhotsk*, bordered by the Kurile Islands.
- (2) *Japan Sea*, bordered by the Japanese Islands.
- (3) *East China and Yellow Seas*—so called from the colour of the mud brought down by the Hoang-ho—on the E. of which are the *Riu Kiu* (or *Lu Chu*) *Is.*
- (4) *South China Sea*, with the *Gulf of Siam*, bounded by the Philippine Islands and Borneo on the E. and Sumatra on the S.W.

These inland seas, from earliest times, have been the seat of much commerce.

South.—Asia is bounded on the S. by the Indian Ocean, into which project three great peninsulas:—*Indo-China*, *India* (separated from Indo-China by the Bay of Bengal), and *Arabia* to the W., divided from India by the Arabian Sea, from which opens the almost landlocked Persian Gulf. These peninsulas rise in terraces from narrow coastal plains.

Surface and Drainage.

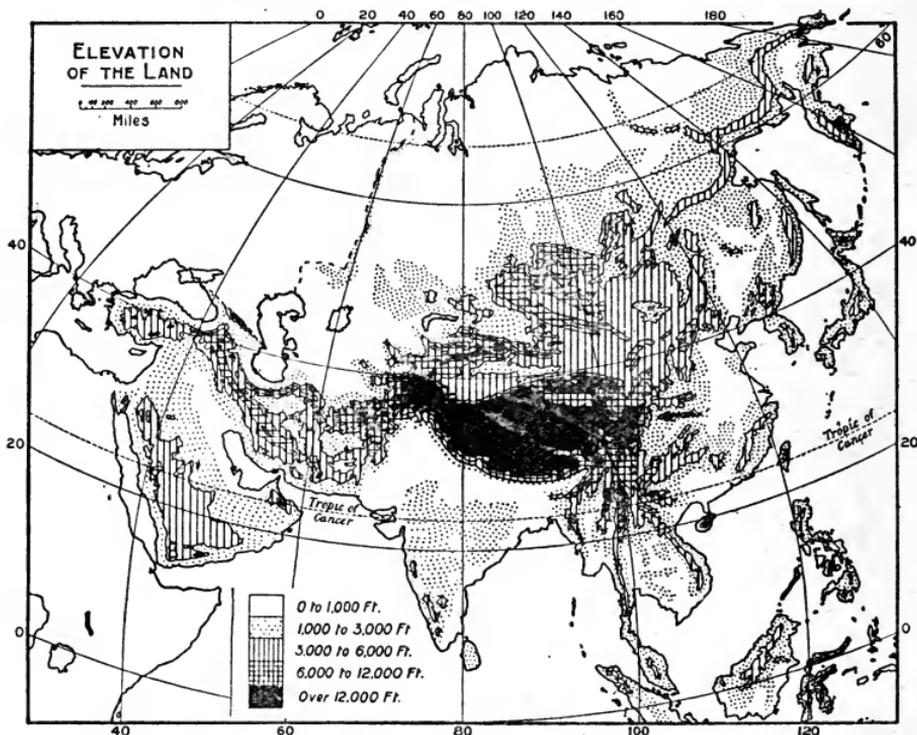
Asia can be divided into four clearly-marked areas:—

- (1) Northern Lowlands;
- (2) Central Mountains;
- (3) Southern Tablelands;
- (4) Eastern Volcanic Mountains.

(1) The NORTHERN LOWLANDS consist of one vast plain gradually rising to the S. and E. A quarter of the area of Asia lies below 600 feet, and the majority of this is in the N., being a continuation of the lowland

plain of Europe. This area may be divided into five regions according to the river basins, one of which is inland, while the others are oceanic.

(a) The *Turan* is the region of inland drainage, chiefly to the Sea of Aral. It consists of one vast plain, gradually rising along the river courses, in the land bordering the lakes and in the Ust Urt plateau. The land surrounding the Caspian Sea is below sea-level. The chief rivers draining this area are the *Syr Daria* and *Amu Daria*, which flow into the Sea of Aral, and the *Ili*, flowing into Lake Balkash.



(b) The area of *oceanic drainage* belongs to the Siberian plain, where the rivers run in a general S. to N. direction, being joined by others flowing from E. to W. These systems are:—

- (1) The *Obi-Irtish*;
- (2) The *Yenesei* and its three tributaries, the *Lower Tunguska*, the *Middle* or *Stony Tunguska*, and the *Upper Tunguska* or *Angara*;
- (3) The *Lena*, which forms a vast delta;
- (4) Several rivers draining the N.E. of Asia, and rising in the Stanovoi Mts.

All the Siberian rivers suffer from a great drawback. They flow from warmer to colder regions; hence, their upper courses thaw before the lower, giving rise to sudden floods.

(2) The CENTRAL MOUNTAIN SYSTEM consists of a band of lofty mountains and plateaux extending across Asia from W. to E., and gradually widening towards the E.

More than one-twelfth of Asia consists of land above 10,000 feet in altitude, and the majority of it is found in this region, which is a continuation of the lofty, "folded" mountains of Europe. (Folded mountains are those which are due to changes in the earth's levels, produced by internal forces. The mountain-ranges are the *up*-folds, and the valleys are the *down*-folds.)

The *Pamir Plateau*, the "Roof of the World," consists of a series of ridges and valleys, the floors of which are 11,000 feet above sea-level. From this central point mountain-ranges extend eastward and westward—the eastern chains gradually widening, while those of the west draw together in another knot in the Armenian Plateau, which is not so lofty, extensive, or compact, as the Pamirs.

The *Caucasus* in the W., and the *Thian Shan*, *Altai*, *Yablonoi*, and *Stanovoi Mts.* stretching eastward, form the northern boundary of this mountain area, rising very steeply from the lowland plain. S. of these lies a lowland area of small extent, rising steeply to the central ranges—the *Pontine* (i.e., ranges bordering on the Black Sea, anciently called Pontus Euxinus), *Elburz*, *Hindu Kush*, and *Kuen Lun Mts.*, which have very short slopes to the Plateaux of Asia Minor, Iran, and Tibet. On the S. the mountain area is bounded by the *Taurus*, *Persian*, *Sulaiman*, *Karakoram*, and *Himalaya Mts.*, which have short slopes to the plateaux, but very steep slopes to the flood plains.

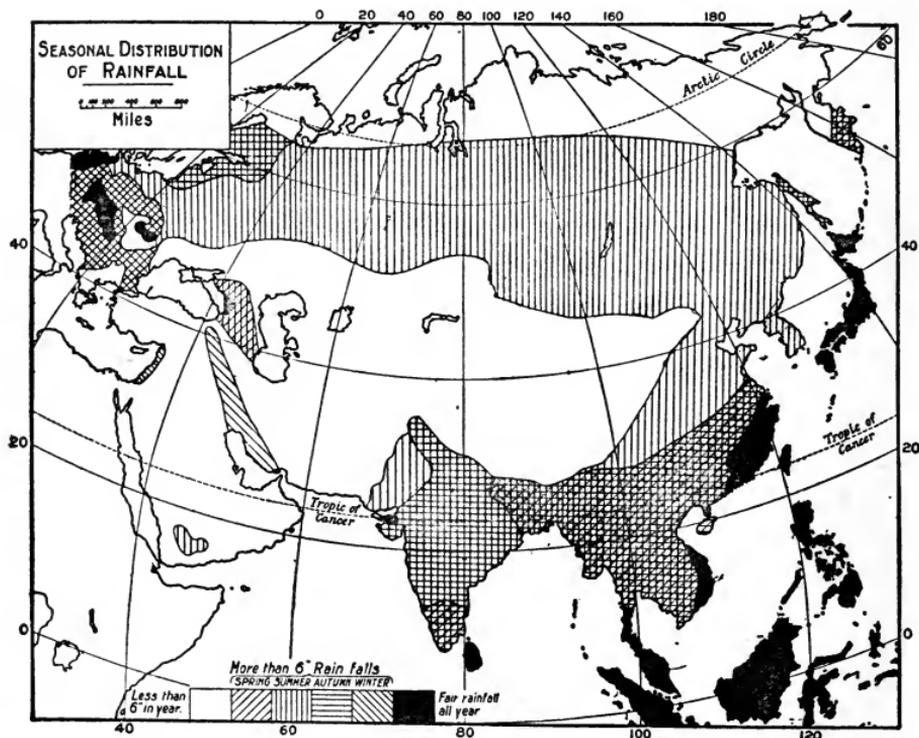
From many of these mountains flow great glaciers, which give rise to the long rivers of the S. and E.—the Euphrates and Tigris from the Armenian Plateau; the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra from the Himalayas; and the Salwin, Mekong, Yang-tse-kiang, and Hoang-ho from the Plateau of Tibet.

(3) The SOUTHERN TABLELANDS of the Deccan and Arabia rise in a few places to over 6,000 feet, and are the N.E. outliers of the plateau area of the Old World. They are separated from the plateau region of Africa by the rift valley* of the Red Sea, and from the remainder of Asia by the flood-plains of the Indo-Ganges and of Mesopotamia.

(4) The EASTERN VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS border the eastern shores, stretching through the peninsula of Kamschatka, Kurile Isles, Japan,

*A rift valley is a lengthened depression produced by the vertical displacement of rock-masses.

Philippines, the Moluccas, and Sunda Isles. These form part of the "fiery belt" encircling the Pacific, and are subject to all kinds of volcanic disturbances.



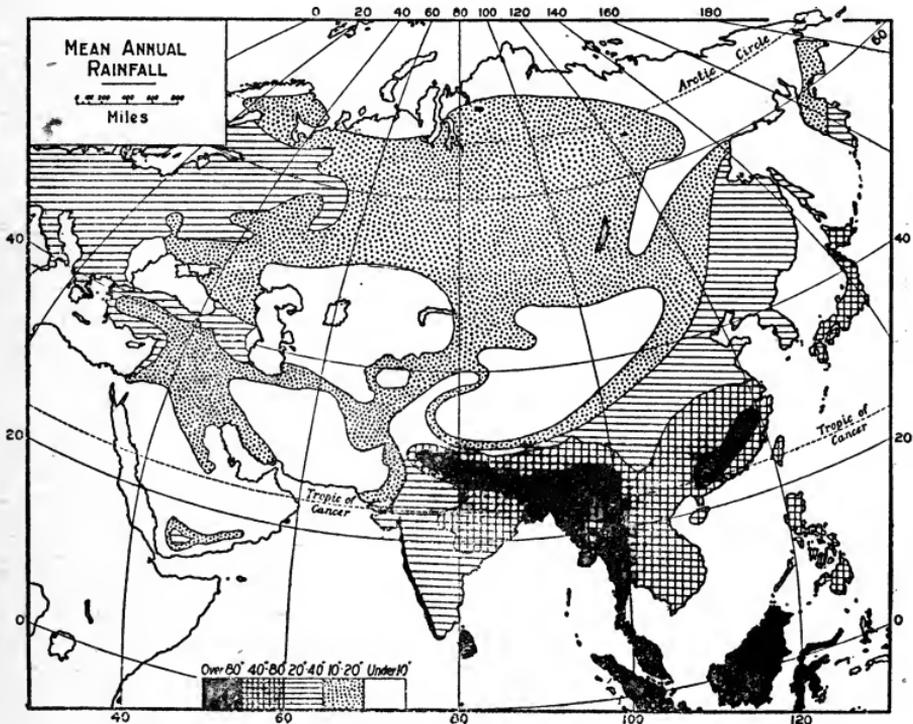
Climate.

The vastness of Asia necessitates a *continental climate*, the N. suffering from extremes of cold, the S. of heat, while only the S. and S.E. coastal lands enjoy a fairly uniform climate throughout the year.

The mean annual temperature, however, for the whole breadth of the continent is almost the same, but somewhat lower in the E. than in the W. In winter, however, the temperature falls considerably in the N., and at Verkhoyansk (E. Siberia), 530 feet above sea level, the mean January temperature is -60°F. , a degree of cold unknown in Polar regions.

In *summer*, the temperature is fairly uniform, but there are heat centres in N.W. India, Baluchistan, and Arabia, where the mean temperature exceeds 95° , and the vast heights of the mountains and plateaux cause great local differences.

In *winter*, the high-pressure area is developed in a marked manner in Mongolia, and in *summer* there is a marked low-pressure area in the Middle Indus and the Gulf of Oman. Hence, in summer the winds are inflowing, in winter out-flowing; the summer is the rainy season, whereas the winter is dry, hardly any rain falling, save where the winds have passed over the ocean, and are deflected upwards by the mountains. The Malay Archipelago and Peninsula,

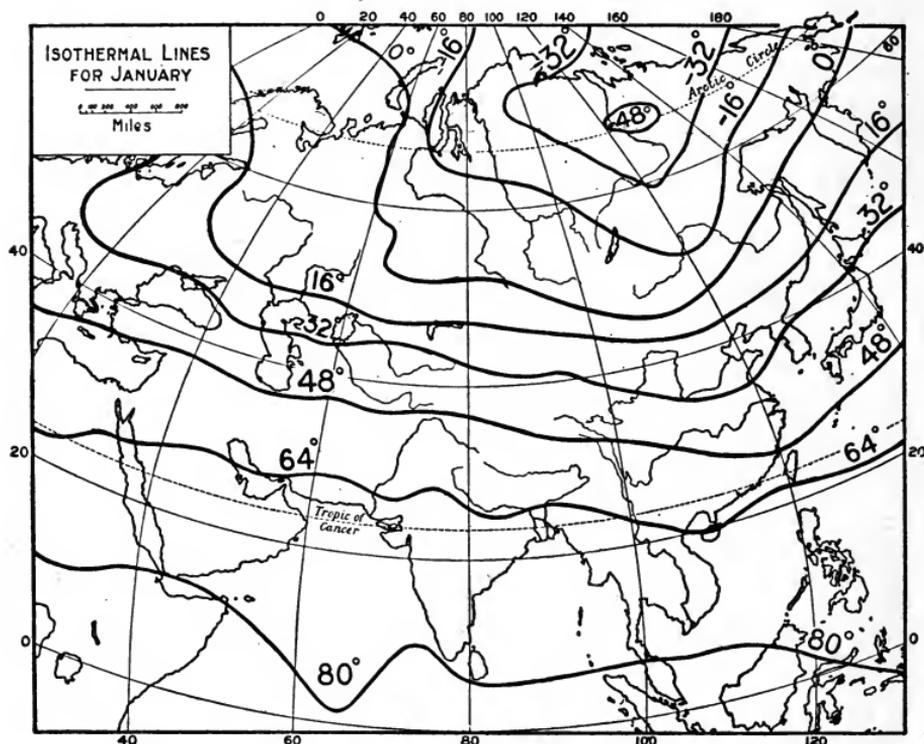


Ceylon, and the south of the Deccan lie near enough to the Equator to experience the double rainy season characteristic of subtropical regions. The remainder of the continent receives rain from the inflowing summer winds. The rains are greatly increased when the mountain chains lie across the direction of the winds, *e.g.*, on the southern slopes of the Himalaya Mts., and along the Khasi Hills in Assam. Interior regions which are cut off from the influence of the ocean by high mountains receive little or no rain; hence, they are deserts.

Asia can be divided into five great climatic belts:—

(1) *The Arctic Cold Dry Area*, situated entirely within the Arctic circle. Here the temperature for the hottest month never exceeds 50°F.; nor is the average rainfall for the wettest month more than 1 inch.

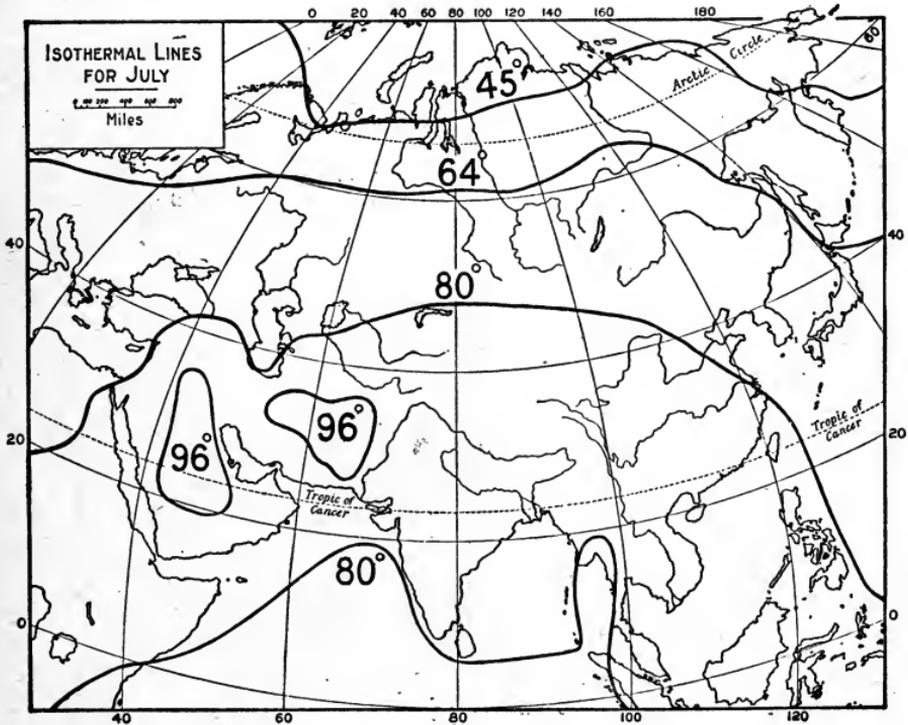
(2) *The Siberian or Temperate Continental Area*, where the winter cold is most severe, but the summer temperature varies between 50° and 70° , or even reaches 75° . The summer is short, but 1 to 2 inches of rain may fall. In this area greater extremes are experienced in the E. than in the W.



(3) *The Central or Arid Region*, comprising Arabia, Iran, Turan, the Tarim Basin, and Desert of Gobi, in which both elevation and temperature are very varied. The area generally is very dry, with slight rains—in the W. in winter, but in the E. and extreme S. of Arabia in summer.

(4) *The Monsoon Area* is characterized by great heat, great moisture, and great fertility. It comprises India, Indo-China, and the E. coastal lands, where rain falls and inflowing winds blow in summer. The S. of this area is warmer and more equable than the N., where cold winters

are general. Regions with winter rains are S.E. India, Indo-China, and the W. of Japan. Monsoon winds do not begin to blow in all parts of the monsoon area at the same time. During their continuance, atmospheric conditions are fairly uniform ; but, between the monsoons, terrible



cyclones occur in the Indian Ocean, and *typhoons* in the Eastern Seas, doing much damage on both sea and land.

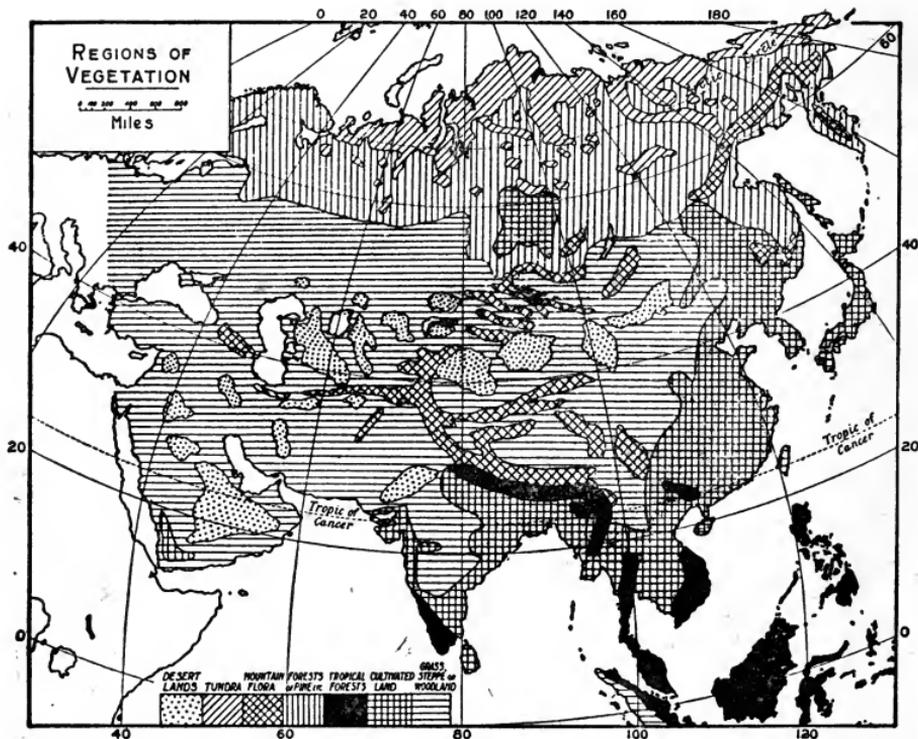
(5) The *Sub-Equatorial Regions*, which are always wet and always warm.

Productions.

MINERALS.—Asia possesses *vast mineral wealth*, but the useful minerals are almost entirely neglected, attention being given to the precious stones and rare metals. Hence, *Golconda* is famed for its *diamonds*, *Ceylon* for its *sapphires*, *Burma* for its *rubies*, *Turkestan* for its *jade*, while *Japan*,

and the *Ural, Altai, Caucasus, and N.E. mountains* supply vast quantities of gold.

Among the useful minerals, *tin* is obtained from the Malay Peninsula, *copper* and *mercury* from Japan, *silver, copper, and graphite* from Siberia, and *rock-salt* from India and the dried-up lakes of the desert. *Iron* is known to exist in large quantities, *petroleum* is plentiful in the Caucasus, Burma, and Sumatra; *coal* exists in vast quantities in China, Sakhalin, Japan, and Hainan; but at present these minerals are hardly worked, or, if worked, only out-of-date methods are used, except in Japan.



VEGETATION.—Most of the soil is fertile; much of the N. is covered with loam; a loamy deposit covers large areas in the centre, while much of India and Indo-China is covered with laterite, a clay rich in iron.

Zones.

(A) Northern, consisting of the *Tundra, Forests, and Steppes.*

The *Tundra*, for the greater part of the year, is a frozen desert, but during the brief summer the surface thaws, and the whole country becomes a marsh. *Shrubs* of *birch*, *larch*, and *spruce* are found, also low berry-bearing bushes, such as *cranberry*, *whortleberry*, and *bilberry*. In the extreme N., these give place to *lichens* and *mosses*.

The *Forests* are found S. of the *Tundra*. Pine, birch, larch, poplar, and other European trees abound.

The *Steppes* lie S. of the forests, and loose, porous soil and great extremes of heat and cold are characteristic.

The *Steppes* may be subdivided into:—

(a) *Grass Steppes*, bordering the *Forests*. These are found in S.W. Siberia, extending to the Obi, on the eastern slopes of the Altai Mts., and the slopes of the Stanovoi; on the mountain slopes bordering the Tarim basin; on the plateaux of Turan and Iran, and along the upper courses of the rivers rising in E. Tibet. The snows of the high mountains are the source of water, and many rich oases occur, which yield *fruit*, *vegetables*, and *cereals*.

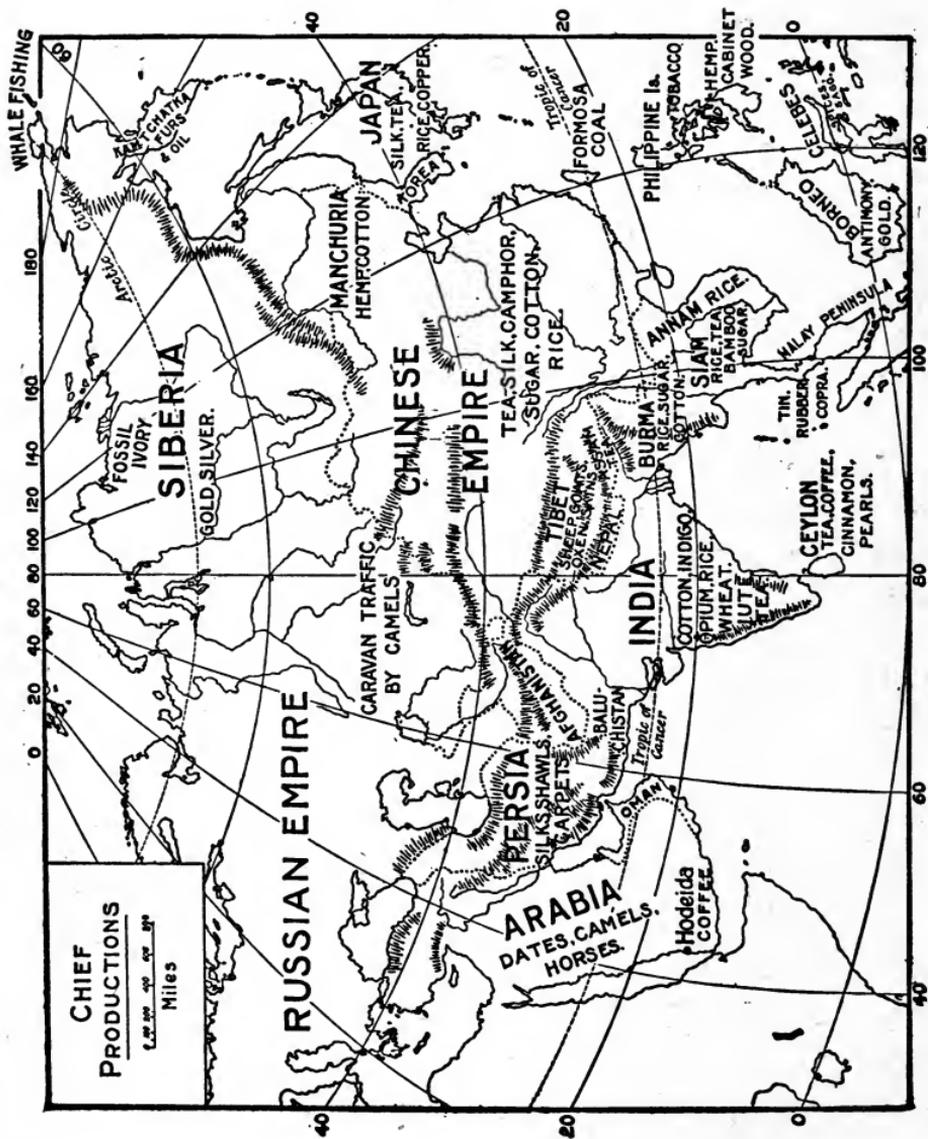
(b) *Poor Steppes*, which occur in the true desert area.

(B) *Warm Zone*.

1. *Subtropical forest area* in N.
2. *Mediterranean climatic region* in the W., which yields *olives*, *figs*, *pomegranates*, *myrtles*, *evergreen oaks*, and *cedars*.
3. *Chino-Japanese area* in the E., yielding *tea*.
4. *Savanna area* in S. Arabia, India, Indo-China, the high parts of Ceylon, and the Malay Archipelago, which contain wet jungle with rich vegetation.

Useful Plants.

The flood-plains of the S. and S.E. are the most fertile areas in the world, bearing rich crops of *rice*, *sugar*, *cotton*, and *indigo*. In the drier parts *wheat* is grown where irrigation is possible. *Cocoonut*, *sago-palm*, *bread-fruit*, and *tamarinds* are grown extensively in the S.E. islands. *Wheat*, *oats*, *rye*, and *barley* are grown in the W. *Date-palms*, *vines*, *olives*, *figs*, *pomegranates*, and *oranges* flourish in the Mediterranean regions. *Coffee* is an important product of Arabia and S. India, where *cacao* has been recently introduced. *Tea*, *rice*, *cotton*, *sugar*, and *lac* are extensively produced in the Far East, and the tea industry has spread from China to India and Ceylon.



Fauna.

This is rich and varied.

The *tiger*, *elephant*, and *rhinoceros* are typical of the S., the *wild horse* and *camel* are found on the Steppes of Central Asia, and the *reindeer* on the Tundra. All our domestic animals are native to Asia. The *yak* is the beast of burden in cold and desert Tibet, the *camel* in the true desert, the *buffalo* in many parts of India, and in India and Indo-China generally the *elephant*.

In India, China, and Japan, however, the land is too fertile to be devoted to pasture, and few animals are kept. In the polar seas aquatic mammals (as the *seal* and *walrus*) are hunted for their skin, oil, and bone, while in tropical seas the *pearl oyster* is found.

Peoples.—Race.

The races of Asia are very varied, belonging to the three great classes :—

- (a) The *Caucasian* race of the Semitic type, found in Asia Minor, Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, and the northern parts of India ;
- (b) The *Malay* or brown race, occupying much of Indo-China and the Malay Archipelago ;
- (c) The *Mongolian* or yellow race, which is the most numerous, and forms about two-thirds of the inhabitants of Asia.

Occupations.

The great majority of the people of Asia are *agriculturists*. The people of the N. and N.E. are *hunters* and *fishers* ; but, as they all keep reindeer, they may be considered to a certain extent *pastoral*. The people of Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and the oases of Central Asia, of South Siberia, and the valley of the Amur River, of Korea, S. Manchuria, N. China, the Deccan, and the Upper Ganges and Indus flood-plains are *agricultural*. Tropical plantations exist in S.W. Arabia, the Deccan, Ceylon, Bengal, Assam, Burma, and Indo-China. *Manufactures* flourish, but the European factory system has not yet become important. The inhabitants of Central Asia and Arabia are largely *nomads* (i.e., people without fixed habitation).

Distribution of Population.

Asia contains about 850 millions of people—that is, more than *half* the population of the *globe*—and of these, nine-tenths are massed in the monsoon lands, most of the remaining tenth being distributed over the steppes. The most thinly populated parts of the continent are the hot and cold deserts.

History.

This has been largely determined by the physical features. The northern plains have always been unfavourable to progress and development, but, S. of the central mountains and deserts, three great civilizations have developed:—

- (1) That of Mesopotamia—*Chaldea*—on the flood-plains of the Euphrates-Tigris;
- (2) That of the *flood-plains of the rivers flowing from the Himalayas*: but its influence has always been limited by the mountains, deserts, and sea;
- (3) On the *flood-plains of the Yang-tse-kiang and Hoang-ho*.

The fertility and wealth of these countries have always exposed them to the attacks of the nomads of Central Asia, who have been spurred on to further effort by the peaceful nature of their neighbours, and by the barrenness of their own lands, which necessitated the discovery of fresh pasture lands. In more modern times each of the great European Powers has endeavoured to find a foothold in Asia—Portugal, Spain, Holland, France, Russia,* and the United Kingdom, and, more recently still, Germany.* Nothing remains of the Spanish possessions—the *Philippines*, the last, passing to the United States at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, 1898—though Portugal has a few small settlements, such as *Goa*, *Daman*, and *Diu* on the western coast of India, *Macao* on the Chinese coast, and part of *Timor* in the East Indies; the Dutch, however, hold much of the East Indies. Under British control are India, Ceylon, Burma, the Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, etc., while France has a great empire in the S.E., and, with Germany and Russia, has interests in China. These settlements are either military or commercial; hence, they differ entirely from the steady advance of Russia across Siberia, which consists in the pushing forward of emigrants into scantily populated regions, where improved means of communication have opened up new areas suitable for the development of a great Slavonic race.

Japan is, year by year, becoming more important and is attempting to forestall European expansion.

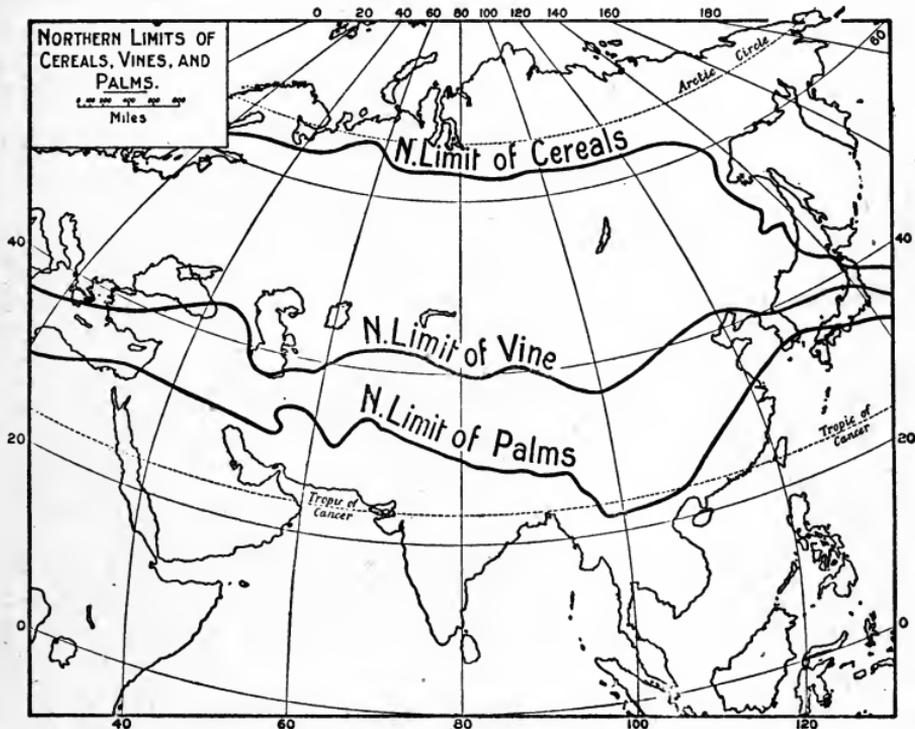
Religion.

Asia has been the cradle of all the great religions of the world. *Brahminism* was the great religion of India, and gave rise to *Buddhism*, which is now professed in Tibet, Mongolia, China, Japan, and Siberia. *Confucianism* is characteristic of China, *Hinduism* is peculiar to India, *Shintoism* to Japan, and *Judaism*—the purest form of the Semitic creed—to the Jews. This last has given rise to two religions—*Christianity* and *Mohammedanism*. The latter has spread marvellously, and is now the religion of 160 millions of people. It has ever been a religion of the sword, and has spread over Arabia, Asiatic

* See note, page 16.

Turkey, Persia, Turkestan, and, to a lesser extent, Hindustan and Malaysia. Christianity is a religion almost entirely confined to the white conquerors of Asia.

Various forms of heathenism are practised by the uncivilized tribes of the Tundra and Forest-regions.



Natural Regions of Asia.

The countries of Asia may be grouped according to their climate, productions, and vegetation, as:—

- (i.) *Mediterranean lands*, having the Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers, mild winters, and winter rains; but the heat increases rapidly to the S. and away from the sea, and the rainfall diminishes. These stretch from the Mediterranean to the plateau of Iran.
- (ii.) *Desert Lands*, which can be subdivided into *Hot Deserts*, stretching from Arabia, through Persia, the Tarim depression, and Mongolia, almost to the Pacific Ocean; and *Cold Deserts*, including Tibet, Afghanistan, etc.
- (iii.) *Monsoon Lands*, which include the Indian Empire with Ceylon, the independent Kingdom of Siam, French Indo-China, the Chinese dominions (excluding Tibet and Mongolia), the Island Empire of Japan, and Korea, its continental province.

THE MEDITERRANEAN LANDS.

The *Turkish Sultan's dominions** extend continuously from the Ægean Sea to the Persian Gulf, and from the Black Sea to the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb. They comprise Asia Minor or Anatolia, Armenia and Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, Syria (including Palestine), and part of Arabia.

ASIA MINOR OR ANATOLIA.

This is the westward extension of the Iranian plateau, and is bounded on the N. by the Black Sea, on the W. by the Bosphorus, Sea of Marmora, Dardanelles, and Ægean Sea, on the S. by the Mediterranean Sea, and on the E. by Russia, Armenia, Kurdistan, and Syria.

Surface.

The whole region is a *plateau*, gradually rising to the N.E., and bounded on the N. by the Pontine Mts., and on the S. by the Taurus Mts.; in the E. it passes imperceptibly into the Iranian plateau. The area is drained by several rivers, but these are of little value commercially, though famed in classic story. The coast generally is rocky.

Climate.

In the N. the *summers* are damp and enervating, and are followed by extremely cold *winters* with much rain and snow. On the plateau the climate is subject to extremes.

Productions.

The country possesses *great mineral wealth* of *gold, silver, lead, iron, and coal*; but this is almost neglected, and the chief attention is given to *agriculture*.

The slopes of the Pontine Mts. are covered with fine forests of *oak, fir, and beech*, while the plateau has splendid *wheat* land. In various districts the *vine, olive, fig, orange, lemon, apple, pear, maize, rice, opium, and cotton* are grown. Angora *goats*, famed for their silky hair called *mohair*, *wiry horses, camels, asses*, and *buffaloes* are reared extensively.

People.

The *Turks* are the chief and ruling race; and Turkish is the official language. The most progressive races are the *Greeks* and *Armenians*,

* At the time of going to press, it is impossible to give definite information regarding the former Turkish dominions, German possessions, and Russian territories in Asia.

who constitute the professional and commercial classes. Greeks, Armenians, and *Jews* are the chief land-owners. Other races are the nomadic *Kurds*, and *Arabs*.

The chief religions are *Mohammedanism* and *Christianity*.

Occupations.

The majority of the people live by *agriculture*, but this is in a backward state. Some work in the *mines*, others are engaged in the *sponge* and other *fisheries*. Other occupations are the *manufacture* of *carpets*, *silks*, *mohair cloth*, *sweetmeats*, *liquorice*, *wine*, *soap*, and *copper utensils*.

The chief *exports* are *raisins*, *figs*, *wine*, *liquorice*, *wheat*, *olive oil*, *opium*, *drugs*, *raw silk*, *wool*, *carpets*, *beeswax*, *tobacco*, *sponges*, and *meerschaum*.

The chief *imports* are *sugar*, *rice*, *flour*, *linen* and *cotton goods*, *woollens*, *iron goods*, *machinery*, and *petroleum*. Great Britain has a larger share of both import and export trade than any other country.

Government.

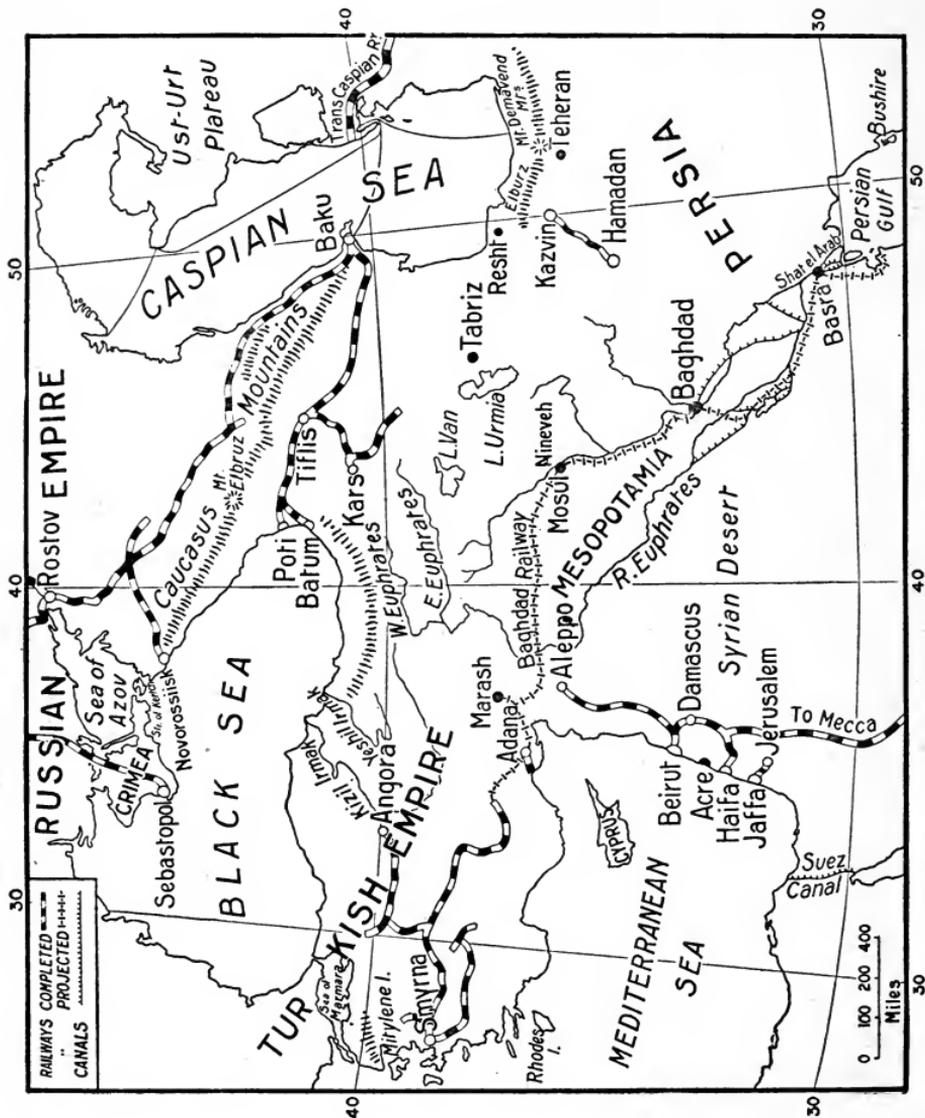
Asiatic Turkey is divided into *vilayets* (provinces) governed by *valis*, or *governors-general*, appointed by the Sultan. In Asia Minor there are eleven, and each *vilayet* is further divided into *sanjaks*. Justice is administered by civil, criminal, and commercial courts, from which there is the right of appeal to Constantinople.

History.

The proximity of Asia Minor to Europe, making it a link between Europe and Asia, the absence of navigable rivers, and the difficult approach to the plateau from the sea have had an important influence on the history of the country, particularly as the earliest routes to the East passed through it. At the dawn of history it was inhabited by Hittites; later, it was conquered by the Persians, but these were overthrown by Alexander. His successors introduced Greek arts, language, manners, customs, and refinements, which in time gave place to Roman culture. Under Roman rule the country was Christianized. Later, Arabs and Turks (about A.D. 1300) swept down upon the land and destroyed its prosperity, and from this blow Asia Minor has never recovered. Nearly every part of the country exhibits remains of antiquity, and its towns—some of them now in ruins—show many signs of their former splendour.

Communications.

During the Roman occupation Asia Minor was intersected by well-kept roads; but after the incursions of the nomads these were allowed



South-Western Asia, showing Railways and Canals.

to fall into disrepair, and it is only comparatively recently that attempts have been made to improve them and to construct railways. The latter are, for the most part, in the hands of German capitalists.

Railways.

- (1) A line runs from *Scutari* in a general south-easterly, if somewhat winding, direction to *Konia* and *Eregli*, and is projected as far as *Adana*. It is proposed to continue this line through Mesopotamia, calling at *Mosul* and *Baghdad* (passing the site of ancient Babylon), whence it will follow the course of the Euphrates to Basra, and on to the Persian Gulf. This will form the celebrated *Baghdad Railway*, concerning which so much discussion and diplomatic negotiation have taken place at different times.

This railway has been projected for many years, but Great Britain and Russia objected to its construction with German capital, fearing lest by this means Germany should obtain a trade monopoly and a new sphere of influence encroaching upon English and Russian spheres. Abdul Hamid, the late Sultan, gave his consent to the projected line, and this was ratified by the Young Turk Party (*i.e.*, the party for progress in the politics and social affairs of the Turkish Empire). At one time war with regard to the matter seemed imminent; but, after a meeting between the German Emperor and the Czar at Potsdam, Germany adopted a more diplomatic attitude. The Great War entirely altered matters, and the line will probably be completed with British capital.

- (2) From this main line a branch is given off, which turns sharply west and comes to the coast again at *Smyrna*.
- (3) Another branch is given off running E. to *Angora*, and is projected to *Kaisarieh*.
- (4) A line runs S. from *Smyrna* for about 50 miles, then turns E. to *Aidin*, and continues E. through an important district for about 150 miles.
- (5) Shorter lines connect (a) *Brussa*, at the foot of Mt. Olympus, with its port *Mudania*; (b) *Adana* with the port *Mersina*.

Towns.

Trebizond, on the Black Sea, is the natural trade outlet for North Persia, but much trade is now diverted from it by the Russian railways.

Scutari, on the Bosphorus, is a suburb of Constantinople and a railway terminus. This was the scene of Miss Florence Nightingale's hospital labours (1854-56) during the Crimean War.

Smyrna, the largest town of Asia Minor, lies at the head of a deep gulf, and has a flourishing trade in the Levant. It is the natural trade centre for the W. It has direct steam communication with England and ports in the Mediterranean, and railway communication with the interior. It produces rugs and carpets.

Brussa, at the foot of Mount Olympus, is noted for its beautiful situation. It has iron and sulphur hot springs, and is the centre of the weaving industries. A railway runs from *Brussa* to its port *Mudania*.

Angora is an inland town, a railway terminus, and is celebrated for its *fruit*, *honey*, and *mohair*.

Konia or *Konieh* (Iconium), a town on the Baghdad railway, was important in the days of St. Paul, and was the scene of some of his labours.

Kaisariéh (Cæsarea) has always been an important trade centre. From here roads lead across the Anti-Taurus (*i.e.*, the northern extension of the Taurus range).

Sinope has the only safe roadstead on the N. coast.



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IN THE BAZAAR, SMYRNA.

ISLANDS.

Numerous islands, known as the Archipelago, lie off the W. coast. Some are of considerable size, and very fertile; others are mere rocks rising from the sea. *Lemnos*, *Mitylene*, *Samos*, *Syme*, and *Rhodes* are all famous for their excellent harbours. *Chios* is marvellously fertile, and is noted for its *wine* and *mastic*; but, in all, the *sponge-fishery* is the most important industry of the Greek inhabitants.

CYPRUS.—*Cyprus* is the only island of any real importance. It consists of three distinct parts :—

- (a) Mountains in the North ;
- (b) Mountains in the South ;
- (c) A level plain between these.

It possesses no useful rivers, for in the summer the streams either become mere series of pools, or disappear entirely.

History.

Cyprus was the Chittim of Scripture—the home of the Tyrian fleet. It was occupied successively by Egyptians, Greeks, Phœnicians, Assyrians, Persians, Egyptians again, Romans, and Saracens. Richard I. of England captured it in 1190, and it was held later by Genoese and Venetian merchants. In 1571 it was captured by the Turks. In 1878, by the Anglo-Turkish Convention, it was given to Great Britain to hold so long as Russia holds Batum, Ardahan, and Kars. It was formally annexed by Britain in November, 1914.

People.

Its people are mainly Greeks, and they belong to the Greek Church. *Agriculture* is the principal occupation, but is hindered by the uncertainty of the seasons and the visitation of locusts. The chief products are *cereals, cotton, wine, olive oil, silk, and salt.*

Towns.

Nikosia, the capital, stands in the centre of the island.

Famagusta had a good harbour, which became silted up ; but deep-sea harbour works have recently been completed, and it is expected that much trade will be attracted to the place. The town is somewhat unhealthy.

Larnaka, though not possessing a good harbour, monopolizes the *export* trade of *dates, raisins, and salt.* The *imports* are chiefly *manufactured goods.*

Limasol, on the S. coast, about 40 miles S.W. of Larnaka, is another seaport. It has a trade in wine and carob beans. A garrison of English troops is stationed here.

ARMENIA AND KURDISTAN.

Position.

Armenia is situated to the N.E. of Asia Minor, and extends to the Caspian Sea. The western part belongs to Turkey,* the N. to Russia,* and the S.E. to Persia.

Kurdistan ("land of the Kurds") is an extensive tract S. of Armenia, and politically divided between the same three countries.

* See note, page 16.

Surface.

Armenia consists mainly of a *lofty tableland*, traversed by mountain-chains of volcanic origin. In depressions of the plateau are three large *salt-lakes*. The greatest elevation is attained by *Mt. Ararat* (17,000 feet), which is situated at the junction of the three political divisions.

Armenia includes the upper valleys of both *Euphrates* and *Tigris*.

Kurdistan is likewise an elevated and mountainous region (5,000 to 15,000 feet).

It is traversed by many mountain-streams which are eventually tributaries of the Euphrates or Tigris.

Climate.

The valley of the upper Tigris has a warm, rainy, subtropical climate. On the tableland the winters are very severe, and the summers short and hot. High up on the mountains is the region of perpetual snow.

Productions.

The soil of Armenia is fertile. *Tobacco*, *grain*, *cotton*, and *grapes* are grown. The valleys yield abundance of pasture.

The mineral resources include *copper* (the most important), *silver*, *lead*, and *iron*. *Alum* and *rock-salt* are also to be obtained. Near Diarbekr (Kurdistan) is one of the most productive copper-mines in the world.

The chief occupations are *agricultural* and *pastoral*. But there are some *manufactures*, as the weaving of *carpets*, *shawls*, and *rugs*.

People.

The Armenians are, like Europeans, of the Caucasian (or light-skinned) race. They are *widely distributed* in large numbers over Asia Minor, Turkey, Russia—eastwards in Persia and India—westwards in the great seaports of the Mediterranean, in London, Manchester, etc. The Armenians who have thus settled in foreign lands, are noted for their *commercial enterprise* and success as business-men. Some of them (bankers, money-changers, etc.) have attained great wealth.

The *Armenian Church* (founded in the 3rd century) is *Christian*, but certain peculiarities of doctrine and ritual separate it from the rest of Christendom. (The Armenian bishopric of Europe has its seat in Manchester.)

The Armenians have suffered terribly at the hands of the *Turkish soldiery*. *Atrocious massacres*, exciting the horror and indignation of Europe, occurred in 1894-96, and again in 1915.

The *Kurds* are supposed to be *descendants of the ancient Medes*. They are a handsome, well-built race, but are notorious for the terrible savagery with which they have raided Armenia. They supply a number of regiments of irregular cavalry to the Turkish army. Their religion is Mohammedanism.

The *Kurds* are in numerous clans or tribes, ruled by hereditary chieftains. They are mostly of *nomadic habits*, and of pastoral occupation; large flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are reared. Some few are agriculturists and of settled habitation.

Towns.

Erzerum (population, 80,000) is an important commercial centre, trade passing through it between Russia and Persia. It was the scene of one of the massacres of 1895.

Van is situated near the eastern shore of Lake Van, one of the salt-lakes.

Erivan is to the N. of Mt. Ararat, in Russian territory. It is in the midst of a fruit-growing country, noted for peaches.

MESOPOTAMIA.

This is the country lying between the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, and it is almost entirely plain. Originally, it was thickly populated and extensively cultivated; but it is now for the most part waste, although possessing its ancient advantages of soil and climate. Irrigation works have been neglected, and much of the country has become a series of fever-breeding swamps. At *Kurna*, the *Euphrates* and *Tigris* unite and form the *Shat-el-Arab*, which enters the Persian Gulf by a large delta which is encroaching upon the Gulf at the rate of 72 feet per annum.

The climate in winter is good, but in summer it is so hot that the people have to retire into underground chambers.

Trade.

The *manufactures* of this area are for home consumption only. *Cereals, dates, wool, gum, and rice* are exported, and *sugar, cloth, coffee, indigo, iron, and copper* are imported. The chief trade is with Great Britain, India, and Persia.

Products are brought down from *Diarbekr* to *Baghdad* by means of rafts made of inflated sheepskins. From *Baghdad* there are regular river-steamers to *Basra*, the port for vessels to India and England.

Towns.

Mosul is an important town on the *Tigris*, where routes from the Caspian, Black, and Mediterranean Seas and from the Persian Gulf intersect. The *Baghdad railway* will run through this town; hence, its importance, in all probability, will increase.



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THE PORT OF BAGHDAD.

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Baghdad, also on the Tigris, has important inland trade by mule and camel, and is the head of river navigation. It exports cereals and dates.

Basra, on the Shat-el-Arab, is the place of transshipment between river and ocean steamers. It has an important trade in dates.

SYRIA, including PALESTINE.

Position.

Syria extends S. from Asia Minor, and is bounded on the W. by the Mediterranean, on the E. by Mesopotamia, and on the S. by Egypt. On the S.E. it is bordered by the Arabian desert.

Coasts.

The N.W. is rocky, the S.W. sandy; there are no good harbours, but only open roadsteads with small ports.

Surface.

The country consists of a coast plain and a deep rift-valley between parallel mountain-ranges known as the *Lebanon* and *Anti-Lebanon* ranges. The valley is continued southwards as a ravine forming the bed of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, which lies 1,300 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. The Dead Sea is intensely

salt, and the surrounding region is arid and desolate. Inland there is a desolate plain—the *Syrian Desert*—reaching to the Euphrates and extending into Arabia.

Syria is drained northward by the *Orontes* to the Mediterranean, southward to the Dead Sea by the *Jordan*.

Climate.

The climate of the coast and hill country is not unlike that of southern Italy, but in the Jordan valley and around the Dead Sea it is almost tropical, though heavy snows fall upon the mountains, giving to the Jordan unfailing supplies of water. In the desert area the summers are intensely hot.

Productions.

Agriculture is the chief occupation, though the land is not so productive as formerly, owing to the decay of the terrace system of cultivation, and to the reckless destruction of the forests of Lebanon, which gave protection from storms. *Wheat* is produced on the plains near the coast; inland, on the hills, *oranges* and *tobacco* are taking the place of figs and vines; and sheep are pastured on the upper slopes of the mountains. *Silk, soap,* and articles for sale to pilgrims and tourists are the principal *manufactures*.

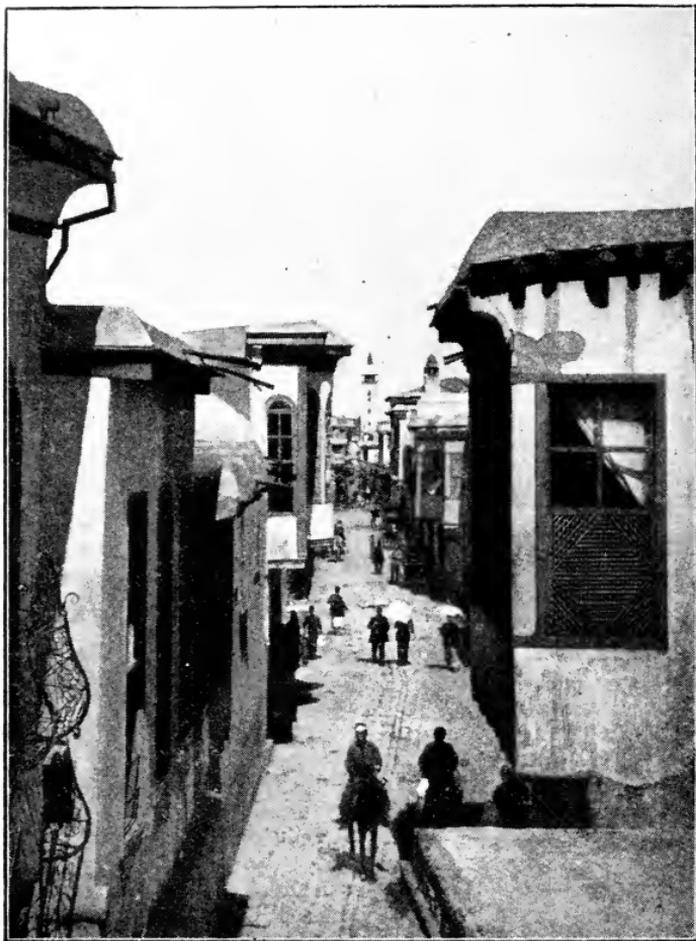
Wheat, fruit, wool, hides, and *tobacco* are exported, and *textiles* and *iron goods* are imported.

History.

At the earliest period of history N. Syria was in the hands of the Hittites, whose capital was Kadesh on the Orontes. Palestine was later in the hands of a number of tribes sometimes independent of, at others subject to, Egypt. Later, the Phœnician cities on the coast grew to great importance, and the Jews entered Palestine; but both were overthrown, first by Assyria, then by Persia, and finally by Rome. Later still, the whole country was overrun by Turks, when agriculture was destroyed, towns deserted, and the rich lands turned into a wilderness. The cruelty of the Turks to pilgrims led to the Crusades, and for a time a Christian kingdom was established, only to fall finally into the hands of the Turks, in whose power it has remained. During the last thirty years colonies of Germans, Jews, and people of other nations, and monasteries of Latin, Greek, and Russian monks have been established.

Communications.

By *Sea*—(1) Beirut to Larnaka ; (2) Beirut to Port Said and Alexandria.



A STREET IN DAMASCUS.

Photochrom, London.

By *Rail*—(1) Beirut to Aleppo ; (2) Beirut to Damascus, and on to Medina and Mecca. (The latter part of this railway is now in course of construction.) (3) Jaffa to Jerusalem ; (4) Haifa, via the Jordan, to meet the line running from Damascus to Medina.

Towns.

Damascus, the largest town in Syria, and the centre of the caravan trade, stands on a fertile plain at the foot of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains. It is noted for figs, apricots, pomegranates, vines, and dates.

Aleppo, once the granary of Asia, was a place of military and commercial importance from earliest times. It is a meeting-place of routes, and is on the shortest one from the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia.

Alexandretta is on the coast of N. Syria, on a Gulf of the same name. It is the port of *Antioch*, now simply a provincial town.

Latakia, on the coast S. of Alexandretta, is an important place for the export of tobacco.

Beirut is the port of Damascus, and the largest maritime town in Syria.

Jaffa is the port of Jerusalem, and is noted for the export of oranges.

Jerusalem, the Holy City of the Jews and Christians, and also regarded with reverence by Mohammedans, lies midway between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, about 40 miles S.E. of Jaffa. The population (80,000) consists of Jews, Mohammedans, and Christians.

ASIATIC RUSSIA.

The Asiatic area of the Russian Empire embraces more than one-third of the continent, amounting to about $6\frac{1}{4}$ million square miles. Although the area is so vast, population is very sparse, numbering only some 30 millions—barely 5 persons to the square mile. It comprises three distinct divisions, viz., *Caucasia*, *Central Asia*,* and *Siberia*.*

CAUCASIA. †

Caucasia is the most highly developed of the Mediterranean lands of Asia.

Position.

Caucasia lies between the Black and Caspian Seas, being divided into two parts—*Cis-Caucasia* (*i.e.*, on the nearer, or Russian, side of the Caucasus) on the N., forming part of Europe, and *Trans-Caucasia* (*i.e.*, across, or on the farther side of, the Caucasus) on the S., which is included in Asia—by the lofty chain of the Caucasus Mts. ; these, in Mount Elbruz, reach the height of 18,526 feet.

* Central Asia and Siberia are dealt with under their natural regions, see pages 38 and 40.

† See note, page 16.

Surface.

The land to the S. of the Caucasus is a plateau divided by the valley of the river Kur, and rising in the S. to the plateau of Armenia.

N. of the Caucasus the land is a plain sloping steeply to the Caspian Sea, all that remains of a vast inland sea once stretching from the Black Sea to the Sea of Aral. In the N. the Sea is shallow, but its depth rapidly increases to the S. The land is drained by the *Kur* and *Aras*, which formerly united at about 70 miles from the Caspian Sea, and emptied their waters into it by three mouths. But since 1897 the Aras has changed its course, and now flows independently into the Caspian.

Climate.

This is on the whole temperate, though subject to great extremes in the region of the Caspian and of the Armenian Plateau.

Productions.

The great industry of the province is connected with *petroleum*, in which the Caucasus Mts. are particularly rich. The oil is found to be a useful fuel, and is much used on locomotives and on the steamers of the Caspian Sea. *Agriculture* is also an important industry, the valleys yielding plentiful crops of *grain* and *fruit*—*grapes, oranges, citrons, mulberries, peaches, and apricots*—while the *cotton* plant also is grown in many districts.

People.

These belong to various races of the Circassian stock, but the most numerous are the Georgians. These people were greatly famed for their beauty, and many of the girls were formerly sold in Constantinople as slaves.

Government.

Caucasia consists of seven divisions called "governments" and five others called "provinces," under a Governor-General, whose headquarters are at Tiflis, and who is responsible only to the Czar.

Sea Routes.

- (1) *Batum*, on the Black Sea, has trade, especially in petroleum, with Constantinople and the chief European ports.
- (2) *Baku*, on the Caspian Sea, has regular steamship connection with *Krasnovodsk*. This route is of the greatest importance, for it connects the capital of Russian Central Asia—Tashkend—with the Trans-Caucasian Railway and with Petrograd.

- (3) *Astrakhan* at the mouth of the Volga to *Baku*.
- (4) Besides the above, most of the Caspian ports have regular steamship service one with another.

Railroads.

- (1) The Trans-Caucasian Railway runs from *Baku*, on the Caspian, via *Tiflis* to *Poti* and *Batum* on the Black Sea.
- (2) From *Tiflis* a line runs S. to *Alexandropol*, whence a branch runs to *Kars* and another to *Erivan*; this last it is proposed to extend to *Tabriz* in Persia.



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GENERAL VIEW OF TIFLIS.

Roads.

Caucasia is not as yet well supplied with good roads.

A fine military road runs from *Vladikavkaz* across the Caucasus Mts., via the Dariel Pass, to Tiflis. Other roads are being opened out between the various places of importance.

Towns.

Tiflis, the capital of Caucasia, stands on the River Kur. It is the terminus of the great military road across the Caucasus Mts., and is also on the railway connecting Poti and Batum with Baku. It is from Tiflis that the line runs southwards. The town commands the Dariel Pass, and this accounts for its early importance. It manufactures *carpets*.

Baku, on the Caspian Sea, is a terminus of the Trans-Caucasian Railway, and is noted for its *petroleum*.

Batum, on the Black Sea, is an important place for the transhipment of the *petroleum*.

Lenkoran is an important port on the S.W. coast of the Caspian Sea.

Erivan, *Kars*, and *Alexandropol* are important commercially, on account of the railways running through them.

DESERT LANDS.

ARABIA.

Position.

This is a vast land, one-third the size of Europe, stretching S. from the Syrian Desert, which bounds it on the N., though there is no definite natural frontier in this direction; on the W. the Red Sea acts as a boundary, on the E. the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, on the S. the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

Coastline.

This is most regular, with no good harbours except those of *Muscat*, which is almost landlocked, and *Aden*, which is the best harbour on the coast for 1,000 miles in either direction. On the W. there are one or two roadsteads, but these are made difficult of access by shoals or coral reefs.

On all three coasts there are numerous groups of islands. Of these, the *Bahrein Islands*, in the Persian Gulf, the *Kuria Muria Islands*, off the S. coast, and *Perim* at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, belong to Great Britain. The Bahrein Is. have very prosperous pearl-fisheries, and the Kuria Muria Is. were used for the landing of the Red Sea cable.

Surface.

Arabia consists of a tableland extending southward, and known as the Nejd; this is the true home of the Arab. This plateau is buttressed by coast ranges, which form a sort of desert ring round the plateau, and reach their greatest altitude in the S.W. Between the coast ranges and the sea is a narrow strip of sand and coral debris; this region has a very hot climate. On the W., the southern portion of this coast belt is called El Tehama.

Each of these districts, the plateau, the mountain regions, and the coast belt, occupies about one-third of the area of Arabia. The central plateau is well supplied with water. Though there are no rivers reaching the sea all the year round, nor lakes in Arabia, there are numerous temporary water-courses called *wadies*; during the rainy season these become foaming torrents, but many disappear entirely in summer, or become a mere series of pools.

Climate.

This varies greatly; but, generally, Arabia is very hot and very dry. Parts of the country are in the rainless region. In the plateau heavy rains fall in spring and autumn; the days are hot, and the nights cold. The mountain districts are comparatively cool and healthy, but the coast plain is hot and unhealthy.

Productions.

The most fertile district is Yemen in the S.W., where, on the rich volcanic soil, "Mocha" *coffee* is grown. Various medicinal plants—*senna*, *henna*, and *balsam*—are also grown extensively. Hadramaut, the region bordering on the Gulf of Aden, is famous for its *frankincense* and *myrrh*. Nejd, the oasis-marked central region, is the home of the Arab *horse*, *camel*, and *donkey*—all the most perfect of their kind.

Broad-tailed sheep, *humped cattle*, and *ostriches* are also reared. The *pearl-fishery* in the Persian Gulf is most productive.

People and Religion.

The population is sparse, but in the people, generally, commercial instincts are strongly developed; this fact and the lack of routes to the interior have led to maritime industries becoming the chief occupation.

Most of the inhabitants profess the Mohammedan religion—the foundation of this religion and the rapid rise of the Arabs to power being the most noticeable point in the history of the people; for, within 10 years of the death of Mohammed (in A.D. 632), the Arabs had conquered Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt, and North Africa.

At the present day El Hejaz* and Yemen, on the Red Sea coast, and El Hasa on the Persian Gulf are subject to Turkey; the people of Nejd are independent, and so are those between Aden and Muskat, but the latter are much under British influence. Oman is an independent kingdom, occupying what is known as the "horn of Arabia," in the S.E. It is ruled by a Sultan.

* El Hejaz declared its independence in 1916, and accepted British Protection.

Communications.

Much of the interior of Arabia is desert (the Syrian desert and the Great Nefud being in the N., and El Khali in the S.), and practically the only way to cross it is by caravan. There are no roads, no navigable rivers, no canals, and only one railway partly constructed. The camel is universally employed as a beast of burden. Caravan routes from Damascus and Baghdad in the N. converge at *Hail* and continue to *Bereidah*, whence



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A CARAVAN PREPARING TO START.

they proceed to *Mecca*, on the W. Others from *Koweit* and *Basra* on the E. also pass through *Bereidah*. Another route runs from *Mecca*, through *El Riad*, to the *Persian Gulf* near the *Bahrein Is.* The pilgrim route from Egypt is by caravan from *Berber* on the right bank of the Nile to *Suakin*, a small port on the Red Sea, and thence by ship to *Jedda* for *Mecca*, or to *Yembo* for *Medina*. There are numerous other routes; but those above are the most important, being those along which pilgrims travel to *Mecca* from Syria, Persia, and Egypt.

A railway is projected from *Damascus* to *Mecca*, and is complete as far as *Medina*. After reaching *Mecca*, the line will probably be continued westwards to *Jedda*.

Towns.

Mecca is in the Turkish Province of El Hejaz, and was the birthplace of *Mohammed*. A pilgrimage thither is essential once in his life to every good Moslem.

Medina, to the N.E. of Mecca, is the burial-place of Mohammed, and most pilgrims include this town also in their journey to and from Mecca.

Sana is the capital of Yemen, and the centre of the coffee-growing district. This was originally exported from *Mocha*, but the trade has now been transferred to *Hodeida*, a fortified town and seaport on the Red Sea coast.

Muskat is the capital of Oman and the largest town in Arabia. It is noted for its pearl-fisheries and for the export of dates.

ADEN AND PERIM.—*Aden*, an important British settlement, is the most southerly point of Arabia, forming a peninsula joined to the mainland by a narrow, sandy neck.

The *climate* during the N.E. monsoon, from October to April, is cool and agreeable, but at other times it is intensely hot.

Aden became a British possession in 1839, at which time it contained a population of 600, but this has now increased to over 40,000. It has an excellent harbour and is an important coaling-station, being practically impregnable. It is a free port and a great entrepôt (or place through which merchandise passes, being transhipped elsewhere). Its natural water-supply is limited, but this has been improved by the erection of vast condensers, and by the repair of the ancient reservoirs.

Perim is an island, also belonging to Britain, at the southern entrance of the Red Sea. It was occupied in 1799 to bar Napoleon's way to India, and was finally annexed in 1857. It is now provided with a lighthouse to facilitate the navigation of the dangerous Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.

For administrative purposes, Aden and Perim are under the government of Bombay.

PERSIA.

Position and Size.

Persia forms the larger and western portion of the Iranian plateau. It is bounded on the N. by the *R. Aras*, the *Caspian Sea*, and the *Atrék River*; on the W. by the mountains of *Kurdistan*; on the S. by the *Persian Gulf* and the *Gulf of Oman*; and on the E. by *Baluchistan* and *Afghanistan*. The country (628,000 square miles) is about seven times as large as Great Britain, and has a population of $9\frac{1}{2}$ millions.

Surface.

Persia is a vast plateau buttressed on all sides by lofty mountains, the most noted range being the *Elburz Mts.* in the N.—highest peak, Mt. Demavend (18,600 feet). Deep valleys cut their way through the mountains, and are generally extremely fertile, but at least one-third of the country is of no use whatever.

The country has few rivers—the most important is the *Karun*—and of these, nearly all lose themselves before reaching the sea. The lack of rivers and the slight rainfall are the great drawback of the country.

The primitive “*kanats*,” or underground galleries, conduct water from the mountains to the centres of population; but when this supply fails, famine is the result. Where irrigation is possible, the soil is characterized by remarkable fertility.

Climate.

This varies greatly in different parts of the country, but it is generally *continental*, being intensely cold in winter (especially in the highland regions), intensely hot in summer, and, in general, exceedingly dry, the annual rainfall amounting to only about 10 inches. In the neighbourhood of the Caspian, where, owing to the *Elburz Mts.*, rain falls somewhat heavily, it is damp and enervating.

Productions.

Persia is principally an *agricultural country*, the chief products being *tobacco, silk, wool, cotton, grain, wine, opium, medicinal and dye plants*. *Forests* are rare and not dense. The *roses* of Persia are specially noted.

Persia rears considerable numbers of *domestic animals*, and much of the *wool* obtained is used in weaving the *carpets* of Kurdistan, Khorassan, and Teheran, and for the *shawls* of Kerman.

The country has *vast mineral wealth* (including enormous deposits of *iron ore, lead, copper, coal, tin, antimony, nickel, cobalt, mercury, manganese*, etc.), but at present it is practically unworked, owing to the distance from ports and markets, and the difficulties of transport. However, the production of *sword blades* and *brass and copper vessels* is general.

People and Religion.

Persia has always been exposed to invasion ; hence, it is inhabited by many races, some of whom are settled, and others are nomadic. The settled people belong to the Aryan race, but the nomads are Mongol Tartars.

The majority of the people are Mohammedans, but of two opposed sects. This division is a cause of constant conflict, and is fatal to political unity. There are also a few Parsis, and numbers of Jews, Armenians, and native Christians.

The Shah is regarded as the direct representative of the prophet Mohammed ; hence, his power formerly was absolute. The provinces, however, were frequently badly governed, for the office of Governor was generally sold to the highest bidder, who recompensed himself for his outlay when the taxes were collected. In 1905, the people demanded representative government, and in 1906 the Shah gave his consent to the election, by the people, of a National Council, which meets annually in October. The Governors of the Provinces will be responsible to the National Council. Rural and Town Councils are also to be elected, and there is a likelihood that matters will be much better in the future.

Owing to disturbances among the people, the northern frontier of the country was in 1911 temporarily occupied by Russians, and Russian influence is there supreme ; in the S., British influence is supreme, and a British Consul-General resides at Bushire.

Communications.

These are generally bad, but there are prospects that they will be improved at an early date. Carriage roads are very few, and not at all good. The two chief are from Teheran, the capital, to Kom (91 miles), and from Teheran, through Kazvin, to Resht in the north (220 miles). A few others connect important towns in different parts of the country. There are many tracts, however, which could easily be improved, though there are great physical difficulties in the way of a complete system of roads. Only 6 miles of *railway*, in the neighbourhood of Teheran, have been constructed.

Towns.

Teheran, the capital, has greatly improved since 1870. It lies on a riverless but fertile plain at the foot of the Elburz Mts.

Tabriz is the commercial capital, and manufactures *leather, silk, and metal-work.*

Ispahan, on a fertile plain, was the ancient capital, and has trade in *weapons, opium, and dried fruit.* It has manufactures of brocades, velvets, calicoes, etc.

Kazvin and *Resht* are both important centres of trade which comes by way of the Caspian Sea.

Kerman is an important meeting-place of the trade routes between the Persian Gulf and Central Asia. It is noted for the manufacture of *shawls.*

Bushire, on the Persian Gulf, is the chief port.

Bandar Abbas, also on the Persian Gulf, is another important port.

Shiraz is famed for its *wine and attar of roses.*

AFGHANISTAN.

Position.

This forms the eastern portion of the plateau of Iran. It is shut in by land on all sides: on the S. by Baluchistan, and on the E. by India; on the N. by Russian territory, and on the W. by Persia. It is the "buffer" state between the Indian and Russian Empires: hence, its importance.

Its boundaries have been the subject of many disputes from time to time. The Persian boundary was definitely fixed between 1903 and 1905; the S. boundary in 1896-7; the N. in 1886-7 and revised in 1893-5; and the E. in 1895 and revised in 1903.

Surface.

The whole country is mountainous, and the passes traversing the mountains are of great importance, from both a military and a commercial point of view. Where there are no mountains, the country is still difficult to enter, for it is swept by sand-laden winds from the deserts.

Climate.

This is one of great extremes, burning heat being followed by the most intense cold; yet, notwithstanding, the climate is generally healthy.

Productions.

The Afghans are mainly a *pastoral* people.

The productions resemble those of Persia. Where water is obtainable in the valleys, abundant crops of *wheat* and *fruit* are cultivated, and *camels*, *horses*, and *sheep* are reared.

The *mineral* wealth is great, but it is little worked. It includes *copper*, *lead*, *iron*, *gold*, *silver*, *rubies*, etc.

Considerable trade passes through the land, owing to its intermediate position.

People, Religion, Government.

The people are hardy, brave, independent, hospitable, and generous; but they can also be treacherous, vindictive, and cruel.

All religions save Christianity are tolerated, though the majority of the people are Mohammedans.

The country is ruled over by the Amir, who lives at Kabul. In order to rule these wild, fierce people, he has to exercise a stern and despotic authority, and must not seem to them to be in over-friendly relations with the Government of India. He, however, receives an annual pension from the Indian Government, in return for which he undertakes to be guided by Britain in his relations with foreign states.

Communications.

Afghanistan has *no railroads*. Railways from Russia approach its northern boundaries, and come to an abrupt end near the frontier, as also do those from India at *Chaman* and *Peshawar*.

Four great roads, however, enter the country:—

- (1) From *Bokhara* and *Meshed* to *Herat* and *Kandahar*;
- (2) From *Bokhara* to *Kabul*;
- (3) From *Peshawar*, on the N.W. frontier of India, by the Khaibar Pass to *Kabul*;
- (4) In the S., from *Quetta* to *Kandahar*, and on to *Kabul*. This is the other main road from India, and passes through the Bolan Pass before reaching *Quetta*.

Towns.

Kabul is the capital, and contains the fortified palace of the Amir. It is an important centre for the trade between Central Asia and the Punjab.

Kandahar is the largest town in S. Afghanistan, and is on the main route between India and Persia.

Herat, frequently called the "Gate of India," is the meeting-place of several routes between India, Russian Central Asia, and Persia.

RUSSIAN CENTRAL ASIA.

Position.

This region, which is 1,325,000 square miles in extent, or nearly 23 times the area of England and Wales, extends from Western Siberia to the borders of Afghanistan and Persia on the S., and from the Caspian Sea on the W. to Turkestan and Mongolia on the E.

Surface.

The country consists of plains, steppes, and sandy deserts, with fertile valleys rising gradually from W. to E. From the level of the Caspian Sea, the land rises by degrees to the *Kirghiz Steppes* in the N., to the *Ust Urt Plateau* in the W., to the *Deserts of Kara Kum* (Black Sands) in the S.W. and *Kizil Kum* (Red Sands) in the centre, and to the mountains bordering the *Pamir Plateau*, the *Thian Shan*, and the *Altai Mts*, in the S., S.E., and E. respectively. There are two areas of inland drainage:—(a) To the *Sea of Aral*, a vast inland sea surrounded by deserts, into which flow the *Syr Daria* from the Thian Shan and the *Amu Daria* from the Pamir Plateau, and (b) to *Lake Balkash*, an irregular sheet of salt water receiving many rivers.

In all parts, this region is rapidly becoming much drier, largely owing to climatic conditions.

Climate.

This is one of great extremes, lack of rainfall, however, being a distinguishing feature throughout. In Tashkent, the average January temperature is 29° F., the July temperature, 80° F.

Productions.

The greater part of the country is absolutely unproductive; but in the oases, and in some of the valleys to the S.E., abundant harvests of *grain, fruit, cotton, hemp, and tobacco* are produced. *Sheep, goats, horses, camels, and cattle* are reared extensively.

People.

The entire district of Russian Central Asia is very thinly populated; the greater part of its 9½ million inhabitants are Kirghiz and Turkomans. * Originally

* See note, page 16.

nomads, roaming the steppes for pasture for their flocks, they are year by year becoming more accustomed to occupy settled homes on the banks of the rivers and in the valleys, and in these places the population is becoming fixed, engaging in *agriculture* and *domestic manufactures*, such as *ornamental leather-work*, *steel-work*, etc.

Government.

This resembles that of Caucasia, Russian Central Asia forming three of the five divisions of the Russian Possessions in Asia. *BOKHARA* and *KHIVA*, states which became vassal to Russia in 1868 and 1873 respectively, are still nominally under the rule of their "Khans."

Communications.

Railways practically enclose the whole country.

- (1) A line from *Orenburg*, on the European boundary, traverses the N. of the Sea of Aral, and continues its course along the banks of the Syr Daria to *Tashkent* and *Kokand*.
- (2) From *Kokand*, a line runs in a westerly direction, crossing the Amu Daria, through *Samarkand*, *Bokhara*, and *Merv*, whence another branch is given off southwards to the frontier of Afghanistan. The main line reaches the Caspian Sea at *Krasnovodsk*.

The line from *Krasnovodsk* to *Kokand* is known as the *Trans-Caspian Railway*. It was constructed almost entirely for political purposes, though the luxuriant vegetation of the oases through which it passes may recommend it for commercial reasons. The railway was very difficult to construct on account of the drifting sand, and, in many parts, the line has to be protected by miles of hedges of saxaul, a kind of shrub growing plentifully in this region. These railway routes practically follow the old caravan routes, and are gradually absorbing their trade.

Towns.

Tashkent, the political and commercial capital of Russian Central Asia, stands on a fertile oasis on the Bossura, a tributary of the Syr Daria. It is an important *railway terminus* and a great *fruit-growing centre*, and manufactures *textiles*, *shagreen*, *knives*, and *fire-arms*.

Samarkand, on the Trans-Caspian Railway, is situated in one of the most fertile valleys in this region. It has many remains of beautiful architecture.

Kokand stands at the end of the Trans-Caspian Railway, and makes *cotton* and *steel goods*. It is very unhealthy, but is a great trading centre.

Omsk, at the confluence of the Om and Irtysh, is the capital of the Steppes provinces. It is on the Trans-Siberian Railway, and also on a caravan-route between Russia and China.

Merv is an important junction of the Trans-Caspian Railway, and stands on a most fertile oasis.

Khiva is the chief town in the Khanate of *KHIVA*, in an oasis-district where *corn*, *barley*, *cotton*, *tobacco*, *fruits*, etc., are extensively produced. It was formerly a great slave market.

Bokhara is the chief town in the Khanate of *BOKHARA*. It lies in the fertile valley of the *River Zarafshan*, a tributary of the *Amu Daria*, and is noted for its *leather*, *fruit*, and *cotton*. It is the great central exchange-market for goods from *Russia*, *Siberia*, *Persia*, *India*, and *Afghanistan*.

SIBERIA.

Position.

Siberia includes all the northern part of the Continent of Asia. It is a vast area (4,786,000 square miles), 82 times the size of England and Wales. It is bounded on the N. by the Arctic Ocean, on the E. by Behring Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk, and the Japan Sea, on the S. by China and Russian Central Asia, and on the W. by Russia in Europe.

The coasts on the N. are low, much indented, and closed for a great part of the year by ice; whereas the coasts on the east are lofty, but also ice-bound in winter. *Vladivostock* is the only harbour which is not closed for more than half the year. Numerous islands lie off the coast, the most important being the *New Siberia Is.* and *Wrangel I.* on the N., the *Aleutian Is.*, the *Kurile Is.*, and *Sakhalin* on the E. The *Kurile Is.* and the southern half of *Sakhalin* belong to Japan, and most of the *Aleutian Is.* to the United States territory of Alaska.

Surface and Drainage.

The entire country forms one great plain, gradually sloping N. and N.W. to the Arctic Ocean from the *Altai* and *Yablonoi Mts.*, in the S., and the *Stanovoi Mts.* in the N.E. At first, these plains are grass-covered, and are known as the *Steppes*. These give place to dreary, frozen plains—the *Tundra*—upon which only mosses, lichens, and dwarf shrubs will grow. During the brief summer the surface of these plains thaws to the depth of a few inches, and the country is then converted into vast swamps.

Siberia is drained to the Arctic Ocean by the *Obi*, *Yenisei*, and *Lena* rivers, and their tributaries, and to the Sea of Okhotsk by the *R. Amur*.

The main streams, with the exception of the Amur, are of little use for commerce on account of the ice and floods, but the tributaries which flow transversely from E. to W. are more generally used.

Lake Baikal, a long, narrow lake, lies to the S., nearly midway between E. and W. For a great part of the year it is frozen over, but during the summer months it is navigated by a regular line of steamers.

Climate.

The whole area suffers from extremes—a *winter of intense cold and long duration* being followed by a *very bright, short summer*. Rain is most *unusual*. The extremes experienced are due entirely to the great unbroken mass of land, and its distance from the ocean. In the N.E. around Verkhoyansk (where the range of temperature is from 88° F. in summer, to -89° F. in winter), the cold is greater than in any other known region of the globe.

Productions.

Siberia has two possessions of great value—its *minerals* and its *forests*. The latter supply large quantities of *furs* and all kinds of *forest products*.

Gold is mined in the Ural Mts., the Altai Mts., and in the mountains of the N.E.; *silver* and *lead* in the Altai Mts., and in a region stretching E. towards Lake Baikal. Other mineral resources are *iron*, *copper*, *porphyry*, and *marble*. *Emeralds* and other precious stones, and *platinum* are obtainable. *Coal* is widely distributed.

Animals bearing valuable fur, as the *sable*, *ermine*, *marten*, *otter*, *mink*, and *fox*, are numerous still, though their numbers have been considerably reduced by the Russian trappers.

The climate in many parts is too severe for agriculture, but in the black-earth lands, just S. of the forests, enormous crops of *wheat* are raised, which is equal in quality to the best grown in European Russia. This southern part of Siberia is destined to become one of the world's great granaries. On the extensive steppes various grass-eating animals—*sheep*, *goats*, *cattle*, the *camel*, *ass*, and *horse*—are reared.

People.

The area is very sparsely populated, the numbers averaging 1.7 per square mile. Many of these are Russian political exiles or their descendants, and are engaged, for the most part, in *mining, agriculture, and trade*. About 20,000 convicts are transported annually from Russia, and labour in the mines. Native tribes of a very low type—Kirghiz, Kalmucks, Tunguses, Ostyaks, Samo-yedes—also inhabit Siberia; they are nomadic, and live by hunting and fishing.

Government.

The whole of Siberia is Russian.* For purposes of government it is divided into six provinces and four other divisions called "governments."

Communications.

Siberia has an extensive overland traffic between Russia and China by *caravans, steamers, and barges* in summer, and by *sledges* over the frozen surface of the ground in winter. But all these are overshadowed by the great *Trans-Siberian Railway*, which extends from Europe across Asia, starting at Chelyabinsk, a great railway-junction distant (by rail) 1,700 miles east from Petrograd, and having its terminus at Vladivostock (4,000 miles away). The time taken to perform this long journey of roughly 5,700 miles is about fifteen days.

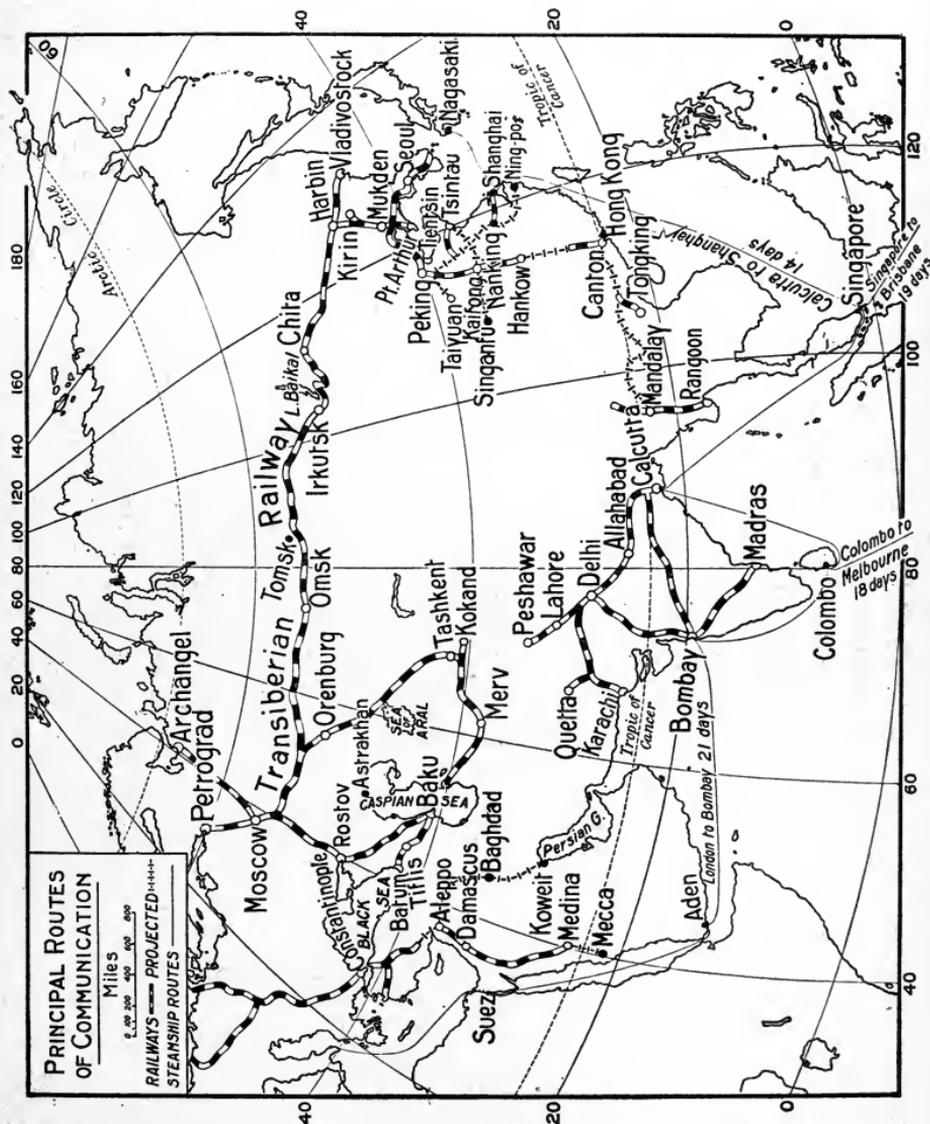
The line traverses the Steppes to *Omsk*, thence through forests to *Krasnoyarsk* on the Yenisei, and on to *Irkutsk*, the chief town of E. Siberia. The line then runs S. of Lake Baikal, and sends a branch to Stretensk for the navigation of the Amur; the main line leaves Siberia and passes across *Manchuria* to *Vladivostock* on the Pacific coast. A line runs S. from *Harbin* to *Mukden* and *Port Arthur*. This diversion from Russian territory not only secured for Russia the desired communication, but also avoided much cumbersome, tortuous, and costly railway engineering through mountainous regions, and lessened the journey by many hundreds of miles. The line to Port Arthur is connected with KOREA through the capital *Seoul* and with CHINA through *Peking*. From Peking there is a line S. to *Hankow*, and it is proposed to extend it as far as Canton.

Towns.

Irkutsk (75,000), on the Angara river, is the second largest town in Siberia; it has considerable *manufactures*. It has also a large trade with *Kiakhta*, the frontier town between Russia and China, where the merchants of the two countries meet to exchange goods. It is the capital of E. Siberia.

Tobolsk, once the capital of Siberia, is not now as important as formerly. Much of its trade has passed to *Tiumen*, a mining and manufacturing town to the S.W.

* See note, page 16.



Tomsk stands upon the River Tom, near its junction with the River Obi. It has considerable trade, for the caravan route—the *trakt*—from *Perm* to *Kiakhta* passes through it.

Krasnoyarsk stands at the head of the navigation of the Yenisei, and has much trade with the Yenisei gold district.

Yakutsk, on the River Lena, is the centre of some trade.

Vladivostock (90,000) is an important railway terminus; its harbour is kept open throughout the year by ice-breakers. It is the chief Russian naval port on the Pacific. A railway runs to *Khabarovsk* on the Amur via the Ussuri Valley.

NOTE.—TIBET is a cold desert land, and CHINESE TURKESTAN a hot desert; but these will be dealt with in connection with the Chinese dominions, of which they form a part.

THE MONSOON LANDS.

INDIA—GENERAL.

Position.

India consists of a triangular peninsula, lying almost wholly within the Tropic of Cancer, and a large continental area to the N. Its area is more than fourteen times that of the British Isles, and its population is more than seven times as great.

It is bounded on the N. by the Himalaya Mts., on the E. by the Bay of Bengal, China, and Siam, on the W. by Afghanistan and Baluchistan, and on the S.W. and S. by the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Configuration.

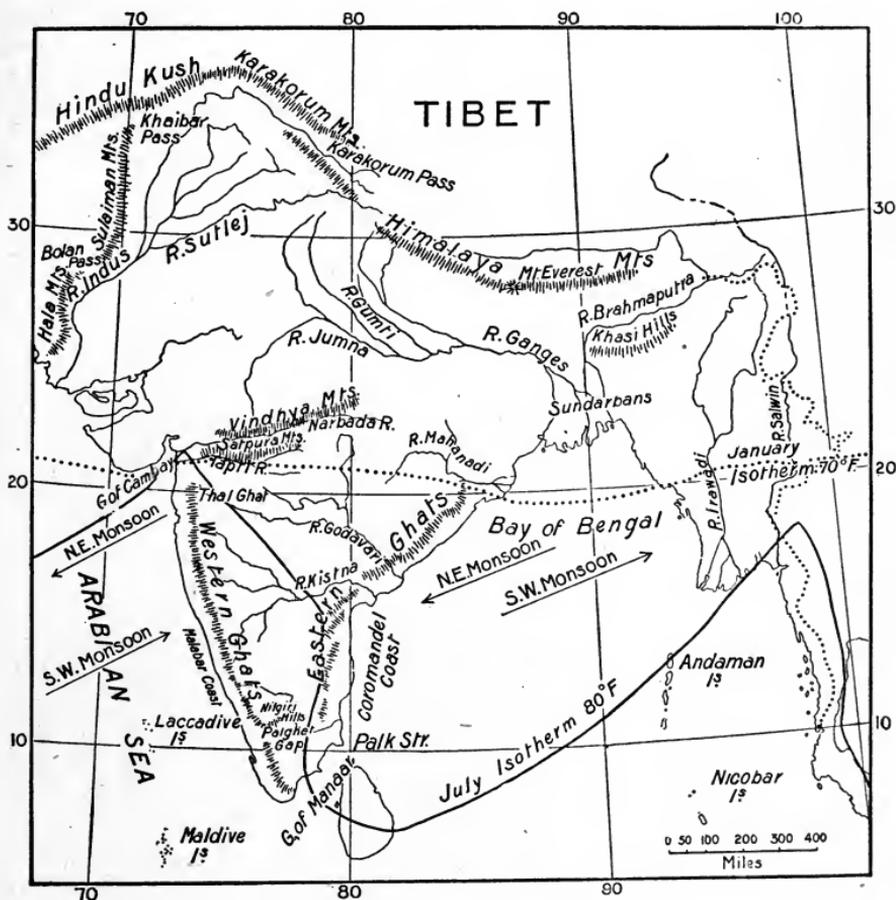
The coast-line is practically unbroken, save for the mouths of rivers and a few imperfectly protected roadsteads; hence, India has few good harbours.

Certain parts of the coasts are given special names:—

- (1) The ORISSA COAST, between the Hugli and Godavari.
- (2) The GOLCONDA COAST, between the Godavari and Kistna.
- (3) The COROMANDEL COAST, between the Kistna and Cape Comorin.
- (4) The MALABAR COAST, between Cape Comorin and Goa.

On the N., India is protected by a vast mountain-barrier, consisting of several ranges, intersected by enormous valleys and extensive tablelands.

These ranges constitute the mountain-system of the HIMALAYAS, about 1,600 miles in length, and 200 miles broad, but in the N.W. broadening out to 600 miles. The mean elevation is 18,000 feet, and no passes



INDIA: PHYSICAL FEATURES.

are lower than 15,000 feet. The chief peaks are Mt. Everest (29,000 feet), Mt. Godwin-Austen, Kanchanjanga, and Dhaulagiri. From the Pamirs (an extension of the Tibetan tableland, and the centre of the Central Asiatic mountain-systems) this great mountain-wall extends as

far as the southward bend of the Brahmaputra, giving off lesser ranges to the E. in Burma, and to the W. in Afghanistan.

To the S. of the Himalayas is the PLAIN OF THE INDUS AND GANGES. Both of these rivers overflow their banks, doing for Sind and Lower Bengal respectively what the Nile does for Egypt.

The GANGES rises on the S. slope of the Himalayas, and for a time has a very swift current; but at *Hardwar* it enters the plain. Up to this point the river is navigable for boats; loaded barges can come as far as Cawnpur. On the right bank it receives the *Jumna* and *Son*, and on the left bank the *Gumti*, *Gogra*, and *Gundak*. It enters the sea by the largest delta in the world, called the *Sundarbans*, where it unites with the *R. Brahmaputra*. Both rivers bring down vast quantities of silt (sand, mud, etc.), and new land is being formed with unparalleled rapidity. The Ganges is 1,557 miles in length.

The INDUS rises in the glaciers of Tibet, and flows between the Himalayas and the Karakoram Mts., through which it breaks. Its course is then in a S.W. direction through the Punjab, so called because it is the district of the five rivers—*Jhelum*, *Chenab*, *Ravi*, *Bias*, and *Sutlej*. A delta, 3,000 square miles in extent, is formed at the mouth. The Indus is of great value for irrigation of agricultural lands, especially in Sind; outside the irrigated area, this province is barren and sandy. Length, nearly 2,000 miles.

The great Indo-Gangetic Plain is separated from the rest of India by a central belt of hilly and mountainous land, running from coast to coast. The *Vindhya Mts.* are at the western end of this belt; S. of them, in succession, are the *R. Narbada*, the *Satpura Mts.*, and the *R. Tapti*. In the E. there is no distinct range; the country is more broken, the plateaus are less lofty and wider, and there is only one river of importance, the *Mahanadi*. The Valley of the Indus is divided from this district by a large and almost rainless plain, known as the *Thar* or *Great Desert*.

S. of the hilly belt is the DECCAN, bounded on the N. by the *R. Tapti*; on the W. by the range known as the *Western Ghats* (Hindustani for *mountain-passes*), which follow the coast-line at an average distance of 40 miles; and on the S. by the *Nilgiri Hills* or *Blue Mts.* On the E. the Deccan slopes down to the sea, and includes the broken line of hilly country which extends from the valley of the *Mahanadi*, nearly parallel to the E. coast, and to which the name of *Eastern Ghats* is given.

The Deccan is drained into the Bay of Bengal by the *Godavari*, *Kistna*, and *Cauvery* rivers. But no rivers of any size flow into the Arabian

Sea S. of the Tapti. The approach to the Deccan from the W. is therefore difficult, save where roads have been constructed by the British across the Western Ghats. A large part of this tableland is covered with rich black soil which is remarkably fertile.

BURMA comprises the coast from Elephant Point (N. of the Arakan division) to the Isthmus of Kra. Its chief rivers are the *Irawadi* and the *Salwin*.

The northern frontier, dividing it from Assam and China, is marked by mountain-ranges. Hills extend through the country from N. to S. There are vast forest-regions, nearly 20,000 square miles in extent. The Irawadi is the main highway of the country; most of the population is gathered in towns and villages along its course. In the Shan States (to the E.) and the hill-country of the N. are semi-civilized tribes.

Climate.

The peninsular part lies entirely within the Tropic of Cancer (latitude $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.); the continental portion extends as far as latitude 37° N. The range of temperature is therefore very great. Along the *coasts* the temperature is high, but equable and very moist throughout the year. On the *plateau* the year can be divided into three climatic seasons:—

- (1) Cool and dry,
- (2) Hot and dry,
- (3) A short period of moist heat intervening between these.

The *variation in range of temperature* between the warmest and coldest months is remarkable; in Sind it is 30° , in the Punjab 27° , in the Deccan 25° , at Calcutta 16° , and on the W. coast 12° .

But the *variation in the amount of rainfall* is even more remarkable. In all parts the rainfall is *periodic*, depending upon the *monsoon* (or seasonal wind) which blows from the S.W. across the Indian Ocean from May to the middle or end of September. This wind is known as the *summer, or wet, monsoon*; it ushers in the season of heavy thunderstorms and rains. It is due to the difference of the temperatures of land and sea, the land being the warmer in summer. The Western Ghats lie at right angles to the direction of the winds, and much moisture is deposited to the W. of this chain, with the result that there is a much smaller rainfall in the region to the E. of it. Part of the current proceeds up the Bay of Bengal, bringing a rainy season of two or three months to the plains of Lower Bengal and Burma. Beyond these are the Assam hills, which condense the remaining moisture; hence the province of Assam has a remarkable rainfall (often 500 inches in a year), and its soil is exceedingly fertile, producing rich supplies of tea, rice, and mustard-seed.

In October a N.E. wind sets in, and prevails until April. It is called *the winter, or dry, monsoon*; and is of much less force than its predecessor. During its prevalence, the rainfall in India is small.

The N.W. corner of India is situated on the margin of the region of monsoons. It is only slightly under their influence; and hence its rainfall, if not entirely lacking, is but slight.

The W. part of continental India is all but rainless, and cultivation has to depend entirely upon *artificial irrigation*. Works on a vast scale have been constructed on the Indo-Gangetic Plain, so as to lead the waters from the rivers, and allow them to circulate through the fields by means of distribution-channels.

In S. India thousands of *storage tanks* or *reservoirs* have been constructed, or ancient works have been repaired, so that regions which would be barren without these means of watering, are under cultivation, and yield crops in winter as well as summer. Irrigation has done much to ward off the terrible *famines*, which still, however, occur at irregular intervals, when the monsoon rains are much delayed or are very inconsiderable in quantity.

Productions.

From earliest times India has been famed as a country of great wealth; and undoubtedly its resources—vegetable, mineral, and animal—are very great.

VEGETATION.—India possesses in most parts the requirements for great agricultural prosperity—namely, great heat, great moisture, and a fertile soil. From earliest times *agriculture* has been the traditional occupation of the people, and, even at the present day, about two-thirds of the people (200 millions out of 315) are entirely dependent upon it.

India may be divided into the following three regions, according to the characteristic food-crops:—

- (1) The cooler and drier parts of the North, the United Provinces (Agra and Oudh), Punjab, and the Central Provinces, forming the WHEAT AREA.
- (2) The moist, warm plains extending from Burma and Bengal to the R. Kistna, forming the RICE COUNTRY.
- (3) The drier parts of tropical India, including the very fertile black-earth region of the Deccan, forming the MILLET AREA.

Wheat also extends into this third region, and is grown on the black soil of the valley of the R. Narbada.

India also produces *cotton*, *linseed* and other *oil-seeds*, *jute*, *opium*, *indigo*, *tea* (particularly in Assam and the Darjiling district), *coffee*, *sugar-cane*, *tobacco*, and *spices*.

The *forest wealth* has been gradually restricted to the broken ground of Central India, the chief mountain-ranges, and the river-valleys of Burma. The *conservation of the forests*, and prevention of reckless destruction in them, are important parts of Government work.

A belt of country called the *Tarai*, 10 to 15 miles broad, stretches for 90 miles E. of the Ganges, at the base of the Himalayas; it is a district of thick jungle, sluggish streams, stagnant floods, and fever-breeding swamps, infested with tigers.

A still more deadly area occupies 5,500 square miles of the delta of the Ganges; it is called the *Sundarbans* from the *sundari* tree which grows abundantly there. The rank vegetation of the jungles is due to the excessive rainfall. These wild districts are the haunts of tigers, elephants, leopards, and crocodiles.

Teak is the most valuable of Indian timber-trees. This fine tree (120 feet high, and 20 feet round) yields a hard, yellowish-brown timber, which is very lasting, and is much used for ship-building, and in the construction of railway-carriages; a resinous oil is also obtained from the wood, of use in medicine and as a varnish. *Teak* is found in the forests of Lower Burma, and along the Ghats from Kanara to Travancore.

Other important woods are *sandal*, *blackwood*, *sal*, *oak*, *cedar*, and the *deodar*. The *bamboo*, *mango*, and *cocoa-nut* are also grown extensively. The *mulberry* is cultivated in Bengal and the Punjab, for the rearing of the silkworm.

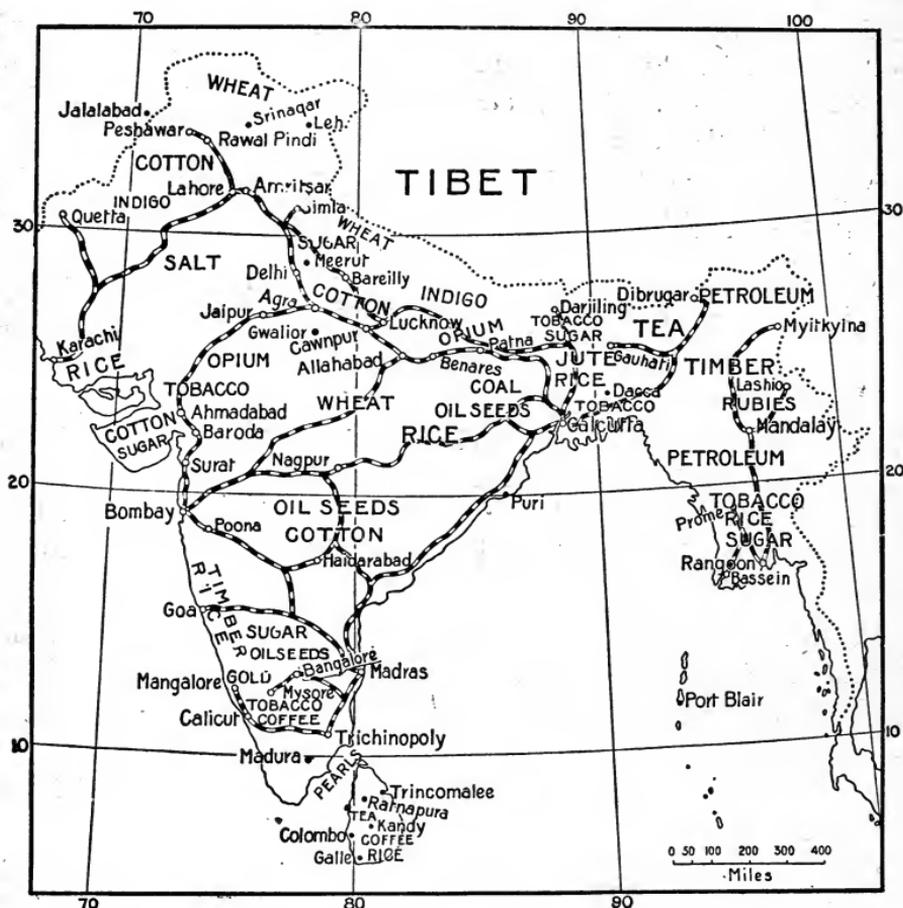
ANIMAL LIFE.—India possesses numerous animals, both wild and domestic.

Of *domestic* animals, most important are *buffaloes* and *oxen* (used in farm-work, to which horses have never been put in India), the *bull* and *cow* (regarded as sacred by the Hindus, who do not, therefore, eat their flesh), *sheep* and *goats*, the *horse*, *pony*, *ass*, and *mule*, and the *pig*.

The *elephant* is tamed and trained for military and processional purposes; it is a draught animal, used to pull heavy siege-guns, and is also a *beast of burden*, carrying baggage or riders (usually in a railed seat called a *howdah*); in the timber-yards it is employed to lift and pile heavy logs of wood.

Humped cattle are characteristic of India. They have an enormous hump on the shoulders, are very quiet in disposition, and are used, not only to provide milk, but as *beasts of burden*, for riding, and for drawing carriages.

Of wild animals, the chief are the *tiger*, *panther*, *cheetah* (the hunting leopard often trained to pursue game), *elephant*, *rhinoceros*, *bison*, *boar*, *bear*, *hyæna*, *lynx*, and *wolf*—and, in the rivers, the *crocodile* and *alligator*. Snakes are abundant, especially the *cobra-de-capello* (or hooded snake), whose bite kills



INDIA: PRODUCTIONS AND TOWNS.

5,000 persons a year. The number of venomous snakes is, however, decreasing, as the British Government offers a reward for their destruction. *Monkeys* are very general, and do much damage; but they are not interfered with, for many natives consider them sacred. Animals of the *deer* kind are very numerous.

Of birds, may be mentioned the *partridge* (on the plains), *snipe*, *waterfowl*, and *wild geese* (in the marshes), the *vulture*, and (in the Himalayas) the *eagle*.

MINERAL PRODUCTIONS.—India has great and widely diffused mineral wealth; but at present it is comparatively little worked.

Coal is found to the N.W. of Calcutta, and is raised in an increasing amount in the Satpura Hills, and on the N.E. slope of the Deccan. *Iron* is worked on the Malabar coast, and *copper* in the Himalayas. Great *rock-salt* deposits are among the mineral resources in the N. of the Punjab. *Gold* is mined in Mysore and parts of the Deccan. *Diamond* mines are worked among the central hills. There are *ruby* mines in Burma, near the Irawadi.

People.

The people may be roughly divided into two great groups:—

- (1) Those of the *Northern Plains*,
- (2) Those of the *hills and peninsula*.

The former are of *Aryan* descent, and speak a variety of languages allied to the Sanskrit. The *Aryans* immigrated by the N.W. passes, or else through the valley of Cashmere, more than 4,000 years ago; and (as it would seem probable) they forced the earlier inhabitants, called *Dravidians*, into the peninsular region. In some earlier period, the *Dravidians* had themselves invaded by way of the N.W. passes, and displaced the first settlers, who were of Mongol race.

The *Dravidian* peoples are now the inhabitants of the peninsula. These have almost black skins; black and crisp hair, and long, narrow skulls; their physical characteristics are negro-like, and indicate a mingling with still earlier inhabitants, the dusky aborigines of southern India. They number about 50 million natives; and their various nations speak twelve distinct languages, the chief of which are *Telugu* (in E. Central India) and *Tamil* (spoken from Ceylon to Madras).

The peoples of India are still further divided by the *system of castes*, which has dominated the Hindus for 3,000 years past. The caste-system is part of the religion of the Hindus. There are *four principal castes*, or classes. First is the *Brahman* caste; to this belong the priests, though several millions of Brahman are laymen. Second is the *Kshatriya* caste, comprising warriors, princës, and rulers. Third is the *Vaisya* caste of traders and agriculturists. Fourth and lowest are the *Sudras*, field-labourers and menial servants. These represent the non-Aryan peoples, whom the Aryan invaders subjected. And, below the *Sudras*, are the *Pariahs*, or out-castes, representative of the aboriginal races, whom the *Sudras* mastered.

The division between the castes is so rigid, that one may not eat or drink except with persons of one's own caste. If this rule be broken, caste is lost, and the offender has forfeited his social and religious rights.

A man remains in the caste to which he was born. Hence, trades and crafts have become hereditary; and, inheriting the skill of generations, a Hindu craftsman is an expert in his own particular line. But, at the present day, caste does not restrict a man to his father's trade.

Religions.

Religions differ considerably. More than 200 millions profess *Hinduism* (a religion which branches out into a multitude of sects, but which may be briefly defined as worship of *Brahma the Creator*, *Vishnu the saviour*, and *Siva the destroyer*). Over 60 millions are *Mohammedans*. About $9\frac{1}{2}$ millions (mainly in Burma and Assam) are *Buddhists*. The prosperous commercial and professional community of the *Parsis* follows the ancient faith of Persia. There are about 3 million *Christians*.

Occupations.

The main occupation of the people is *agriculture*, combined with *cattle-rearing*. The congregation of large numbers in *factories* is a modern development, and is marked in the cotton industry of the W., and in the jute trade around Calcutta.

Over 11 millions are engaged in *making textile fabrics*: $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions are *workers of metals*: 2 millions are *makers of glass and pottery*: 4 millions are engaged in *commerce*: 5 millions in the *learned or artistic professions*: $16\frac{1}{2}$ millions are occupied with the *supply of food and drink*: $10\frac{1}{2}$ millions are *servants* of one sort or another.

Exports and Imports.

Before British occupation, *export trade* was very small, and consisted chiefly of art fabrics and luxuries; but it is now greatly developed, and is worth about £118,000,000 annually.

The exports consist of grains—*rice* and *wheat*—*raw cotton*, *cotton yarn*, *wool*, *oil-seeds*, *jute*, *tea*, *coffee*, *opium*, *hides*, *indigo*, and *dyes*. Large quantities of *manufactured jute* and *cotton* are also exported.

Imports (over £100,000,000 in value annually) consist of *woollen and cotton goods*, *metals*, *hardware*, *machinery*, *railway plant*, *locomotives* and *railway carriages*, *European clothing*, and *coal*.

Nearly all the imports are from Great Britain; more than half the exports go thither.

History.

The London *East India Company* received its Charter in 1600; and in 1613 a "factory" (or trading-station) was established at Surat. In 1629 Fort St. George (Madras) was first occupied. In 1668, Bombay was transferred from the Portuguese, and became the headquarters of the English. In 1689, the site of Calcutta was bought from the officers of the Great Mogul (*i.e.*, the Emperor ruling at Delhi), and Fort William was built. Seventeen years previously, the French had purchased Pondicherry, 85 miles S.W. of Madras. Hence arose a *commercial and political rivalry* between the two nations.

In 1748, a dispute arose between native princes as to the rule of the Deccan and the Carnatic. The French and English took opposite sides. The military genius of Robert Clive [1725-1774] secured the triumph of the English.

In 1756, Surajah Dowlah, viceroy of Bengal, seized Fort William (Calcutta), and confined 146 English residents in the *Black Hole* (or defaulters' cell); 123 perished before morning. Next year, this atrocity was revenged at the *Battle of Plassey*, where Clive's force of 3,000 routed 68,000 natives. The victory was the *foundation of our Indian Empire*; and the administrative genius of Warren Hastings [1732-1818] built firmly on this foundation. Hastings became Governor of Bengal in 1772; and, next year, was appointed the first Governor-General.

From being a commercial corporation, the East India Company rose to be the ruling power in the land. By 1818, all India was subject to it, as far as the basin of the Indus. Sind was annexed in 1843, after the campaign of Sir Charles Napier. After Sikh wars in 1845-6 and 1849, the Punjab was also added to the British dominions.

The centenary of Plassey was the year of the *great Mutiny*. A wave of mad savagery swept over the native army of Bengal. In May, 1857, the revolt began at Meerut (40 miles N.E. of Delhi), and the sepoys (or native soldiers) occupied Delhi. The Mutiny was suppressed in the following year; and, by the *Government of India Act* (1858), all territories controlled by the Company were transferred to the Crown. The Company, though not dissolved till 1874, thus lost its governing powers; Queen Victoria was proclaimed in India, and Lord Canning was the first Viceroy. By the *Royal Titles Act* (1876), the sovereign of Gt. Britain is also the Emperor of India; and on January 1st, 1877, Queen Victoria was, at Delhi and other places, proclaimed the first Empress.

Government.

The government of India is conducted by a *Governor-General* or *Viceroy*, appointed by the Crown. He is assisted by a Council of five (also appointed by the Crown) besides the Commander-in-Chief. Laws are enacted by the Legislative Council of 68 members, part nominated by the Viceroy, and part elected.

In England, Indian affairs are administered by the *Secretary of State for India* (a member of the Cabinet), who is advised by the Council of India, consisting of ten to fourteen members, nine of whom must have lived in India for at least ten years. The expenditure of Indian revenue is especially under the Council's control. This Secretary of State is the sole responsible adviser of the Government on all important Indian questions.

Madras and Bombay have also *Governors* appointed by the Crown; and each of these is advised by an Executive Council of two members of the Indian Civil Service, and by a Legislative Council of 48.

The Punjab, the United Provinces, Bengal, Eastern Bengal (with Assam), and Burma are all under *Lieutenant-Governors*, appointed by the Governor-General, subject to royal approval.

A *Chief Commissioner*, appointed by the Governor-General and Council, has charge of the Central Provinces.

At the *Coronation Durbar* (December, 1911) it was announced by the King-Emperor that, at as early a date as possible, the *unity of Bengal* would be restored. It was partitioned by Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the Viceroy from 1898 to 1905; and Eastern Bengal was associated with Assam. This partition has given great dissatisfaction to the Bengalis. Eastern Bengal is now to be restored to Bengal; and the whole province to be placed under a Governor. At the same time, *Behar*, *Chota Nagpur*, and *Orissa* (hitherto parts of Bengal, but inhabited by peoples who differ from the Bengalis in race and language) are to constitute a *new province* under a Lieutenant-Governor; and Assam is to have a Chief Commissioner.

The various provinces of India are composed of *divisions* (under Commissioners); and these are subdivided into *districts*. A district is in charge of an officer, variously styled collector, or magistrate, or deputy-commissioner.

In the *Native States* (the most important of which is Haidarabad), the government is supervised by a *political agent of the Governor-General*, usually called the Resident. No native ruler may declare war upon another; nor may he send ambassadors to other states. Also, the troops of a native state must not exceed a prescribed strength.

The natives of India are given a very large share in *local government*. The municipal committees (in charge of roads, markets, etc.) are elected by the ratepayers, and are composed mainly, often entirely, of natives.

Means of Communication.

Since British occupation these have been greatly extended; and improved roads, canals, and railroads have been constructed. The

heavy transit dues formerly imposed by the different States have been removed; and, as a result, trade has increased.

Trunk roads connect all the important towns, and these have been supplemented by canals. The Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus, and Irawadi are important water-ways.

The most important canals are:—

- (1) The *Ganges Canals*, between the Ganges and Jumna, and consisting of the Upper Canal (1,000 miles long), and the Lower Canal (700 miles).
- (2) The *Sirhind Canal*, in N.E. Punjab, the main channel being 538 miles long, with 4,639 miles of distributing branches.
- (3) The *Agra Canal*, leaving the Jumna 10 miles below Delhi, and joining it again 20 miles below Agra.
- (4) The *Buckingham Canal*, from Madras to the mouth of the Godavari.

The canal-system is very largely used for purposes of *irrigation*.

But *railway development* has been most remarkable. The first Indian railway was opened on April 18th, 1853. The lines, connecting the most important cities, were at first used mainly for the transport of troops. Branch lines followed, first for trade, then for the purpose of carrying food to districts likely to be attacked by famine. There are now over 30,000 miles of railway open; and the Indian railway-system may be considered complete, save in Assam, Burma, and Sind.

The principal railways are:—

- (1) The line from *Karachi* to *Peshawar*, with branches to *Quetta*, *Lahore*, etc. This line utilizes the Indus Valley.
- (2) From *Peshawar* to *Calcutta*, passing through *Lahore*, *Delhi*, *Agra*, *Allahabad*, *Benares*, and *Patna*. This route uses the Ganges Valley.
- (3) Lines from *Bombay*, a great railway terminus, to *Agra*, *Allahabad*, *Calcutta*, *Madras*, and *Masulipatam* (capital of the Kistna district).
- (4) Lines from *Madras*, another great centre, to *Mangalore*, and also *along the east coast*, the latter communicating with *Calcutta*.

INDIA—DIVISIONS.

Politically, India is divided into

- (1) British Provinces,
- (2) Native States,
- (3) Foreign Possessions.

British Provinces.

BENGAL.—The largest of the provinces : area, 115,800 square miles ; population, 50,700,000. The country is watered by the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and their tributaries, and (in the Orissa division) by the Mahanadi. The region is fertile, owing to the immense number of



CALCUTTA HARBOUR.

Photochrom, London.

rivers, the alluvial soil which they bring down to the deltas, and the irrigation canals. Hence, it is thickly populated (in Bengal proper, nearly 550 inhabitants to the square mile).

Rice, tea, indigo, cinchona (from the bark of which quinine is produced), *cereals, oil-seeds, and poppies* are cultivated. *Jute* and *silk* goods are manufactured. *Coal* is mined in the Bardwan district (N. of Calcutta). *Salt* is a product of Orissa.

Calcutta, the chief city of Bengal, and (until December 12th, 1911) capital of British India, stands upon the Hugli, 80 miles from its mouth: population (1911), 1,216,000. The city has docks extending for 10 miles; there is a large export trade in tea, rice, jute, and wheat; cotton goods, metals, and mineral oils are imported. There are many jute and paper mills. At *Howrah*, on the other side of the Hugli, is the terminus of the *East Indian Railway* (to Benares, Delhi, etc.).

Patna, situated where the Son and Gundak join their waters with the Ganges, is the centre of an important agricultural area, and is noted for its rice.

Darjiling, situated on the Lower Himalayas at a height of 7,000 feet, is a health-station and a fashionable summer-resort. The district is noted for the cultivation of tea.

The chief ports of Bengal are *Calcutta*, *Chittagong*, and *Orissa*.

THE UNITED PROVINCES.—These include Agra and Oudh, in the upper valley of the Ganges, and are for the most part agricultural. Area, 107,000 square miles: population, 47½ millions.

Millet is grown in the S. and centre; *wheat* to the N. and W., more extensively than elsewhere in India; *pulse* and *cotton* are cultivated in the same region. In the E. the *poppy*, *indigo*, and *rice* are important; but the area under the opium-poppy is gradually being reduced, on account of the Chinese restrictions on the trade. The S. and W. parts are in the region of uncertain rainfall, and are subject to famine.

Benares, on the Ganges, 420 miles from Calcutta, is the *holy city* of the Hindus. Pilgrims come hither from all parts of Asia; and there are very numerous temples. It is also a centre of manufactures (silk, and cloth of gold), and trade (saltpetre, indigo, sugar).

Allahabad, capital of the United Provinces, is at the confluence of the Ganges and Jumna. Its name means the *City of God*. Pilgrims come hither in December and January to bathe in the sacred waters of the Ganges.

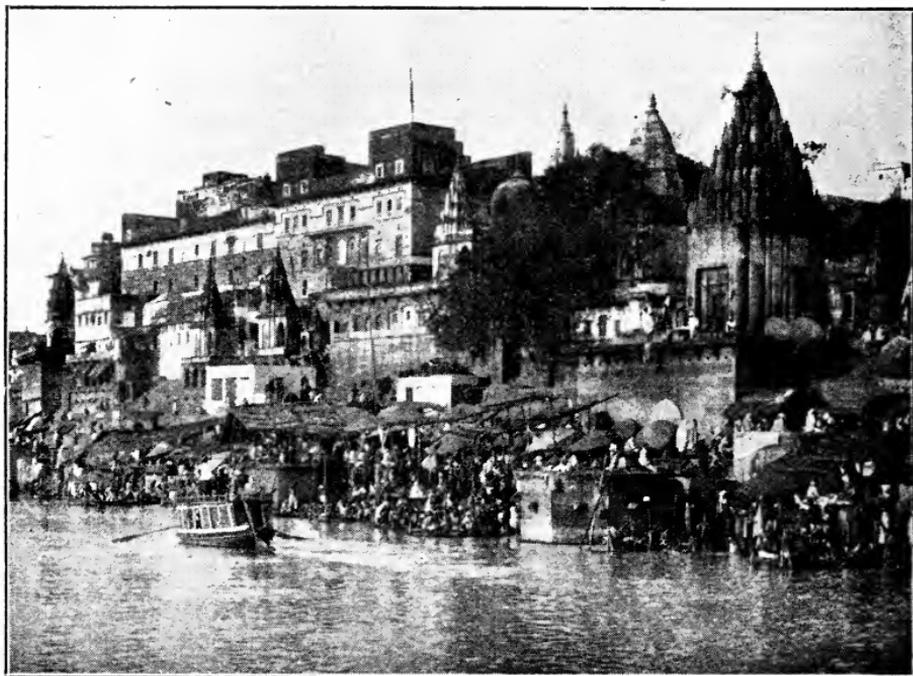
Cawnpore or *Cawnpur*, on the right bank of the Ganges, is memorable for the massacre of the British garrison and women and children after a three weeks' siege by Nana Sahib in June, 1857. The *Memorial Gardens* now mark the place of the massacre. It is rapidly developing as a manufacturing place (leather and cotton goods), and centre of trade in grain.

Lucknow, memorable for its siege, is on the Gunti. It is a great centre of trade, has large railway workshops, and is noted for its native manufactures of gold and silver brocade, muslin and other light fabrics, shawls, etc.

Bareilly and *Meerut* are important as railway and manufacturing centres. The manufactures include leather and metal goods, and cotton and silk cloth.

THE PUNJAB.—This province comprises the valley of the Indus and its great tributaries. In the S.W. expanse of open ground *cattle-rearing*

is important; elsewhere *millet* and *pulse* are grown, and also *cotton*, *sugar*, and *grain*. In the extreme N., between the Jhelum and the Indus, *salt* is obtained. Area, 97,000 square miles: population, 20,300,000.



A TEMPLE AT BENARES.

Photochrom, London.

Lahore, on the R. Ravi, is the chief railway centre, and is a manufacturing place (carpets, and silk and woollen goods). It is the capital of the province.

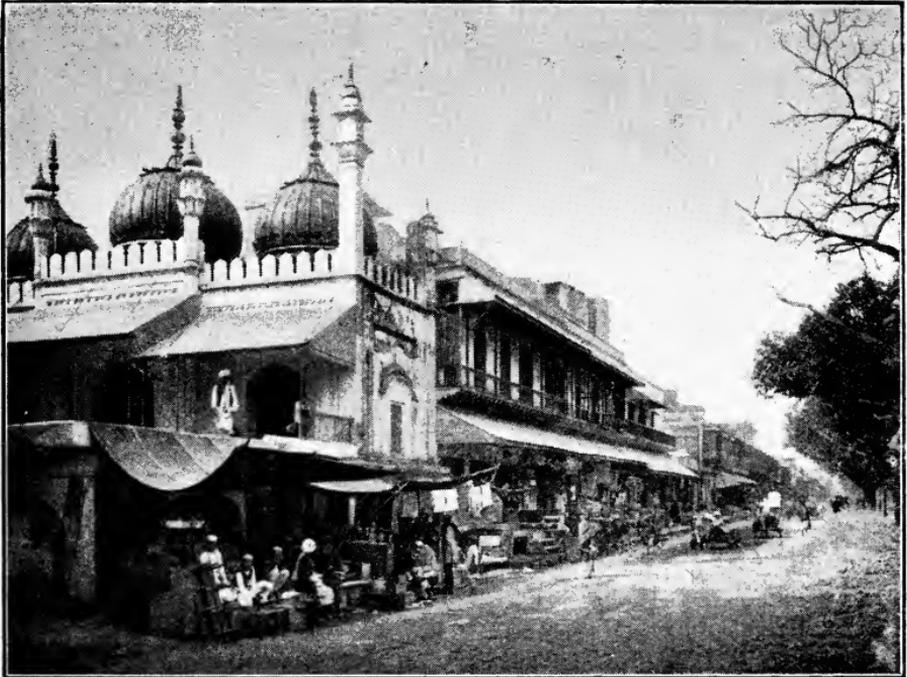
Delhi, on the R. Jumna, was the capital of the Mogul Empire. It has greatly declined in population (in 1700, a million inhabitants: in 1900, only 208,000). Its palace and great mosque were built by Shah Jehan (Emperor, 1628-1658). The sepoys in 1857 occupied Delhi as their capital, and it was besieged from May to September by the British. Delhi has been the scene of the great *darbars*, or ceremonial receptions of native princes (as in 1903, for proclamation of King Edward VII.). On December 12th, 1911, at the close of the Coronation Durbar, Delhi was restored to its ancient glories, and, by the King-Emperor's proclamation, was constituted the administrative capital of India, instead of Calcutta.

Amritsar, 30 miles from Lahore, is a place of trade and manufactures (shawls and silks). It is the most sacred place of the Sikhs, a Hindu sect inhabiting the Punjab, and supplying us with our best native soldiers.

Multan, near the Chenab, is a populous and important manufacturing place (silk and cotton goods, shawls, and carpets).

THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.—Formed in 1901, and comprising those parts of the Punjab which were W. of the Indus. The capital is *Dera Ismail Khan*.

Peshawar is an important town and military station near the *Khaibar Pass*, on the route to Afghanistan.



A STREET IN DELHI.

Photochrom, London.

BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.—A province constituted in 1887, and administered by a Chief Commissioner. Area, 45,000 square miles; but population, only slightly over 300,000.

The chief place is *Quetta*, which is connected by railway with Karachi. It is a place of *great military importance*, as it commands the *Bolan Pass* (25 miles to the S.E.) over the Hala Mts.; a military road and a railway cross this narrow, cliff-walled gorge (55 miles long). *Quetta* is strongly fortified and garrisoned. The Staff College for officers of the Indian army is established here.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.—This province extends from Baluchistan to Mysore. Area, 123,000 square miles : population, 18½ millions. It comprises a number of native states, most important of which is *Baroda*.

In the N. is the fertile low-lying tract of Gujarat, rising to the hills of the Central Plateau, stretching E. to the fertile valleys of the Narbada and Tapti, and S. to the level coastal strip called N. Konkan. The land generally is fertile in its lower parts, but has light and shallow soil in its upper parts, and is generally exposed to failure of rainfall. Much of Sind is barren and sandy ; but irrigation works have largely increased the cultivable area.

The rivers obtain their supply entirely from the S.W. monsoon. If this supply is insufficient, there is a liability to failure of crops, agricultural distress, and (in the worst seasons) famine.

There is a large trade in *cotton, opium, wheat, oil-seeds, sugar, wool, and drugs*, which are the chief exports. A quarter of the export trade, and about two-thirds of the import trade (*machinery, metals, liquors, etc.*), are with Great Britain.

Cotton, wheat, and opium are the chief products of cultivation ; *millet, rice, pulse*, and other *food-crops* are also largely grown.

Cotton goods are the chief articles manufactured (centre, Bombay). *Silk weaving, carpet-making, leather-work*, the making of *gold, silver, and brass ware*, and of *earthenware*, are other industries of the province.

Bombay, capital and seat of government of the Presidency, is often called the "*Gate of India*." It is the chief port for communication with Europe, and has more trade than Calcutta. It has one of the best harbours in the world. 14 miles long and 5 broad.

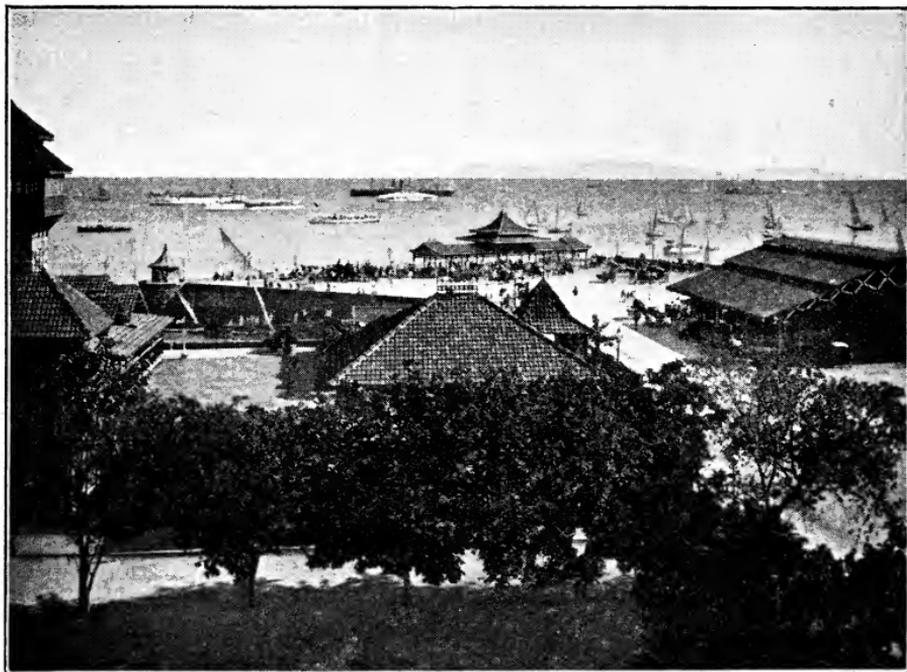
The city is situated on an island, joined to the mainland by causeways. It is the terminus of the *Great Indian Peninsular Railway*. The population (nearly 973,000) includes, besides Hindus and English, Afghans, Arabs, Malays, Africans, Jews, etc. The *Parsis* (amongst them, several merchant-princes) are a very influential community, commercial and professional. The chief industries of Bombay are the manufacture of *cotton goods, dyeing, tanning, and metal-working*. Six miles E. of Bombay is the *island of Elephanta*, famous for its ancient Hindu temples hewn out of the rock, and containing huge sculptures of Hindu gods.

Ahmadabad (Gujarat), a very important city under the Mogul rule, is still noted for its splendid mosques. *Cotton, silk, and paper manufactures* are carried on.

Surat, the first trading centre of the English, and one of the chief commercial cities of India in the 16th and 17th centuries, has ceased to be a seaport, owing to the silting of the mouth of the Tapti. There are manufactures of *cotton goods*, *silk brocade*, and *embroideries*.

Poona, 120 miles E. of Bombay, is the seat of the government during the rainy season, and is also the military headquarters of the Presidency.

Kolhapur (capital of a native state of the same name) and *Hubli*, to the S., are very progressive towns; both have large *cotton factories*. There are also railway works at *Hubli*.



BOMBAY HARBOUR.

Photochrom, London.

SIND is a province of the Bombay Presidency. Area, 47,000 square miles: population, over 3 millions. There is a desert region (*Thar*) on its E. border; hence communication is mainly by sea.

Rainfall generally is scarce; but the deficiency is made up for by the yearly overflow of the Indus, and by *irrigation works* connected with it. These Government works have very largely increased the agricultural resources of Sind.

Rice and *wheat* are the chief crops. Wheat is obtained on the borders of the Punjab in increasing quantities.

Karachi, capital of Sind, has a fine harbour, and is a railway-terminus (of lines to the Punjab and Rajputana). There is much trade with Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Tibet. *Cotton, wheat, tea, and hides* are exported.

Haidarabad, the former capital, at the head of the Indus delta, has considerable trade. Local industries (*gold and silver embroidery, and the making of lacquer ware*) are flourishing, particularly since the development of road and railway communication.

Aden is under the administration of the Governor of Bombay, represented by a Political Resident, who is also the officer in command of the troops.

The town of Aden is situated on a peninsula of S.W. Arabia, 1,650 miles from Bombay. It is a *fortified port*, occupied by the British since 1839. It is a *place of call* for the Peninsular and Oriental liners, and is a *coaling-station*. There are exports of coffee, gums, and spices. Attached to the Aden administration, are the *Kuria Muria Is.*, 21 miles off the S.E. coast of Arabia. One of them is a station of the *Eastern Telegraphs Company*, and is used for the landing of the Red Sea cable.

Perim I., at the S. entrance into the Red Sea, and about 100 miles W. of Aden, is also under Bombay administration. It is a *coaling-station*.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.—These comprise the hills and plains around Nagpur, the Nerbada and Tapti valleys, the plain of Chhattisgarh to the Mahanadi, and some wild, dense jungle in the S. The valleys and plains are fertile, producing abundance of *cotton, wheat, millet, pulse, rice, and oil-seeds*. Area, 82,600 square miles: population, over 9 millions.

Nagpur, capital of the Central Provinces, has considerable trade, being on the direct route from Bombay to Calcutta. *Cotton factories* are numerous. Coal is mined in the district.

Jabalpur, N.E. of Nagpur, is a manufacturing place (*cotton goods and carpets*).

BERAR.—A province of Central India, which was transferred to the British (1861) by the Nizam of Haidarabad, in lieu of payment of a debt of two million pounds. It is also called the *Haidarabad Assigned Districts*. It is administered by a Commissioner, under the authority of the Resident at Haidarabad. Area, 17,700 square miles.

The Satpura Mts. are in the N.; and the valleys, well watered by the R. Purna (tributary of the Tapti), are a very fertile region. This is the *most productive cotton-area* in India.

Wheat, millet, pulse, oil-seeds, the castor-oil plant, and tobacco are also cultivated

The chief towns are *Amraoti* (a centre of the cotton trade), and *Ellichpur* (once capital of the Deccan).

COORG.—A rugged mountainous region on the E. slope of the Western Ghats. This province is administered by a Chief Commissioner. Area, 1,580 square miles.

This area is almost wholly forest-land, yielding valuable *timber*. *Coffee*, *cardamoms* (for condiments and medicines), and *cinchona* are cultivated on the hills, and *rice* in the valleys.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.—This ranks next in importance to the Gangetic provinces. Area, 141,700 square miles: population, over 38 millions.

Along the N.E. and S.W. are very fertile coastal strips. These are hemmed in by hilly country. The dense population of the coast is supported entirely upon the *rice-crop*, which the unfailing rainfall on the W. (131 inches in a year at Mangalore), and the three great rivers (Godavari, Kistna, and Cauvery) on the E. render amply sufficient.

But in many parts inland the rainfall is less than 30 inches a year; and famines have not been infrequent.

Rice, the staple food of the natives, is the chief product of the soil. There are *cotton* plantations in the drier areas. *Pulse*, *indigo*, *sugar-cane*, *oil-seeds*, and *cocoa-nuts* are largely cultivated. In the hill-country *tea*, *coffee*, and *cinchona* are notable products. *Tobacco* is grown on the islands of the Godavari, and in the Madura district of the S.; Trichinopoli is famous for its *cigars* and *cheroots*. There are valuable *teak-forests*.

Gold is mined in Mysore; *copper* and *lead* are found in the Eastern Ghats. There is much *iron*, but it is not worked to the extent that is possible. *Diamonds* are obtained from the valley of the Kistna, especially the Karnul district.

The chief exports are *rice*, *cotton*, *sugar*, *tea*, *coffee*, *tobacco*, *indigo*, *oils*, *spices*, *hides*, and *coir* (fibre of cocoa-nut husk).

Madras has few large inland towns. Its chief ports are *Madras* and *Negapatam* on the E., *Mangalore* and *Calicut* on the W. coast.

Madras (population, 509,000) is the capital and seat of government. It is one of the most important ports of India, with a trade of more than £7,000,000 annual value. It has, however, no natural harbour; and the constructed harbour is unsafe for ships in very stormy weather. *Fort St. George*, built in 1750, is situated on the shore; N. of it is Black Town, the business quarter, with a large native population. Madras is the terminus of the *Madras Railway*, with one line going S.W. to Calicut, and another N.W. to join the Gt. Indian Peninsular Railway at Raichur (Nizam's Dominions). The *S. Indian Railway* connects Madras with Tinneveli (50 miles N.E. of Cape Comorin).

Negapatam (Tanjore district), 180 miles S. of Madras, is a port trading largely with Ceylon, Burma, and the Straits Settlements. Its exports are cotton goods, cattle, and ghee (clarified butter). There are oil works, and also the workshops of the S. Indian Railway.

Calicut (Malabar district) is an ancient town, and is still engaged in the manufacture of *calico*. This cloth was introduced by the Portuguese into Europe; its name is derived from that of the town.

Mangalore (S. Kanara district), 120 miles N.W. of Calicut, has a large trade in *coffee* with Persia. The supply is obtained from Mysore and Coorg.

EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.—Assam occupies the lower part of the Brahmaputra valley. For administrative purposes, it was united with Eastern Bengal in 1905, and was placed under a Lieutenant-Governor. But, at the Coronation Durbar of December, 1911, it was announced that E. Bengal would in future be dissociated from Assam, which, at as early a date as possible after the proclamation, would be constituted a province under a Chief Commissioner. Area, 106,000 square miles: population, 31 millions.

ASSAM is an important area, being extremely fertile; but it has no large towns. The staple products are *tea*, *rice*, and *mustard-seed*, which grow abundantly. There is also some cultivation of *jute* and *oil-seeds*.

The great feature of the agriculture of the province is the development of the *tea-planting industry*, which is carried on entirely with European capital. Cultivation began in 1840, and Assam now produces three-fourths of the tea grown in India.

Coal-mining is another developing industry, especially around *Dibrugarh*, a river-port on the Brahmaputra, and terminus of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

The chief towns are *Sylhet*, the centre of trade in the Surma valley, and *Shillong*, high up in the Khasai Hills. The latter place is the seat of government.

BURMA.—This province is divided for administrative purposes into Upper Burma (area, 87,400 square miles) and Lower Burma (area, 81,100 square miles).

The former is comparatively high, and subject to drought. Its chief agricultural products are *millet*, *oil-seeds*, *cotton*, and *wheat*. Lower Burma is damp, swampy country, producing *rice*.

Very large quantities of *petroleum* (over 30 million gallons in a year) are obtained in the valley of the Irawadi, and also in the Arakan coast-district. The *mineral wealth* of Burma is very considerable. *Coal* is mined in Upper Burma. *Marble* and *building-stone* are quarried near Mandalay. Sixty miles north of Mandalay, are the richest *ruby mines* in the world. *Jade* (a dark-green stone, used for purposes of ornament) is worked on the Chinese frontier, and is exported to China and Japan.

There are *extensive forests* (nearly 20,000 square miles); and timber, especially *teak*, is an important export.

Throughout the rice-country communication is difficult; but railways have been constructed from Rangoon. The longest line follows practically the course of the Irawadi, to Myitkyina, through Mandalay, whence a branch is thrown off north-eastwards to Lashio. Shorter lines extend from Rangoon to Bassein and Prome. Much use is made of the rivers for transit purposes.

Mandalay was the capital of Thebaw, last King of Burma; it was taken by the British in 1885, and is now the capital of Upper Burma. Its Buddhist temple (the Arakan Pagoda) is a famous resort of pilgrims. The industries are *silk-weaving*, *ivory carving*, *bell casting*, *sword making*, and *gold* and *silver work*.

Rangoon, on the delta of the Irawadi, is the capital of Lower Burma, and has been completely modernized, since the British took possession of it in 1852. It is the principal seaport of Burma, being concerned with nearly nine-tenths of the trade of the country. *Rice*, *timber*, *petroleum*, and *spices* are the largest exports.

Moulmein, at the mouth of the Salwin, is a rising port, exporting principally timber and other *forest-produce*.

Akyab, 190 miles S.E. of Calcutta, has, under British rule, progressed from a small fishing-village to being a modern city and large seaport. *Rice* is the chief article of trade.

Bhamo, on the Upper Irawadi, is a town which gives promise of rapid future development; for it is only 40 miles W. of the Chinese frontier; and is on the trade route to China. The Irawadi is navigable as far as Bhamo; and there is communication by steamer with Rangoon.

THE ANDAMANS AND NICOBARS.—The Andaman Islands lie in the Indian Ocean between India and Burma, but nearer the latter. They consist of two groups, called respectively *Great Andaman* and *Little Andaman*.

These islands are *thickly wooded*; some trade is done in timber. *Tea*, *coffee*, *cocoa*, etc., are cultivated. There are exports of *bamboo* and *coir*.

Since 1858, the Andamans have been used as a *convict settlement* for criminals serving life-sentences; they number over 10,000.

The natives—very dark, woolly-haired people, less than five feet in stature—are scarcely removed from savagery. They migrate from one island to another, being of no settled habitation.

Port Blair, the capital, has one of the best harbours in the E. It is the largest town, and the chief convict-station.

The Nicobars are a group of about 20 islands (12 of which are inhabited), lying to the S. of the Andamans. The *cocoa-nut palm* here grows wild, and in cultivated plantations also; it affords an abundant supply of *copra* (dried kernel) and *fibre* which are the chief objects of trade. *Trepang* (the sea-slug) and *edible birds'-nests* are also exported.

The Andamans and Nicobars are governed by a Chief Commissioner.

Native States.

There are about 300 native states, either allied with the British, or tributary, or under British protection. They are in extent more than a third, and in population more than a sixth, of our Indian empire.

A *Political Agent*, or *Resident*, is appointed by the Governor-General to each of the more important native courts. The government is carried on by the native prince, usually entitled *Rajah* or *Maharajah*, his ministers, and his council. The Resident watches the conduct of affairs, gives advice to the Rajah, and reports misgovernment to the Supreme Authority at Calcutta.

RAJPUTANA.—An extensive tract of country (area, 129,000 square miles), situated between the United Provinces and the Bombay Presidency. It consists of 21 native states, ruled by Rajahs (kings) or Maharajahs (great kings).

In the E. and S., Rajputana is fertile; but in the N. and W. it is barren, and includes the Thar or Great Desert.

The inhabitants are called Rajputs (*sons of kings*). They claim to belong to the caste of warriors and princes. Many of them do excellent service in the Indian Army.

Jaipur is the capital of the native state of the same name. It is the *business centre* of Rajputana. The country is one of the richest of the native states, and is ruled by its Maharajah on European lines, with special care for education.

Jodhpur, on the W. of Jaipur, is the largest in area, and the second in population of the Rajputana states. But it presents a remarkable contrast to Jaipur; manufactures, agriculture, and education are all unprogressive. Capital, *Jodhpur*.

STATES OF CENTRAL INDIA.—These lie between Rajputana and the Central Provinces. The largest state is Gwalior (area, 25,000 square miles):

Indore (capital of *Indore* state) is the place of residence of the Governor-General's Agent for Central India. A college is situated here, for the sons of Hindu princes and nobles.

Bhopal, 107 miles N.E. of Indore, is capital of a country (also called *Bhopal*) with the reputation of being the best administered of the native states.

HAIDARABAD.—The most important of the native states of the Deccan. It is large (82,600 square miles) and compact, lying between the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

This state is under the rule of the Nizam (a title meaning *Regulator of the State*); he ranks as first of the native rulers of India.

The soil is fertile, and well watered by the Godavari, Kistna, and their tributaries. The chief agricultural products are *rice*, *wheat*, *cotton*, *indigo*, and *sugar-cane*. There is much rearing of *cattle*. The *Deccan ponies* are a famous breed, attracting buyers from all parts of Asia to the mart in the capital. *Coal* is obtained in the E., and is much used on the railways. The line from Madras to Bombay traverses the S.W.

Haidarabad, the capital, contains the Nizam's vast palace and the British Residency, one of the finest buildings in India. There is railway communication with Madras (by *rail*, 390 miles S.E.).

MYSORE also lies entirely on the Deccan. It is surrounded by various districts of Madras; and is bounded by the Ghats in the W., and by the Nilgiri Hills in the S.

The soil is very fertile; but the country is subject to drought, and disastrous *periods of famine* (especially 1876-78) have been passed through. In the S.E. *gold* mines have been worked, especially at Kolar; but have not as yet proved very profitable. The forests yield *sandalwood*, a fine-grained, fragrant wood used in cabinet-making; the Government has a monopoly in this article. Many forests have now been cleared to make room for *coffee plantations*.

The chief agricultural products are *rice*, *cotton*, *sugar*, *coffee*, *spices*, and *raggee* (a kind of millet).

Mysore is the capital; both the Maharajah's palace and the British Residency are situated here.

Bangalore, high up in the midst of the Mysore plateau, is the largest city, and a place of military importance. It contains a numerous European colony. *Silk goods* and *carpets* are manufactured.

COCHIN and TRAVANCORE are two small states S. of Mysore, and in political connection with Madras. Both these regions have, along the coast, *extensive lagoons* formed by the numerous estuaries of the rivers from the W. Ghats.

Cochin (capital, *Ernakolam*) has large forests, yielding teak and cedar.

Travancore (capital, *Trivandrum*) is noted for its fine climate, scenery, and soil.

The inhabitants are composed of an extraordinary number of castes (over four hundred).

KASHMIR, a state in the extreme N., occupies the valleys of the Upper Indus and Jhelum; it is almost isolated by the Himalaya Mts. Area, 80,000 square miles: population, about 3 millions.

The valley of the upper Jhelum, in the region of Srinagar, is called the *Vale of Kashmir*, and has long been famous for its beautiful scenery. The lower slopes of the mountains form natural terraces, which are abundantly cultivated.

Rice is the chief crop. Many kinds of *fruit* are grown, and are largely used for the making of wine. The Vale is noted for its *fine groves* of plane-trees.

The industries are *shawl-weaving, silk embroidery, woollen manufactures, work in gold, silver, and copper, and lacquer work*. The famous Kashmir shawls are woven from the very long and silky hair of the Kashmir goat.

Srinagar, or *Kashmir*, on the Jhelum, is the capital. To the W of it, and on a higher level, is *Gulmarg*, a summer resort of Europeans.

CHITRAL is a mountainous country on the N.W. border of Kashmir. It is peopled by *warlike hill-tribes*. The chief town (of the same name) is famous for the siege of the British political agent and troops in 1895. Chitral is of military importance, because of its command of the passes of the Hindu Kush.

BALUCHISTAN lies beyond the geographical frontier of India, though included in the political area. The Chief Commissioner in British Baluchistan is also the Governor-General's Agent for the territories under native Baluchi rule.

Bounded on the E. by the Sind and the Punjab, Baluchistan extends to Persia on the W., Afghanistan on the N., and to the Arabian Sea on the S.; but despite the fact that its coast-line is 600 miles long, it has no good harbour, though there is a fair roadstead at *Gwadar*.

Much of the country is bare and rugged mountain, or desert plain. Rainfall is of small quantity, especially in the W. The most fertile tracts are on the Sind border and in the N.E.

Rice, wheat, barley, and millet are grown. Fruits such as *grapes, peaches, and apricots* are abundant in the region of fertility. *Mekran*, a coast-district bordering on Persia, is noted for *dates*.

Kalat may be considered the capital. It is a fortified town on a hilltop, and contains the palace of the Khan, who is head over the chiefs of the country. A British political agent is resident here.

NEPAL.—A prosperous, independent native state on the S. slope of the Himalayas. Area, 54,000 square miles.

It is nominally ruled by a Maharajah; but the real power is exercised by the Prime Minister. A British political resident lives at Khatmandu; he is concerned only with the foreign relations of the state. China claims overlordship, and exacts an annual tribute, which is paid to the Chinese representatives at Lhasa.

The climate varies from Arctic weather (on the Himalayas) to that of Italy (in the valleys). The soil is very fertile; in some places there are three harvests in a year. The country is thickly wooded.

Khatmandu is the capital; its chief buildings are the numerous Hindu temples and the Maharajah's palace.

SIKKIM, E. of Nepal, is a protected state, having both internal affairs and foreign relations controlled by the British. Though a small country, it is of importance, being on the trade route from India to Tibet.

BHUTAN, bordered on the W. by Tibet and Sikkim, has its foreign relations controlled by the British; but otherwise the Maharajah rules independently.

There are fine forests of oak and pine. All kinds of grain are cultivated on the terraced hill-slopes.

Foreign Possessions in India.

PORTUGAL.—The Portuguese first arrived in India in 1498. They established factories on both west and eastern coasts. From 1500 to 1600, Portugal was the supreme power on Asiatic waters.

The great Portuguese commander, Albuquerque [1453-1515], captured *Goa* in 1510, and, as viceroy of Portuguese dominions in India, constituted it his capital. In the 16th century it was a splendid and flourishing city. But the Dutch East India Company was founded in 1602. And, with the coming of the Dutch and English, the Portuguese power sank as rapidly as it had risen.

Much of Old *Goa* is now in ruins. *New Goa*, or *Panjim*, is the modern capital of the Portuguese territory, and place of residence of its Governor-General.

The island of *Diu* (off Gujarat), with seaport of the same name—declined in population from 50,000 to 12,000—and the port of *Daman*, on the Gulf of Cambay, are the only other places left to the Portuguese in India.

FRANCE.—The French possessions in India are *Pondicherry* (85 miles S.W. of Madras), *Karikal* (also on Coromandel Coast), *Yanaon* (at the mouth of the Godavari), *Chandarnagar* (20 miles N. of Calcutta, and residence of a French sub-governor), and *Mahé* (on the Malabar coast).

Pondicherry is the chief of these settlements, and its governor is Governor-General of French possessions in India. The chief industries of the town are *weaving* and *dyeing*; there is an export of *oil-seeds*.

CEYLON.

Position and Extent.

Ceylon is a pear-shaped island to the S.E. of India, from which it is separated on the N.W. by the Gulf of Manaar, and on the N. by Palk Strait. Area, 25,300 square miles: population, over 3½ millions.

Across the N. of the Gulf of Manaar is *Adam's Bridge*, a chain of rocks and sand-banks, 30 miles long. There is no channel through it, by which large vessels can pass; and it has been proposed to construct a railway across it to facilitate communication. *Adam's Bridge* is so called from the Mohammedan legend that Ceylon was Adam's refuge after expulsion from Eden.

Configuration.

The coastal districts are level. The central S. is mountainous, from 6,000 to 8,000 feet above sea-level. *Pidurutallagalla* (or *Pedrotallagalla*) is the highest peak (8,260 feet). *Adam's Peak* (7,420 feet) is on the S.W. of this mountain region. The rest of the island is rolling plain. In the N., Ceylon narrows, and is fringed with small islands.

Adam's Peak has a natural hollow, five feet long, in the midst of its granite summit. The Buddhists say that this is Buddha's footprint; according to the Mohammedans, it marks the spot where Adam stood in penitence for 1,000 years. Hence, the Peak is resorted to by both Buddhist and Mohammedan pilgrims.

The *Mahavila Ganga* is the chief river; it rises near Adam's Peak, and falls into the Indian Ocean near Trincomalee, after a course of 150 miles. Ceylon is well watered, especially in the S.

Climate.

The climate is tropical; but the heat is less than that of Calcutta, on account of the proximity of the ocean. The average temperature at Colombo is 80°.

Ceylon experiences the full force of the two monsoons, the S.W. from May to about the end of September, and the N.E. from October to January. The hottest part of the year is the period between the two monsoons from February to May.

The coolest part of the island is the *tableland of Nuwara Eliya*, at an elevation of over 6,000 feet, in the midst of the southern mountain-system. Here the average temperature is only 62°. The tableland is a health-resort of Europeans.

The average rainfall is 80 inches annually. But in the northern parts it is not more than 30 inches; and here irrigation works become necessary.

Vegetation.

Owing to its fertile soil, warm climate, and heavy rainfall, Ceylon possesses an abundant flora, both ornamental and useful. It is, in fact, one of the most fertile and fruitful countries in the world. *Tea, coffee, cocoa, cinchona, cardamoms, cinnamon, rubber, cocoa-nuts, rice* and other *grains*, and *tobacco* are grown extensively.

Till 1870, *coffee* was the chief production of Ceylon. A *fungus blight* then made great ravages on the coffee plantations, and, as no remedies were available against it, the planters had to abandon the growing of coffee. They took up *tea-culture*, which is now the chief industry of Ceylon. About one-fifth of the cultivated area is used for tea. In 1909, the tea exported was valued at £5,400,000.

The mountains are covered with *dense forest* and *jungle*. *Tree-ferns*, 25 feet high, and *orchids* (150 species) are among the most notable natural growths. *Calamander, ebony, and satin-wood*, all valuable for cabinet-making, are some of the timber-trees. The lowlands and plains are remarkable for their abundance of *palms*—the cocoa-nut palm, the talipot (with immense fan-shaped

leaves, used as fans on ceremonial occasions), and the jaggery (from the sap of which is produced the sugar so called).

Minerals.

Ceylon has also considerable mineral wealth. It has long been famed for its *gems*—rubies, sapphires, amethysts, etc. The *pearl-fisheries*, which are owned solely by the Government, employ 6,600 divers. *Plumbago* is the most abundant mineral; about a thousand mines of it are worked. *Iron* occurs extensively, but is little worked. *Gold* is also found.

History.

The Portuguese first came to Ceylon in 1505. They began a trading settlement at Colombo in 1517. The Dutch expelled them in 1658, after twenty years of rivalry. The latter surrendered Ceylon to the English in 1796.

The island was made a Crown Colony in 1802; but the native princes were still allowed to rule at Kandy. In 1815 the Kandyan king was deposed, owing to his cruelties; and, with the voluntary submission of the chiefs, the whole island was brought under British rule.

People.

The majority of the population is composed of *Singhalese* (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions). They are the descendants of people who came from the Ganges plain, 24 centuries ago. They are slimly built; and the men have a somewhat womanish appearance, both in features and dress. Their religion is Buddhism.

People of *Portuguese* and *Dutch* descent in this island are called *Burghers*. The former are chiefly small tradesmen. The latter rank, as a rule, higher in the social scale.

Europeans number about 10,000.

The population also includes *Parsis*, *Malays*, and *Javanese*.

Government.

Ceylon is a *Crown Colony*, ruled by a Governor appointed by the Crown. He is assisted by an Executive Council of 5 officials, and also by a Legislative Council. The island is divided into 9 provinces, over each of which is a Government Agent. In the 3 municipal councils, and on the 20 local government boards, the natives obtain a share in the administration of affairs.

Communications.

The island has more than 300 miles of railway connecting the principal towns, and about half as much narrow-gauge railway.

The principal line runs from *Galle* through *Colombo*, whence a line extends to *Kandy* in the interior, and another to *Jaffna*, a seaport in the extreme N. of the island.



A STREET-SCENE IN COLOMBO.

Photochrom, London.

Ceylon has steamship communication with London, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, and Georgetown (Straits Settlements).

Towns.

Colombo (so called by the Portuguese, after Christopher Columbus) is the capital and seat of government. The fine, large harbour is sheltered by a break-water, 4,000 feet long. The port is a coaling-station. Travellers frequently change ship here, to proceed further east.

Galle, capital of the southern province, was formerly the chief port. But, since the construction of the breakwater at Colombo, it has declined in importance. *Kandy* is the ancient capital. It is famous for its Buddhist temple and shrine of the tooth of Buddha.

Tricomalee has a fine natural harbour, which possesses the great advantage of being accessible to any vessel in any weather. It is at present the headquarters of the East Indian squadron of the British Navy, and is a strongly fortified naval port.

Jaffna is a seaport on an island of the same name, off the N. coast. Many of the people here are of the old Dutch families.

OTHER ISLANDS.

THE LACCADIVES.—These are *coral islands* in the Arabian Sea, 200 miles W. of the Malabar coast. The people are Mohammedans, of mixed Arab and Hindu race; they are excellent sailors, and carry the merchandise of these islands to India in their own vessels.

The *cocōa-nut* is cultivated, and exported. Other exports are *coir* (fibre of cocōa-nut husk), and *jaggery* (a coarse, dark sugar, made from the sap of the palm). For administrative purposes, these islands are attached to the *Madras Presidency*.

THE MALDIVES.—An extensive group of several hundred very small *coral islands*, in the Indian Ocean, 500 miles S.W. of Ceylon. The coral formations, enclosing central lagoons, are called *atolls*.

The people are Mohammedans, of Singhalese race. They are ruled by a Sultan, resident at the town of *Male*. He is a *tributary of the Governor of Ceylon*, and sends envoys with tribute annually.

The exports are *cocōa-nuts*, *copra*, *tortoise-shell*, and *cowry shells* (especially the *money cowry*, used instead of money).

INDO-CHINA, OR FURTHER INDIA.

Indo-China forms the S.E. portion of the continent of Asia. It consists of a great peninsula extending from the Isthmus of Kra to the Gulf of Tongking.

On the S.W., through the Isthmus of Kra, there is an extension towards the S.E., known as the Malay Peninsula. A very large part of this is either British possession, or under British protection.

French Indo-China occupies the N. and E. of the great peninsula. The independent kingdom of Siam is situated between the French territories and the British.

THE MALAY PENINSULA.

Position and Extent.

The Malay Peninsula extends from the S. of Burma in a S.E. direction, and is separated from Sumatra by the Strait of Malacca.

The southern extremity is within 2° of the Equator. The peninsula is about 700 miles in length. It is 44 miles across at the narrowest part (Isthmus of Kra), and 210 at the widest (Perak and Pahang). The area is 75,000 square miles.

Configuration.

The country is generally mountainous or undulating, but has a narrow coast-plain, which in many parts is low and marshy. There are numerous rivers; but, from the nature of the country, they are short, swift, and practically useless for commerce.

Climate.

The climate is hot and moist in the lowlands. The temperature, which varies from 70° to 90°, is not so high as in other countries situated so near the equator; this fact is due to the nearness of the ocean. Rain falls on 190 days in the year, and is abundant. Both of the monsoons come laden with moisture; hence there are no definite wet and dry seasons. The climate is not particularly unhealthy, though malaria is common in many low-lying parts of the coast.

Productions.

The chief wealth of the Malay Peninsula consists in its vegetable products and its minerals.

The former include valuable timbers, such as *teak*, *sandalwood*, and *ebony*, and palms like the *cocoa-nut*, *areca* (which yields the betel-nut), and *rattan* (with enormously long stem, used in making walking-sticks, wicker-work, ropes, etc.). Other products are *rice* (grown extensively on the swampy plains of the coast), *coffee* (recently introduced), *sugar*, *tapioca*, *sago*, *spices*, such as *cinnamon*, *nutmegs*, and *mace*, *pepper*, *camphor*, *rubber*, *gutta-percha*, *dye-stuffs* (as *gambier*), *resins*, and *gums*.

Of the mineral wealth, *tin* is in the greatest abundance. More than half the world's product comes from this region. *Gold* and *silver* are extracted from the tin ore. Rich deposits of *iron* are very widely distributed, but they are not utilized.

The dense forests of the mountainous interior are the habitation of the *elephant*, *tiger*, *rhinoceros*, *buffalo*, the *Malayan tapir*, the *wild hog*, and many other wild animals.

Imports and Exports.

The chief imports are *rice*, *fish*, *opium*, and *cotton goods*. The chief exports are *tin* (valued at over £8,200,000 in 1909), *gums*, *spices*, and *copra* (dried cocoa-nut kernel).

People.

The country is inhabited by *Malays*, who devote themselves almost entirely to agriculture, trade, and fishing; by *Chinese*, who are largely engaged in mining; and by *Americans* and *Europeans* (chiefly British), who are in the Government services, or are concerned in commercial enterprise.

The *Malays*, who are of *Mongol stock*, are people of short stature, averaging only a little more than five feet in height. Their yellowish complexion, lank straight hair, somewhat slanting eyes, and high cheek-bones give them a strong resemblance to the Chinese; although in language they are related not at all to the Chinese, but to the Polynesian peoples. They are Mohammedans in religion. They have mostly given up their *old habits of piracy*, and indeed are now remarkable for their quietness and courtesy.

History.

The first Europeans to occupy this region were the Portuguese in 1511. After a long struggle, they were dispossessed by the Dutch in 1642. Towards the end of the 18th century, the British made a settlement for the East India Company; in 1785, the reigning rajah ceded *Penang* for an annual pension of £1,000; in 1798, *Province Wellesley* (on the mainland) was taken possession of, mainly for the suppression of piracy. The settlement of *Singapore* was founded in 1819, to enable the British to cope with their commercial rivals in these regions, the Dutch, and in 1825 the Dutch exchanged the town of *Malacca* and other peninsular settlements which they had previously held, for Bencoolen in Sumatra.

In 1887 the Sultan of Pahang (a territory on the E.) placed himself under British protection and control. The native States of *Perak*, *Selangor*, *Pahang*, and *Negri Sembilan* were (in 1896) united as the *Federated Malay States*, under a British Resident-General, afterwards entitled Chief Secretary.

Means of Communication.

The *Singapore Government Railway* connects Singapore, by steam ferry over the Johore Straits, with the *State Railway* in the sultanate of *Johore*; this joins the *Federated Malay States main line*, so that there is direct railway communication between Singapore and Penang.



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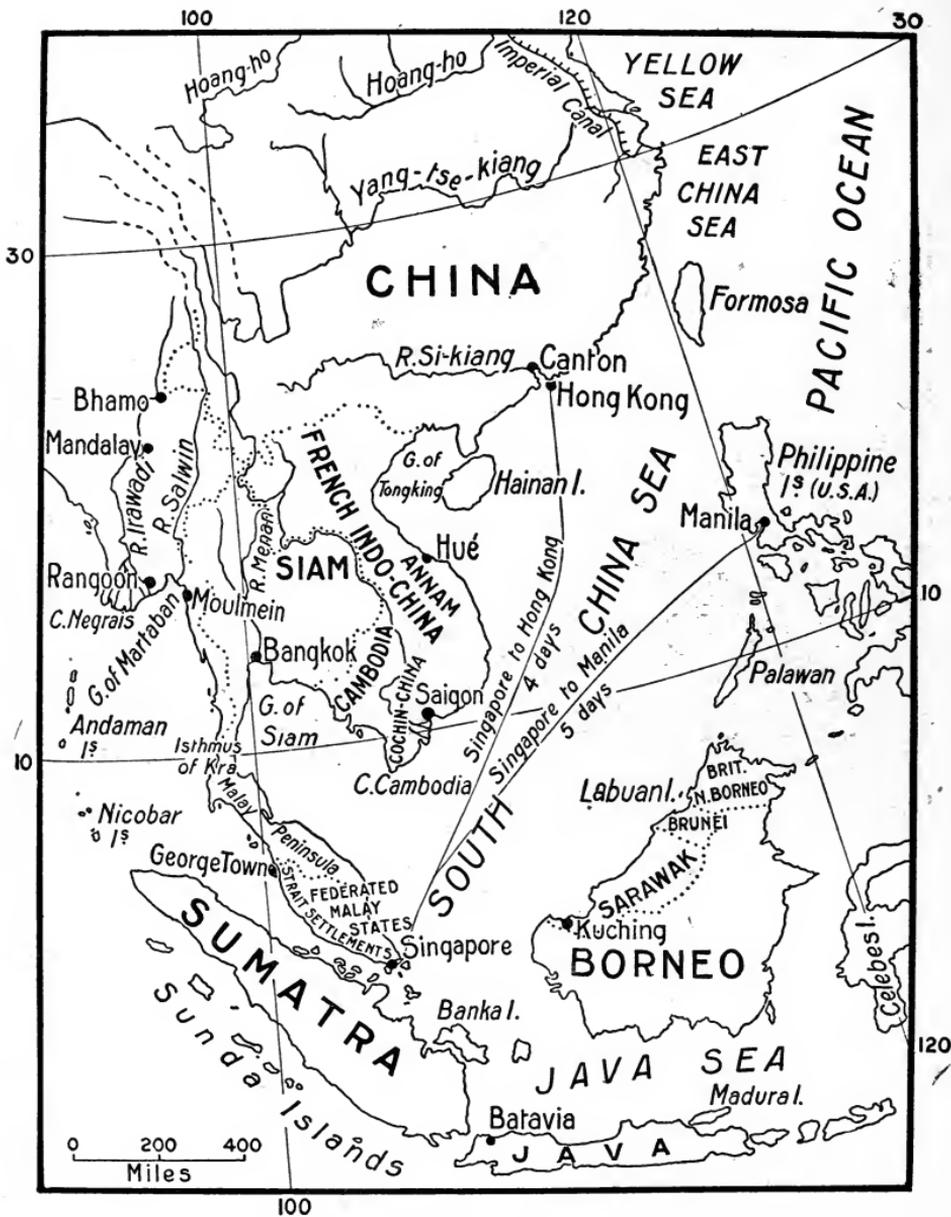
NATIVE HUT WITH THATCHED ROOF, MALAY STATES.

The *Perak State Railway* extends into Province Wellesley, and has a steam ferry to Penang. Another line joins Malacca with the Negri Sembilan territory. Various branch lines link the mining centres and the ports.

Both Singapore and George Town (Penang) have electric trams.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE is an island at the extremity of the Malay Peninsula, from which it is separated by a strait only three-quarters of a mile across. Its surface is undulating. The climate is hot and moist; the temperature ranges from 70° to 90°, and the annual rainfall from 65 to 92 inches.



SOUTH EASTERN ASIA.

Gambier, *pepper*, and *nutmegs* were at one time the chief products, but are now less cultivated. *Cocoa-nuts*, *pineapples*, and the delicious, juicy *mangosteen* (tasting both of peach and pineapple) are largely grown.



SINGAPORE ROADS, WITH MARKET-HALL.

Photochrom. London.

Singapore, the chief town, is the seat of the general government of the Straits Settlements. It has an immense trade; imports and exports together amount in annual value to £50,000,000. The imports (almost every kind of European manufacture) are, to a very great extent, re-exported. Singapore is, in fact, the chief commercial centre of S.E. Asia. It is well fortified, and is a naval depot. The population of the town and island (228,000) consists very largely of Chinese, Malays, and Hindus; Europeans and Americans number only about 4,000.

The *Cocos* or *Keeling Is.*, 20 coral atolls in the Indian Ocean (1,200 miles S.W. of Singapore), and *Christmas I.*, a coral formation on the summit of a submarine volcano, also in the Indian Ocean (700 miles E. of the Cocos), are annexed to the Singapore government.

MALACCA (with chief town of the same name) is the largest of the Straits Settlements. It was originally held by the Portuguese, and

later by the Dutch ; and was formerly one of the chief commercial centres of Indo-China. Penang and Singapore have successively supplanted it as the place of chief importance. Recently, however, the country has been opened up, and trade is increasing. *Tin*, *tapioca*, and *rice* are the chief products, and much is hoped from the *rubber* cultivation which has been introduced.

PENANG, also called *Prince of Wales I.*, is the most northerly of the Straits Settlements. It is a fertile island, owing to the continuous rain (111 inches annually). The *cocoa-nut* palm and *areca* palm grow abundantly. Other products are *rice*, *sugar*, *pepper*, and *betel-nuts*. (*Penang* means *betel-nut*.)

George Town, the capital, is a fortified place and shipping-centre.

Province Wellesley, a coastal strip 45 miles long, on the mainland opposite Penang, is an alluvial plain, producing *tapioca*, *sugar*, *spices*, *rice*, *cocoa-nuts*, *betel-nuts*, and *tobacco*.

The *Dindings* consist of the island of Pangkor, 80 miles S. of Penang, together with the neighbouring coastal strip, 22 miles long. Fruits are much grown, such as the *mango*, *pineapple*, *pomegranate*, and *durian* (a characteristic Malay fruit, with a thorny rind, but a delicious custard-like pulp).

Both Province Wellesley and the Dindings are included in the Penang administration.

The PROTECTED NATIVE STATES are particularly rich in *tin*, *gold*, *china-clay*, and *iron*. In all of them, agriculture is rapidly progressing.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Position.

French Indo-China includes the eastern and much of the northern part of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula. It comprises *Tongking*, *Annam*, *Cochin-China*, *Cambodia*, the *Laos Protectorate*, and the territory of *Kwang-chau-wan* (leased from China). The total area of the country is 256,000 square miles, or about a quarter as large again as France itself (207,000 square miles).

Configuration and Climate.

TONGKING consists of mountains and plateaus to the N., a sparsely peopled forest-region in the W., and a fertile delta-region in the S.E. (including the deltas of the Red River and the Thai-binh).

The coast-line is low and swampy in the S., but steep and rocky in the N., and fringed with many islands. It is infested by pirates.

The basin of the Red River is the most thickly populated part of the country; and its uniform clayey surface yields abundant crops of rice.

The climate is tropical. The dry season is from September to April, when the range of temperature is from 70° to 40°F. The rest of the year is the hot and rainy season, the variation of temperature being from 70° to 100°.

ANNAM consists of a series of plateaus and mountain-ranges between the valley of the Mekong and the China Sea. A long coastal range, extending from Tongking to Cochin-China, cuts off the interior from the coast; dense forests and extensive marshes still further separate the inland regions from the maritime.

The seaward slopes of the mountains are trenched by short river-valleys, which are the most populated parts of the country. Between the mountains and the coast-region are alluvial lowlands, on which rice is cultivated.

The period of the N.E. monsoon (from September to January) is here the rainy season, with cyclonic winds called *typhoons*.

COCHIN-CHINA consists mainly of a low, alluvial plain, formed by the *deltas of the Mekong, the Saigon, and other rivers, which are linked together by a very elaborate system of canals.* The rivers, in their periodical overflow, deposit a very rich soil; and Cochin-China produces the best rice in the world. The *Mekong* is the principal river of Indo-China; it rises in Tibet, and has a generally S.E. course of 2,800 miles, most of it, however, being useless for navigation owing to the rapids.

The *dry season* is that of the N.E. monsoon, from October to April, when the temperature is 95° by day, and 62° by night. The *rainy season* is that of the S.W. monsoon, from April to October, when it rains almost continuously, and a single night's rainfall is equal to half a year's in Paris; in this period the range of temperature is from 68° to 86°. The seasons are so regular, that the harvests seldom fail.

CAMBODIA is similarly an alluvial plain, with mountainous country to the N., and hills in the S. and E. The great river is the *Mekong*; at

Pnom-Penh (the capital), it divides into an eastern and a western branch, and also receives a great affluent from *Tale Sap* (a lake to the N.W., 800 square miles in extent during the floods, and 100 in the dry season). The seasons are as in Cochin-China; but the climate is healthier.

Productions and Industries.

COCHIN-CHINA is the most prosperous part of the French possessions. More than four-fifths of its cultivated area is under *rice*, which is yielded abundantly. The extraordinary fertility of this region is due to the periodical flooding of the country.

Other products of Cochin-China are *cotton*, *sugar-cane*, *maize*, *tobacco*, *coffee*, *cocoa-nuts* and *betel-nuts*, *pepper*, and *cardamoms*. The province of the delta is called "the garden," because of its variety of *fruits*.

The industries of Cochin-China are *cotton-spinning*, *tanning*, *dyeing*, *brewing*, *glass-making*, and *sugar-refining*—all of European introduction. The purely native industries are *mat-making*, *basket-work*, and *distillation* of rice-spirit.

The remainder of the French possessions are rather to be viewed as rich lands of promise.

The mountains of ANNAM are clothed with rich forests of *teak*, *iron-wood* (so called from the hardness of its timber), the *lacquer-tree*, and various growths producing *dyes* and *gums*. The valleys and alluvial lowlands yield much *rice*, *maize*, *manioc* (from which tapioca is prepared), *cinnamon*, *pepper*, *spices*, *coffee*, *sugar-cane*, *tea*, and *cotton*.

The Annamites are, for the most part, *agricultural*. Their only other industries of any importance are *silkworm culture* and *silk-weaving*. *Raw silk* is a staple product; and the *mulberry* is grown for the silkworms.

TONGKING produces *rice* principally, much of which is exported to Hong Kong. Other objects of culture are the *sugar-cane*, *mulberry*, *leechee* (a strawberry-like fruit), *pepper*, *cinnamon*, *cardamoms*, and the *castor-oil plant*. The native industries are the production of *silk* and *cotton goods*, *sugar*, *oils*, and *lacquer*. Much is hoped from the introduction of *tobacco*, *coffee*, and *jute*.

All these states have *great mineral wealth*, including *gold, iron, anti-mony, copper, lead, zinc, tin, and cinnabar* (ore of mercury), and (in the W. of Cambodia) *emeralds and rubies*. Iron is worked by the natives of Annam and Cambodia. But otherwise little or no mining is attempted.

Coal-mining is prospering in Tongking. A coal-field, 380 square miles in extent, is in the coastal district of Hai-fong (the chief port). The output is largely exported to Hong Kong, Canton, Singapore, and even to San Francisco. *Fishing*, both in the rivers and off the coasts, is an important occupation of the people. Much of the coast-fishing is done by Chinese, who come in fleets to the Indo-Chinese waters.

Trade.

The imports (about £10,000,000 in annual value) are *metals, tools, machinery, textile goods, cotton yarns, opium, and petroleum*.

The exports (about £11,000,000 a year) include *rice* (about half the total value), *fish, sugar, pepper, cotton, rubber, coal, and hides*.

People.

The people vary much, though all belong to the Mongolian stock.

The majority have the short stature which is characteristic of the Mongols. The chief occupations are agriculture and fishing. The religion generally professed is Buddhism. Chinese influence (on religious beliefs, etc.) is very considerable in the N.E. In and about the port of Hai-fong, the Chinese have taken to themselves much of the trade, and all the skilled industries.

History.

France obtained a footing in 1862, when the main part of Cochin-China was constituted "French Cochin-China." The next year, Cambodia was made a French Protectorate. The Emperor of Annam acknowledged the French overlordship in 1884, with right of controlling all foreign relations. In recent years, extensive concessions in Siam have been made to France.

Government.

French Indo-China is under the control of a *Governor-General*, who is assisted by a *Secretary-General*. Each of the protectorates has a *Resident-Superior*; and the colony of Cochin-China is administered by a *Lieutenant-Governor*, assisted by a Colonial Council. Cochin-China sends a representative to the Chamber of Deputies (in Paris).

Communications.

Great efforts have been made to open up internal trade by the following routes :—

- (1) From *Saigon*, capital of Cochin-China, to *Laos* and the *Shan States* (N. of Siam): also, with the same destination, across Annam from *Vinh* and *Turan* (coastal towns).
- (2) Across Tongking, into Yünnan and Southern China, by way of the Red River.

The chief *railways* are from *Hai-fong* (port of Tongking) to *Lao-kai* (on the Chinese frontier); from *Hanoi* (capital of Tongking) S. to *Vinh* (Annam), and N. to the Chinese frontier; from *Turan* to *Hué*; and from *Saigon* to *Mytho* (on the Mekong delta).

Towns.

Hanoi, on the Red River, is the capital of Tongking, and also of French Indo-China. It is the seat of government, and the commercial centre of this region. There is a large trade in rice. Silk and cotton goods, embroideries, and jewellery are manufactured.

Hai-phong, or *Hai-fong*, on the delta of the Red River, is the port of entry into Tongking. The French occupation has transformed the place from an Annamite fishing-village to a city of European type. There is railway communication with *Hanoi* (60 miles W.).

Hué, on the Hué R., about 10 miles from the coast, is the capital of Annam.

Tourane, or *Turan*, about 50 miles S.E. of *Hué*, is the port of Annam.

Saigon, capital of Cochin-China, has fine docks, and is the most important port between Singapore and Hong Kong. The chief exports are rice, fish, and salt. Rice mills, saw mills, varnish and soap factories are at work.

SIAM.

Position and Extent.

Siam lies between the British and French Asiatic dominions, and consists of two well-marked divisions.

The main portion, known as *Upper Siam*, occupies the basin of the Menam, N. of the Gulf of Siam, and extends from Burma in the W. to Annam in the E.; its area is about 150,000 square miles.

Lower Siam is the N. part of the Malay Peninsula, extending from the Isthmus of Kra to the Malay States which constitute the British protectorate. Its area is about 45,000 square miles.

Configuration.

UPPER SIAM consists of the great plain watered by the Menam, the Korat plateau in the S.E., and in the N.W. (Shan states) a region of mountain-ranges extending from N. to S. The *Menam*, the chief river of Siam, and its commercial highway, rises in this mountain-region. It receives the *Meping* on the W., and, dividing into branches, enters the Gulf of Siam by two mouths.

The *Mekong* has its course along the E. border of Siam. It is of small importance, as navigation is rendered impracticable by its rapids. Five rivers flow through Eastern Siam to the Mekong. But they are of little use; for in the summer their navigation is impeded by shallows, and in the winter they become raging floods. Moreover, between the Menam and the Mekong is the plateau of Korat, which makes inter-communication difficult.

LOWER SIAM is a narrow strip of country, the "backbone" of which is a densely wooded mountain-range. Between this and the coast are fertile lowland plains. Mangrove swamps form a coastal zone, about 6 miles wide.

Climate.

The climate is tropical. There are the usual wet season (from May to November) and dry season (until the following May). The hottest month is April. But, even then, the night breezes are cool. The average temperature is 81°. The rainfall is much less than in adjacent countries, being 54 inches in a year.

The heat of the plain is tempered by the nearness of the gulf; and Europeans find this part of Siam much more healthy than the mountains, where the moisture-laden air breeds malaria.

Productions.

Rice is the principal production, and vast quantities (in 1909-10, over 950,000 tons) are exported annually.

Teak is obtained in abundance from the forests and jungles of the N.; this export in 1909-10 was valued at over £500,000. Teak-cutting is almost wholly under British control.

Other products are *pepper, sesame seed, hemp, tobacco, coffee, cardamoms, bananas*, and abundance of other *fruits*. *Rubber* cultivation has been begun in the Malay Peninsula.

Tin-mines are worked in the Malay Peninsula, and especially on the neighbouring island of Junk Ceylon; this industry is in the hands of Chinese. The Siamese mine for *iron* in the N. *Rubies* and *sapphires*, though now in greatly diminished quantities, are obtained (by Burmese) in the S.E. coastal district. Various European mining companies are exploiting the deposits of *gold*. *Copper, zinc, manganese*, and *antimony* are also found. The mineral wealth of Siam is not large, but it is widely distributed, and very varied.

Trade.

The Siamese are a somewhat indolent, unenterprising people, and are agricultural rather than manufacturing or commercial. Of 26 large rice-mills in the capital, 22 are owned by Chinese, and the remainder by British or Germans. The business-houses of Bangkok (which is the centre of foreign trade) are almost all Chinese firms. The work of the mills and mines is done mainly by Chinese coolies.

The most important exports are *rice* (nearly £6,500,000 worth in 1909-10), *teak, hides, pepper, salt, dried fish*, and *cattle*. *Cotton goods* and *yarns, iron, steel*, and *machinery* are the principal imports.

Most of the exports go, in the first place, to Singapore and Hong Kong, where they are *transhipped* for Europe or China. A large *frontier trade* (much of it in the hands of hawkers) is carried on, in the N., with Burma and the Chinese province of Yünnan.

People.

The population has been variously estimated at being from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 millions. The Siamese proper, a people of Mongol stock, originally from Central Asia, are about one-third of this number.

The Siamese are characterized by somewhat small build, olive-coloured complexion, and black hair, which both men and women wear closely cropped. They are a peaceable and sober race, sociable and courteous, but (as a rule) of little industry or enterprise. Their staple foods are rice, fish, and fruit. The houses of the common people are of bamboo, thatched with palm leaves, and are either built on piles, or floated on rafts. The national religion is Buddhism. The Malay immigrants and settlers are Mohammedans.

Government.

The government is an absolute monarchy. The King is advised by a Cabinet of 12 ministers and heads of the various government departments. The revision and completion of the code of laws is the work of a Legislative Council composed of the Cabinet Ministers and of not less than 12 others, appointed by the Crown.

Many of the public departments are under European officials; but Siam is independent of European political control.

Communications.

The river *Menam* forms the chief route of communication; and many of the people live on the river in floating houses, slight structures on bamboo rafts.

A railway has been constructed from *Paknam* (at the mouth of the *Menam*), through Bangkok and Ayuthia, to *Korat* upon the plateau. A beginning has also been made in the construction of a great line southwards, eventually to connect *Bangkok* with *Singapore*.

Towns.

Bangkok, on the R. *Menam*, 20 miles from the coast, is the capital, and the chief port and place of trade. It has a very mixed population; the Chinese form half, and the rest are Siamese, Malays, Annamites, and Europeans. Floating houses, moored to poles, line the sides of the river. The houses on land are erected on piles, some 8 feet above the ground. The city is developing rapidly on European lines. The King has a huge palace here; some of the famous sacred "white elephants" are kept in its courtyard.

Paknam, at the mouth of the *Menam*, is below the river-bar, and the larger ships have to anchor here, the cargoes being transferred for conveyance to Bangkok.

Ayuthia, on the *Menam*, N. of Bangkok, was the capital of Siam till the middle of the 18th century. Some of its ruined temples and other buildings give indications of its former greatness.

CHINA.

Position and Extent.

The Chinese dominions are made up of China Proper and the bordering states of Manchuria, Mongolia, Eastern Turkestan, and Tibet. They comprise an area (4,277,170 square miles) greater than that of Europe, and nearly one-twelfth of the land-area of the globe. The importance of China Proper (consisting of 18 provinces, with an area of over 1½ million square miles) much exceeds that of the vast, thinly peopled provinces which lie to the W. and N.

On the N. the boundary of China Proper follows the course of the mountains, or crosses thinly populated steppes separating it from Manchuria and Mongolia. The Great Wall, built in 214-204 B.C., to keep back the northern tribes, extends for about 1,500 miles in the N., partly along the Mongolian frontier.

The lofty tableland of Tibet is on the W. of China Proper ; and in the S.W. it is divided from India and Burma by a series of lofty mountains and deep valleys, which are continued along the S. across the water-parting of the basins of the Si-kiang and Song-koi Rivers.

The Pacific Ocean is on the E. of China Proper ; and the S. boundary is formed by the China Sea, Annam, and Siam.

Configuration.

The *Great Plain of China* extends from the Wall on the N. to the valley of the Yang-tse-kiang on the S. Its area is about 210,000 square miles. It is everywhere fertile, but especially so in the valleys of the lower Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang. The extraordinary fertility is due to the deposits of brownish or yellowish earth called *loess*. So long as the rainfall does not fail, two or three harvests are yielded annually. The province of Shansi (in the N.E.) has long been called the "Granary of the Nation."

A lofty mountain-range, the *Yung-ling*, stretches N. and S. on the W. The *Nan-ling* (meaning *southern range*), a great extension of the Himalayas, reaches from the province of Yünnan on the W., as far as Ningpo

near the Eastern Sea. The *Fu-niu-shan* range parts the basins of the Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang. The *Pe-ling Mts.* (Chinese for *northern range*) are in the same region.

The mountains of the *Shantung Peninsula*, between the deltas of the Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang, form a separate system.

China has a *long and indented coast-line* of 5,000 miles, a mile to every 300 square miles of area.

River System.

China has four great rivers:—the Yang-tse-kiang, Hoang-ho, Si-kiang, and Pei-ho.

The *Yang-tse-kiang* (also called the *Blue River*) rises in the mountains of Tibet, and has a total course of 3,200 miles. It is navigable for large vessels to Ichang, 965 miles from the sea; and cargoes are here transhipped for the western provinces. Smaller steamers reach Chung-king, the capital of W. China, about 400 miles farther on. Native boats can penetrate still higher up the river; but above Ichang navigation is made difficult by the rapids and narrow gorges. The Yang-tse-kiang has many tributaries (some over 1,000 miles long), and is the most used water-way in the world. Its basin has an area of 680,000 square miles.

The *Hoang-ho* rises near the source of the Yang-tse-kiang, and, after a course of 2,500 miles, falls into the Gulf of Pe-chi-li. This river is said to have changed its course nine times during the last 25 centuries; before 1851, it emptied itself into the Yellow Sea, and its estuary was 500 miles S. of the present position. The river is, in some parts, on a higher level than the surrounding country, and embankments have been constructed to enclose its waters. But the embankments have often been broken through, and the resulting floods have caused appalling loss of life. Its name Hoang-ho means *Yellow River*, and has been given because of the enormous quantities of yellow earth which it brings down. Owing to its strong current, this river is practically useless for navigation.

The *Si-kiang* (Chinese for *western river*) is formed by two streams, one from the W. province of Yünnan, and the other from Tongking. It is the great water-way of S. China. After a course of about 1,650 miles, it falls into the China Sea. The *Canton* or *Pearl R.*, formed by the confluence of the Si-kiang and *Pe-kiang* (i.e., *northern river*), is the E. branch of its delta.

The *Pei-ho* (i.e., *northern river*, *ho* in N. China being equivalent to *kiang* in the S.) rises near the Mongolian frontier, and flows into the Gulf of Pe-chi-li. Peking (meaning *northern court* or *capital*) is situated about 12 miles from this river.

Climate.

The climate of China is generally temperate; its average temperature is less than in other countries in the same latitudes

In N. China, the range of temperature is from 100°F. in summer to less than 0° in winter. The winters are very severe, with sharp frosts and snow-storms, and a generally very dry atmosphere. The warm, rainy season is, as usual in the region of monsoons, from April to September.

S. China, situated partly within the Tropic of Cancer, has less severe winters than the N., longer summers, and a more continuous and abundant rainfall. During the rains the rivers are swollen, often to remarkable depths, and floods are common. During the same season, hurricane-winds called typhoons are prevalent along the coast, especially in August, September, and October.

Productions.

China has great vegetable and mineral wealth.

VEGETABLE.—*Bamboo* is common in all parts, and is put to innumerable uses—for house-building and bridge-making, and for the manufacture of furniture, domestic utensils, agricultural tools, masts, sails, ropes, mats, and even writing-paper.

More peculiarly Chinese are the *wax tree* (yielding a white wax through insect-punctures), the *tallow tree* (from the seeds of which a kind of tallow is made), the *camphor laurel*, the *varnish tree*, and the *cassia*.

Cotton is grown extensively to the N. of the Yang-tse-kiang, as a summer crop; while European *cereals*, *beans*, and *pulse* are grown in winter. *Millet* is the staple food of the masses of the people. *Fruit* is grown in great variety, as *melons*, *peaches*, *persimmons*, etc. In the extreme N., *opium* was at one time very largely cultivated; but the area under the opium-poppy is now rapidly decreasing.

In S. China *rice* is the characteristic product. *Tea* is grown in the S. and W.; though, owing to the development of plantations in Ceylon and India, tea-culture is now less important in China than formerly. Other products of S. China are *cotton* (in the valley of the middle and lower Yang-tse-kiang), *sugar*, *wheat*, *ground-nuts*, and *indigo*.

Opium is more extensively grown in the S.W. provinces of Yünnan and Szechwan than elsewhere.

The *mulberry-tree* is common in every province, and its leaves are the silkworm's food. *Silk-culture* is China's most important industry, next to agriculture, and yields more than a quarter of the world's supply of raw silk.

MINERAL.—China is remarkably rich in minerals, particularly *coal*.

Half of Szechwan, the largest of the provinces, is occupied by a coal-field, 100,000 square miles in area. Another (35,000 square miles), half of anthracite, half of bituminous coal, is in the province of Shansi. This region also abounds in *iron ores, limestone, and potter's clay*. Other rich coal-bearing areas are among the mountains both E. and W. of Peking, in the W. of Shantung, and in the S. of Honan. It has been calculated that the coal-fields of China are more than twenty times as extensive as those of Great Britain; as yet, but slight use has been made of them.

Copper is mined in the province of Yünnan (S.W.) and in Kiangsi (S.E.). *Tin* also is obtained in Yünnan. Other metals found in various parts of China are *gold, silver, quicksilver, lead, and antimony*.

The most valuable of the mineral exports are tin (over £500,000 worth annually), iron, and antimony.

ANIMAL.—Owing to the dense population and wide cultivation, there are very few wild animals.

The forests of Yünnan are the home of the *elephant* and *rhinoceros*; tigers are very rarely encountered. *Camels* are confined to N. China, and are very commonly used in and about Peking. The cattle and horses are smaller than in Europe. Characteristic *birds* are the *golden pheasant*, a native of the mountain-forests, the *silver pheasant*, introduced into England from S. China, and the *mandarin duck*, with its curious neck-ruff of chestnut-coloured feathers.

Industries.

Agriculture is the occupation of the vast majority of the Chinese. The Emperor begins the New Year (Spring-time) by ploughing some furrows with a plough of ivory and gold; and the governors of the provinces do the like—thus indicating the honour in which this most ancient of industries is held.

The most important *manufactures* are of *silk* and *cotton* fabrics, and of *porcelain*.

The chief provinces for *tea-culture* are Szechwan and Kwangtung (for both green and black teas), Hupeh, Honan, and Fukien (especially for black), Chehkiang and Anhwei (especially for green). The green tea is prepared by steaming the leaves, the black by drying them.

The *silk industry* is centred in the maritime provinces of Kiangsu, Chehkiang, and Kwangtung, and also in Szechwan. Nanking (capital of Kiangsu) and Soochow (in the same province) are famous for *silks* and *satins*; the former also for the cotton fabrics called (after it) *nankeens*. *Velvets, ribbons, and embroideries* are other products of the silk industry.

Filatures (machines for winding raw silk from the cocoons), and *cotton* and *wool mills* have been established at Shanghai, Canton, etc.

Porcelain manufacture is carried on principally in the provinces of Kiangsi and Kwangtung.

Canton is noted for its *ivory* and *wood carving*. The Chinese craftsmen are unexcelled for *ornamental work* in *bronze* and *lacquer ware*, and on minerals such as *crystal* and *jade*.

Grass-cloth, a fabric like linen, made from a fibrous plant of the nettle kind, is manufactured in Kwangtung. *Straw braid* is an important export from Shantung and the neighbouring province of Chihli.



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PORCELAIN TOWER OF THE SUMMER PALACE, NEAR PEKING.

Fishing is an important occupation, both on the coast, and on the rivers and lakes. The cormorant is trained to dive for the fish; a ring is at first put round the bird's neck to prevent it from swallowing the catch.

People.

The Chinese are the most numerous branch of the Mongolian race. They have the yellowish complexion, somewhat almond-shaped eyes, prominent cheek-bones, and straight black hair, which characterize the Mongols. They are believed to have come originally from western Asia.



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FISHING WITH CORMORANTS IN THE GRAND CANAL.

They displaced the aborigines, and, 22 centuries before Christ, occupied N.W. China; progress was subsequently made along the valleys of the Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang to the sea. Even at that remote period the Chinese were a civilized people.

RELIGION.—There are three principal religions in China:—

Confucianism is a system of morality founded on the teachings of the great sage, Confucius [B.C. 551-479]. It inculcates filial duty as the basis of morals, and the worship of ancestors and heroes.

Taoism inculcates the practice of gentleness, meekness, and economy, and the return of good for evil.

Buddhism, the religion of the mass of the people, was introduced from India, about 65 A.D. In very many instances, the three religions are professed together.

There are 30 million *Mohammedans*, in some of the N. provinces and in Yünnan.

Government.

A rising against the rule of the Emperor (or his Regent) broke out in the latter part of 1911. The revolutionaries were so successful that, in the beginning of 1912, the Emperor abdicated; and the Chinese Republic was proclaimed.

Communications.

The means of internal communication, except where there are convenient water-ways, are extremely defective. In the N. such WATERWAYS are rare, though during the summer the streams above Tientsin, uniting to form the Pei-ho, are available for transport. The Hoang-ho is too rapid and too shallow to be a convenient water-way; but the *Imperial* or *Grand Canal*, from Tientsin in the N. to Hangchau in the S. (nearly 1,000 miles in length), is much used. In S. China the rivers are the principal means of communication.

ROADS fit for cart traffic are rare in the S.; and in the N., though more common, the roads are often too narrow to admit of carts passing one another. Hence, where boats cannot be used, goods are conveyed by pack-animals or by porters; and the cost of transport is proportionately high. In N.E. China wheelbarrows are the customary vehicles.

The introduction of RAILWAYS was long opposed; the first line was laid in 1876 from Shanghai to Wusung (12 miles away), but in the following year it was bought and destroyed by the authorities. With the spread of modern ideas in China, this opposition has completely disappeared. About 3,000 miles of railway are now open for traffic; and the laying of about 3,000 more is in progress.

A railway constructed by British engineers, now extends from *Peking*, S.E. to *Tientsin*, and then, following the coast of the Gulf of Liau-tung, N.E. to *Newchwang* and *Mukden* in Manchuria (length, 600 miles). This is joined by a branch of the Russian Trans-Siberian Railway. Another line, laid by French and Belgian engineers, connects *Peking* with *Hankow*.

Other railways are from *Shanghai* to *Wusung* (the destroyed line having been restored in 1898), and from the same terminus N.W. to *Nanking*, and S. towards *Ningpo* (this last being still in course of construction).

Lines from *Hankow* to *Canton*, and from *Canton* to *Kowloon*, have also been planned.

Trade.

China's *foreign trade* is mainly with Great Britain, the British colonies, Japan, and America. About one-third of it passes through Hong Kong. A very large *coasting-trade* is done, by both Chinese and British vessels. And there is, besides, a vast *internal traffic* (between the various provinces) on the canals and navigable rivers.

The chief EXPORTS, in order of value, are *silk* and *silk fabrics*, *beans* and *bean-cake* (made by pressing the oil out of the beans or similar vegetable substances, and then squeezing them into cake), *tea*, *raw cotton*, *seeds*, *hides*, *paper*, and *straw braid*.

The principal IMPORTS are *cotton goods*, *opium*, *sugar*, and *rice* (chiefly from Siam, Annam, and Cochin-China).

THE OPIUM TRADE.—Opium is a Government monopoly in India, and has been a considerable source of Indian revenue. However, recognizing the harmful effects of the abuse of opium by the lower classes in China, the Indian Government have agreed to reduce the export from India into China by more than 5,000 chests annually. And, since 1906, a series of Imperial decrees has restricted the cultivation of the opium-poppy in China. The co-operation of the Indian and Chinese Governments in this matter will eventually have the highly beneficial effect of suppressing the opium-vice in China.

TREATY PORTS.—By various treaties Great Britain and other foreign nations (called the *Treaty Powers*) have been ceded the right to trade with over 30 of the principal ports of China, which are therefore known as *treaty ports*. *Canton*, *Amoy*, *Fuchau*, *Ningpo*, and *Shanghai* were the five places originally made free of access, by the Treaty of Nanking (1842).

Towns.

Peking, the capital (population about a million), is situated in the midst of a sandy plain. It consists of two cities, both enclosed with walls, in which are about 16 great gates, each with a lofty tower above it. The N. division is variously called the *Manchu*, *Tartar*, or *Inner City*; and the S. division is the *Chinese* or *Outer City*. The former contains the imperial palaces and those of the great nobles.

Tientsin, the port of Peking, on the Pei-ho, is a treaty port and one terminus of the Grand Canal. It is the chief port of entry into China N. of the Hoang-ho. There is considerable trade with Russia, by way of Siberia.

Nanking (i.e., *southern court*) was once the capital of China. It is a centre of Chinese learning. It is famous for the manufacture of a cotton fabric called *nankeen*.

Shanghai, the greatest of all the treaty ports, is the centre of China's foreign trade. A network of canals connects it with middle China ; a great proportion of the silk and tea is sent here for export. The imports are, to a large



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NATIVE BAZAAR, SHANGHAI.

extent, goods passing through Shanghai for distribution to other Chinese sea-ports or river-ports. There are five large dockyards, and ship-building is an important industry. The English, French, and Americans have settlements here, which are practically independent.

Hankow, or *Hankau*, is a river-port on the Yang-tse, free for foreign trade since 1862, and doing also a large trade with other provinces. It is the mart for the tea grown in the Yang-tse valley.

Ichang is a treaty port at the lower end of the Yang-tse-kiang gorges. Steamers of light draught (*i.e.*, requiring no great depth of water) can reach this point.

Chung-king, on the Yang-tse, is the commercial centre for Szechwan and other S.W. provinces.

Hangchau is an ancient city at the S. entrance to the Grand Canal. It is a seat of learning. Famous for its beautiful temples, it is much resorted to by pilgrims. It is one of the chief places for silk manufactures.



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BOAT-TOWN, CANTON.

Fuchau (or *Foochow*), a treaty port since 1842, has a large tea-trade, is a manufacturing place (cotton and silk goods, paper, and porcelain), and is a centre of missionary enterprise.

Amoy is a treaty port, and is said to have one of the best harbours in the world. There is a considerable tea-trade with the United States.

Canton is the second port in China. It is situated 70 miles from the China Sea on the Canton R. It communicates with the interior by rivers and canals, and is the chief manufacturing place in China—silk goods, porcelain, and lacquer work being among its industrial products. A large part of the population (which is estimated at 1,250,000) is regularly housed in boats on the river.

EUROPEAN POSSESSIONS IN CHINA.

British.

HONG KONG is a small island at the mouth of the Canton River, separated from the mainland by a channel only half a mile wide on the E., but broadening on the W.

The island was acquired at the end of the first Chinese war, in 1841. In 1861 the S. portion of the Kowloon Peninsula (on the opposite mainland) was added; and in 1898 about 375 square miles of territory behind Kowloon were leased to Great Britain by China, for 99 years.

The prosperity of the island depends upon its *excellent harbour*, which is 10 square miles in extent, and is one of the finest in the world. It is the greatest traffic-centre on the Chinese coast, and is of high *military and naval importance*, as it commands the approach to Canton. It is strongly fortified, and is the headquarters of the British naval squadron in Chinese waters. It is a free port and the distributing centre for European goods in the Far East.

The only natural product of any importance is granite. The local industries include *ship-building, rope-making, cotton-spinning, sugar-refining*, and the production of *glass and matches*.

Hong Kong is a Crown colony under a Governor, assisted by a Legislative Council, which is composed of the leading officials, nominees of the Crown, etc.

Victoria is the capital; it is a beautifully built city on the terraced hillsides overlooking the harbour.

In the N.E. province of Shantung, the port and bay of WEI-HAI-WEI, the adjacent islands, and a coastal strip around the bay, were leased to Great Britain in 1898. They are administered by a Commissioner whose headquarters are at *Port Edward*.

Wei-hai-wei is of importance, because it commands the S. entrance to the Gulf of Pe-chi-li, opposite to Port Arthur on the N. It is a coaling-station, and place of assembly of the China squadron of the Royal Navy in summer. It is also, owing to its excellent climate, much used as a summer-resort by Europeans. The neighbouring territory is a picturesque and fertile district, inhabited by farmers and fishermen.

Portuguese.

MACAO is a town on an island at the mouth of the Canton River, 40 miles from Hong Kong. It is the oldest European town in China, the

Portuguese having been settled here since 1557. Its commercial importance has much lessened with the growth of Hong Kong. It has been a great centre of the opium industry, and also (1847-73) of the traffic in Chinese coolies (at that time practically slaves) for Peru and Cuba.

German.

The town and harbour of KIAU-CHAU,* situated on a great bay on the E. of Shantung, were leased to Germany in 1898 for a period of 99 years, together with the adjacent territory of 200 square miles. This Protectorate is administered by a German naval officer, and the town is garrisoned by German marines.

This territory is principally *agricultural*; but Germany hopes to profit by the development of the *minerals* for which it will be the natural outlet. *Coal-mining*, the making of *briquettes* (blocks of coal-dust cemented with pitch), *brewing*, *soap-making*, *silk culture* and *manufacture* are the chief industries.

French.

The territory of KWANG-CHAU-WAN (coast of Kwangtung) was leased to France in 1898, and is administered by the Governor-General of French Indo-China.

MANCHURIA.

Position and Extent.

This dependency of China is situated between Korea and the R. Amur, on the N.E. of China Proper. Mongolia bounds it on the W., and Siberia on the E. For many years there has been a constant stream of Chinese immigrants; and, especially in S. Manchuria, these now form the bulk of the population. Area, 363,000 square miles: population, very variously estimated, but probably about 20 millions.

In the S., since the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5), Japanese influence has been considerable. By treaty of 1905, Russian rights over the peninsula of Liaotung (on which are situated Port Arthur and Dalny) were transferred to the Japanese; and Russian forces were withdrawn from Manchuria. Their continued occupation of the territory, contrary to promise, had occasioned the war.

Climate.

The climate is one of extremes, ranging from 96° in summer to 28° below zero in the depth of winter. The rains are from May to September.

* Captured by an Anglo-Japanese force, November, 1914.



NORTH-EASTERN ASIA, SHOWING ROUTES OF COMMUNICATION.

The rivers are frozen from December to March, and are then much used as sledge-roads.

Products.

Manchuria has great mineral wealth (*coal, gold, silver, and iron*), but very little mining has been attempted.

The soil is very fertile, and the valleys have an agricultural population. *Indigo* and *opium* are the most profitable crops; *cotton, tobacco, pulse, millet, wheat, and barley* are also grown. Millet is the staple food of the people. *Bean-cake* and *bean-oil* are the chief manufactures and exports.

Towns.

Mukden is the capital of the province.

Harbin is an important railway centre. The *Trans-Siberian Railway* passes through it to Vladivostock, and sends a branch S. to Port Arthur. This Manchurian section is called the *Chinese Eastern Railway*.

Port Arthur, the naval station and arsenal, and *Dalny* (now also called *Talien*), a free port and a terminus of the Chinese Eastern Railway, were leased to Russia for a period of 25 years in 1898, but came into Japanese possession in 1905, at the close of the Russo-Japanese war.

Kirin, on the Sungari R., and *Newchwang*, on the Liao R., are the chief Chinese towns.

Manchuria has great need of improved communications; for at the present time there are vast areas completely isolated.

MONGOLIA.

Position and Extent.

Mongolia is a vast region of Central Asia, $1\frac{1}{4}$ million miles in extent, lying between China Proper and Siberia.

Configuration.

Mongolia is a *vast plateau*, with high mountain-chains in the N., extending E. from the Altai Range. Central and S. Mongolia consists of the great *desert of Gobi* (called *Shamo* by the Chinese), which produces a scanty vegetation in many parts. Mountain ranges extend through S.E. Mongolia; and in this region the general character of the country changes from barren steppe to fertile plain.

Climate.

The climate, though one of great extremes—the difference between highest and lowest temperatures having sometimes been as much as 185°—is generally healthy. In summer sandstorms are frequent; and in winter the snow-hurricanes are of remarkable violence.

People.

This region is the home of the Mongol race. The Mongols were once a warrior people, and, under Genghis Khan (1162-1227), conquered Central Asia from the Black Sea to the Pacific. They are now chiefly wandering herdsmen in the desert, and tent-dwellers whose only wealth consists in oxen, sheep, horses, goats, and camels. Little agriculture is attempted, even where the land is fertile. The Mongols are somewhat short in stature, but are robust. They are said to be rather stupid and sullen, and quite lacking in the military spirit of the Mongols of old. By religion, they are Buddhists, of that section whose supreme head is the Dalai Lama at Lhasa. Buddhist monks and nuns are very numerous; they dwell in huge religious houses called *lamaseries*.

Towns.

Urga, in N. Mongolia, on the caravan route from Siberia to Peking, is the capital, and principal seat of Mongolian Buddhism, the chief Lama of which resides here. It is much resorted to by pilgrims. Every three years, a great fair is held. Wool, hides, furs, and horns are exported.

Maimachin, 170 miles N. of Urga, is on the frontier, divided by a narrow strip of neutral territory from the Siberian town of Kiakhta. The caravans pass through this place, to and from China. The main trade is in tea, silk, porcelain, and furs.

EASTERN TURKESTAN, or SIN-KIANG.

Position.

Eastern Turkestan is situated between Mongolia on the N. and E., Tibet on the S., and Russian Central Asia on the W. It is divided into two parts by the Thian Shan Mts. The larger area lies to the S., and forms the basin of the *R. Tarim*, which, after a course of 1,500 miles, flows into the marshy lake of *Lob Nor*, the remnant of what was once an inland sea. This was the region explored by the great Swede, Dr. Sven Hedin, in 1895 and 1899.

Configuration.

Practically the whole country consists of dreary deserts and wind-swept steppes, with here and there a fertile oasis. Much of the Tarim basin is made up of a succession of sand-dunes, which are gradually advancing westward. Dr. Sven Hedin discovered the remains of at least two ancient cities (probably of the 4th century B.C.) buried in the sand.

Climate.

The climate is one of extremes; the summers are very hot, and little or no rain falls; the winters are very cold.

Productions

The soil is fertile in the S.W. (basins of the rivers Kashgar and Yarkand); and there *cereals* and *fruits* are grown. *Cattle* are reared in the upland regions.

Gold and *jade* are found. The manufactures include *gold* and *silver ware*, *carpets*, *saddlery*, and *linen*, *cotton*, and *silk goods*.

People.

The people (about 1,200,000) are of very mixed race—*Kirghizes* (of Turkish race with a large Mongol admixture), *Kalmucks* (of Mongol blood), *Persians*, *Chinese*, *Tibetans*, and even *Arabs*.

Towns.

Yarkand, on the R. Yarkand (one of the streams forming the Tarim), is often called the commercial capital. It is on the trade-route to India (through the Karakoram Pass).

Kashgar, in the midst of a well-watered, fertile, fruit-growing country, contains the Chinese Governor's palace and the Russian consulate. The route to Russia is through the Terek Pass. The city is a centre of Mohammedan pilgrimage.

TIBET.

Position and Extent.

Tibet, the highest tableland in the world (in many places over 16,000 feet in elevation), lies between the Kwen-lun Mts. on the N. and the Himalayas on the S., and extends from Kashmir to the W. provinces of

China Proper. Area, 463,000 square miles: population, about 6½ millions.

Climate and Productions.

The climate of N. and W. Tibet is very severe indeed. But the S. and S.E. regions are at less elevation, and are the populated parts.

Cereals and *pulse* are grown in the valleys, and, in some sheltered regions, *peaches* and *grapes*.

Sheep and *yaks* (very long-haired cattle, in some respects like the bison) are reared in pastoral districts.

Gold, *salt*, and *borax* are the mineral productions.

Wool spinning and *weaving* are the chief industries.

Government.

China has claimed the overlordship of Tibet since 1720. Two *ambans* or Chinese residents exercise control over foreign relations and military affairs. But the internal government is, almost wholly, left to the Tibetans, at whose head is the Dalai Lama, the chief priest of Northern Buddhism.

In 1910, however, Chinese troops occupied Lhasa, and the Dalai Lama fled into India, where the British Government allowed him to reside at Darjiling, though refusing to treat with the Chinese Government on his behalf. The Chinese deposed him, and (it is said) have unsuccessfully endeavoured to find the rightful successor.

People and Religion.

The people are of *Mongolian* race, more akin to the Burmese than to the Chinese. They are big-built, robust, intelligent, and particularly fond of music and dancing.

Their religion is a form of Buddhism, called *Lamaism*, because its supreme priest is the *Dalai Lama*—*i.e.*, *ocean priest*, or one having authority as wide as the ocean. The number of Buddhist monks and nuns is very great; it is said that every family has given at least one of its members to the religious orders. The *lamaseries*, or monastic houses and convents, are under the control of abbots or abbesses. These are large institutions,

serving as temples, hospitals, colleges, and seats of Buddhist literature and learning ; a library is attached to each.



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A GROUP OF MONKS AT LHASA.

Towns.

Lhasa is the only town of importance. It is the capital of Tibet, the holy city of Northern Buddhism, and a centre of Buddhist pilgrimages. It was visited in the 17th and 18th centuries by Roman Catholic missionaries ; but, after 1760, Europeans were rigorously excluded. In 1904, owing to Tibet's disregard of an Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty, Sir Francis Edward Younghusband led an important British expedition to Lhasa, and was successful in opening up trade. A great fair is held in December, to which Chinese merchants bring silk and porcelain, Turkestan sends gold lace and gums, and Sikkim, tea, musk, and tobacco. *Potala*, on the summit of a hill W. of the city, is the Dalai Lama's palace, an imposing building with five gilded domes.

Gartok, in western Tibet, on the upper Indus, is a trading centre. supervised by British and Tibetan agents. To the N.E. of it is Tibet's richest gold-field.

KOREA.

Position and Configuration.

Korea is a peninsula stretching S. from Manchuria, between the Yellow and Japan Seas. It has a steep and indented coast-line with excellent harbours. The surface is mountainous, and there are many rivers; but they are too rapid for navigation, with the exception of the Han, which, in spite of many rapids, is an important highway of commerce, and is navigable by steam-launch to Seoul.

Climate.

Korea is in about the same latitude as Italy (which it somewhat resembles in form); but its winters are colder, and its summers hotter. The range of temperature is from 100°F. to less than 0°. The rivers are generally frozen for three months, some of them for five.

Productions.

The soil is very fertile, and yields from two to four crops annually. Rainfall is abundant, and irrigation is needed only for rice.

The chief agricultural products are *rice, wheat, maize, millet, and beans*. *Ginseng* (whose aromatic root is the sovereign medicine of the Chinese) is a Government monopoly, and a large source of revenue. *Cotton* has been much grown by the Japanese in Korea since 1905.

The mineral wealth is very great; *gold, coal, iron, galena, and copper* are abundant. Little use, however, has yet been made of these resources, owing to the difficulties which hinder internal communication.

Government.

Although the geographical position of Korea has exposed it to invasions by the Chinese, Manchus, and Japanese, it maintained its independence till recent times, though nominally owning the overlordship of China.

In 1905, at the close of the Russo-Japanese war, Japan assumed control of the foreign relations of Korea, and a *Japanese Resident-General* was appointed to Seoul. Two years later, all administration was made subject to Japanese approval, and, in 1910, Korea was formally annexed. Its Emperor was deposed, and given the title of Prince; and Japanese governors, under a *Governor-General*, were appointed over the 13 provinces. The name of the country was changed to *Chosen*.

Means of Communication.

These are defective, but are rapidly improving since the Japanese undertook the administration.



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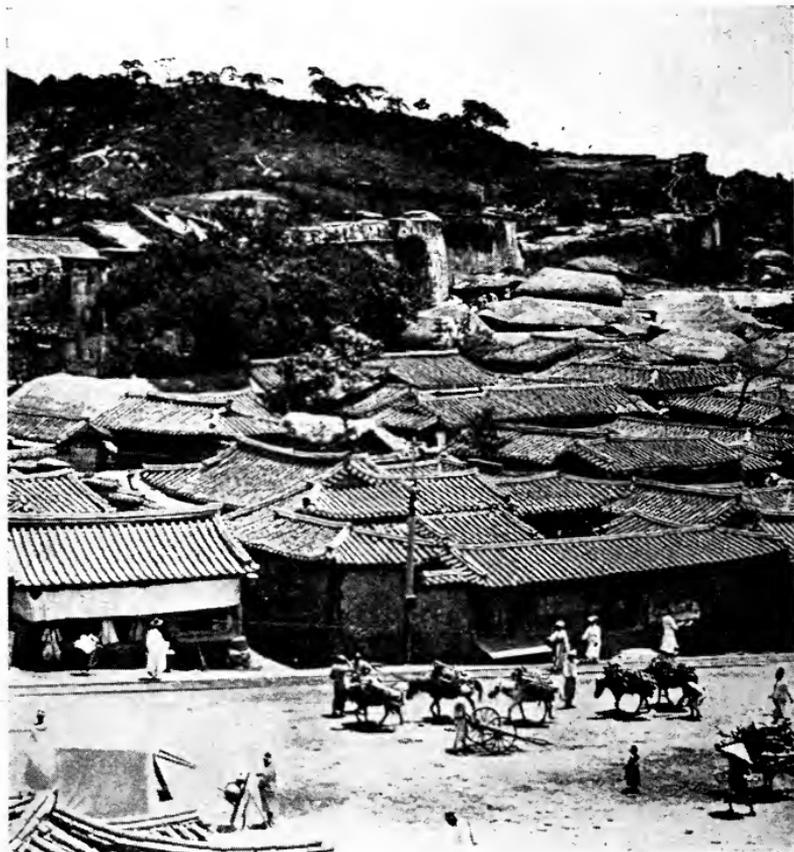
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A PACK-TRAIN IN KOREA.

The railways are all worked under the Japanese Government. One line is from *Seoul* to *Fusan*, a port at the S.E. extremity of Korea. There is a short branch westwards from Seoul to *Chemulpo*. The Seoul railway extends N.W. to *Wiju*, the chief port for China. The *R. Yalu*, on which this town is situated, is being bridged, so that eventually Korea will be in direct communication with the Manchurian railway, and will thus be linked with the Chinese and Siberian systems.

Occupations.

Agriculture and *cattle-rearing* are the principal employments of the Koreans. Rice, beans, ginseng, cowhides, and cattle are the important exports.



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SUBURBS OF SEOUL.

Korea is noted for the *manufacture* of a very fine quality of *paper*, like Japanese, but stouter.

Off the coasts are important *fisheries*, which are controlled almost entirely by the Japanese.

People and Religion.

The Koreans (about 13 millions in number) are mainly *Mongolians*, but there is a remarkable mixture of *Caucasian* characteristics; thus they present a mingling of the *yellow* and the *fair* types of the human race, and curiously English features are sometimes seen among them.

The upper classes adhere to the *mortality-religion* of Confucius. *Ancestor-worship* is generally prevalent. *Buddhist monasteries* are numerous.

Korea is the scene of the devoted labours of Christian missionaries, and there are many converts.

Towns.

Seoul, a walled city near the R. Han, is the capital, and is being completely modernized. Electric railway-trains run through the streets and into the suburbs; an English newspaper and two Korean papers are published daily. The Japanese colony constitutes more than one-fifth of the population of 150,000.

Chemulpo, 30 miles W. of Seoul, is a treaty port, and was the scene of the commencement of the Russo-Japanese war.

Fusan, another treaty-port, is opposite Japan, 160 miles from Nagasaki.

JAPAN.

Position and Extent.

Japan consists of a series of islands, extending 2,400 miles in the N. Pacific Ocean, from Korea to Kamtchatka, and separated from the mainland by the Seas of Japan and of Okhotsk. The area of the Japanese Empire is 175,000 square miles: population, over 50½ millions.

The chief islands are *Hondo* (sometimes erroneously called *Nippon*, which is the native name for the whole empire), the central and largest island, *Shikoku* and *Kiushiu* to the S. of it, and *Yezo* to the N. The various islands are separated from one another by narrow straits.

Other islands belonging to Japan are the *Kurile Is.*, the S. half of *Sakhalin* (or *Saghalien*), the *Lu Chu Is.*, and *Formosa*.

Surface.

This island-empire is one of the most mountainous regions in the world. Ranges with many spurs and branches extend the whole length of Hondo. Many of the mountains are volcanic.



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SNOW-CAPPED FUSIYAMA.

Most famous of these is *Fusi-yama* (over 12,000 feet), a grandly picturesque volcanic cone, S.W. of Tokyo: there has been no eruption since 1707, and it is considered as practically extinct. It is a "sacred mountain" (*Fusi* means *Fire-goddess*), and, in the summer, is a resort of Buddhist pilgrims. *Asama-yama* is an active volcano in the centre of the island of Hondo. There are eight *active volcanoes* in Yezo. Throughout the islands are many hot *sulphur springs*, and *solfataras*, or volcanic regions steaming with sulphurous vapours.

The very numerous rivers are for the most part torrents, cutting their way through rocky gorges. In the summer, after the drought, they become a source of danger, for they frequently rise as much as 15 feet, spreading destruction for many miles around.

The coast is much indented, with many bays and fine, spacious harbours.

Climate.

At one extreme (the S. of Formosa) the Japanese Empire lies within the Tropics ; at the other (the northernmost of the Kuriles), though just touching the latitude of southern England, it experiences the rigour of Arctic cold. The climate is much influenced by the proximity of the *Kuroshiwo* or *Black Current*, a current closely resembling the Gulf Stream ; it originates S. of Formosa, washes the E. coast of Japan, and mitigates the winters in the S.E. Fogs are frequent in summer in the N., owing to a cold current which sweeps down the E. coast.

Snow falls in every part, but does not remain on the ground, save in the W. and on the mountains.

The climate is hottest from the middle of July to the middle of September ; even on the lofty cone of Fusi-yama the snows are then melted. The rainfall is heavy. It commences in April, and continues until August with occasional intermissions.

At the end of September, after the summer heat, heavy rains again occur. They are frequently accompanied by typhoons, which do much damage. November, December, and January are the driest months.

On the whole, the climate is healthy, especially in the mountainous parts ; and the weather is much finer than in England.

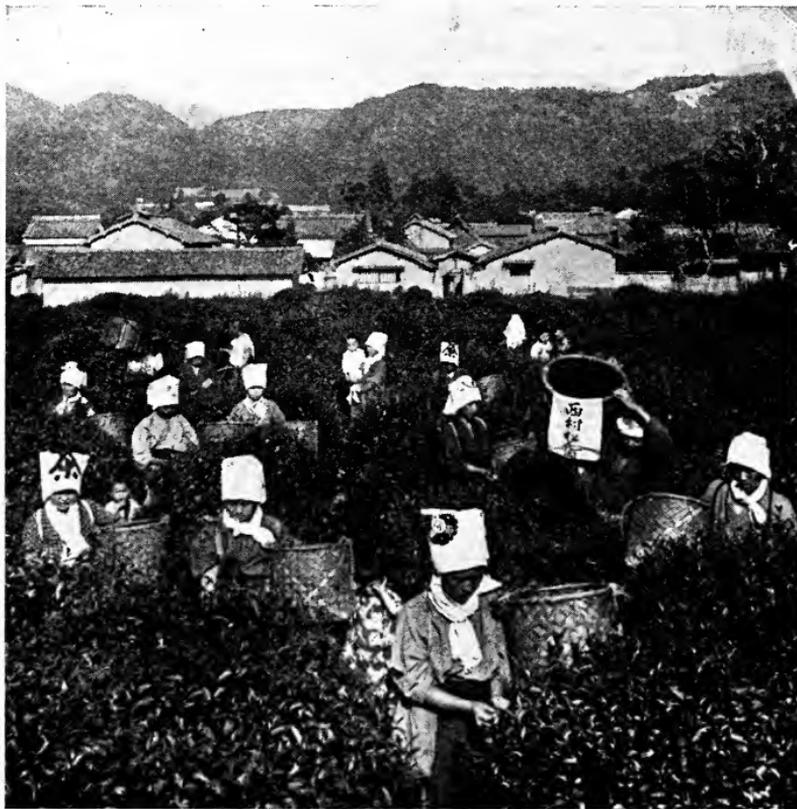
Productions.

MINERAL.—Japan is rich in minerals. *Copper* is the purest and most abundant of the ores. *Gold*, *silver*, *iron*, *manganese*, *antimony*, *sulphur*, and *coal* (of rather inferior quality) are other mineral products.

VEGETABLE.—Owing to the varied climatic conditions, the vegetable productions are very numerous, and of great diversity, belonging both to the tropical and temperate zones. The *bamboo* and *sago palm* flourish in the less elevated regions. The *pine*, *fir*, *elm*, *chestnut*, *beech*, and *oak* are common on the uplands. There are many peculiar trees found, which are almost confined to Japan, as the *paper-mulberry*, the *wax-tree* (with wax-yielding fruits), and the *lacquer-tree* (the sap of which is useful as a varnish). The beautifully flowering *camellia* and *chrysanthemum* are natives of Japan.

Rice is the staple crop. *Millet*, *barley*, *wheat*, *maize*, and *pulse* are other food-products of the soil. The *sweet potato* is especially cultivated

in S. Japan. *Tea plantations* are very common in the centre and S. Other growths are *hemp*, *cotton*, *sugar-cane*, *indigo*, *colza* (for its oil-seeds), and *tobacco*.



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JAPANESE GIRLS PICKING TEA.

ANIMAL.—The largest wild animal is the *brown grizzly bear*, found in Yezo. There is a species of small *black bear*, confined to Japan. Other wild animals are the *boar*, *antelope*, *fox*, and *otter* (valuable for its fur). There are none of the cat family except the domestic cat, which has here a peculiarly stumpy tail. *Water-fowl* are specially abundant; as also are *fish*, which are much used as food.

People.

The exact origin of the Japanese people is unknown, although their straight coal-black hair, yellowish complexion, slanting eyes, and prominent cheek-bones indicate that they are of Mongol race.

Before their advent, Japan was inhabited by a hairy race of people, the *Ainus*; but these are now found only in Yezo and the Kurile Islands.

Smallness of stature characterizes the whole of the Japanese race; the average height of men is 5 feet, and of women about 4 feet 8 inches. They are distinguished for their love of cleanliness, politeness, and appreciation of beauty. They are gifted with wonderful alertness of intellect. Their magnificent valour and patriotism have never been surpassed.

The principal religions are:—(1) *Shinto* (i.e., the way of the gods), which consists of the worship of ancestors, heroes of the past, and the powers of Nature; (2) *Buddhism*; and (3) the *morality-religion of Confucius*. It not seldom happens that a Japanese unites the three in his religious beliefs. Freedom for all religions is the rule in the Japanese Empire.

History.

According to tradition, the Japanese Empire was founded in 660 B.C.; it was ruled by Emperors (with the title of *Mikado*) until 1192. The *Shogun*, or Commander-in-Chief, then took the real authority into his own hands, though leaving the Mikado nominally the supreme power. The sway of the Shoguns continued until 1868.

The Portuguese first came to Japan in 1543. They were banished from the country in 1638, and foreigners were forbidden to enter. In 1853 Commodore Perry, of the United States Navy, came with a squadron of battle-ships, and compelled the Shogun to conclude a treaty which opened five ports to foreign commerce. The power of the Shogun now began to decline, was finally overthrown in the civil war of 1867-8, and the Mikado was restored to real supremacy.

In 1889, the Imperial Diet, consisting of a House of Peers and a House of Representatives, was established, and its consent made necessary to all laws. War broke out with China in 1894, and Japanese victories were followed by the cession of Formosa. A defensive alliance with Great Britain was concluded in 1902. The wonderful successes of the Japanese army and navy in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-5 raised the island-empire to the front rank of the world's powers. The Anglo-Japanese treaty of London (1905) ratified the defensive alliance with Britain, and provided for the maintenance of peace in Eastern Asia, and of the independence of China.

Government.

The power of the Emperor is still supreme; but he is advised by *Cabinet Ministers* and a *Privy Council*.

The *Imperial Diet* (or Parliament) consists of two houses. The *House of Peers* is composed of princes, marquises, elected members of the lower nobility, persons chosen by the Emperor for conspicuous civil or military service, and persons elected from among those who pay the highest amount of taxes. The *House of Representatives* is elected by those of the people who satisfy certain conditions of residence and tax-payment. There are 379 members, each of whom receives a salary of £200 a year.

All laws must be passed by the Upper and Lower Houses.

Occupations.

More than half the population is engaged in *agriculture*. There are also important and rapidly extending *manufactures*.

Silk fabrics constitute the principal industrial product. *Cotton-spinning* and *weaving* have greatly developed during the present century; Japanese-made cotton goods now compete with the British product in China and Korea.

The Japanese excel in *artistic industries*. They have produced beautiful *lacquer-work* for over a thousand years past. *Satsuma* (in I. of Kiushiu) is famous for its *art-pottery*. The making of *porcelain* and *enamelled earthenware*, and *ornamental work in bronze* and other metals are other art-crafts.

Japanese paper is manufactured from the fibrous inner bark of the paper-mulberry. Paper of the European kind is also produced.

There are large *shipbuilding yards* at Nagasaki and Kobé. Government *iron-works* have been established at Wakamatsu (N. of Kiushiu).

Among miscellaneous manufactures may be mentioned the characteristic *jin-rikisha* (a carriage drawn by one or two men) and *sake* (the beer of the Japanese, made by fermenting rice).

Trade.

Foreign trade has increased nearly fortyfold since the opening-out of Japan in 1868. The chief centres of commerce are *Yokohama* and *Kobé*.

The principal IMPORTS are *raw cotton* (by far the largest in quantity, and coming from India, the United States, and Egypt), *wool* and *woollen stuffs*, *rice* (from India, China, and Korea), *sugar* (much from Java), *machinery*, *rails*, *locomotive engines*, and *kerosene oil*.

Of the EXPORTS *raw silk* is by far the largest in quantity and value. Others are *silk fabrics* (washing silks, crape, handkerchiefs, etc.), *cotton yarn* and *shirtings*, *tea*, *earthenware*, *coal*, and *copper*.

Communications.

Japan has a large *shipping trade*; and steamers run regularly from *Yokohama*, *Nagasaki*, and *Niigata* to America, China, India, and Europe.



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A MORNING RIDE IN A JINRIKISHA.

The first line of *railway* was opened in 1872; it was 18 miles in length, and joined *Yokohama* to *Tokyo*. Since then, railways have been rapidly extended, and there are now over 5,000 miles open to traffic; about 500 miles are owned by private companies, and the rest by the State. About £18,000,000 have been allotted by the Imperial Diet to a great scheme of railway extension.

A trunk line joins *Aomori* (at the N. extremity of Hondo) to *Kagoshima* (in the S. of Kiushiu), and various branches cross the country from E. to W. Where there are no railways, the *jinrikisha* is the chief means of conveyance.

Towns.

Tokyo (population, over 2 millions) became the capital of Japan in 1868, when the Mikado made this his residence and seat of government. It lies on a wide plain in the S.E. of Hondo, and has many flourishing European and native manufactures. The Mikado's palace, picturesquely walled and moated, is in the centre of the city. Tokyo is connected by railway with its port, Yokohama, and thence with the S.; another line is to Aomori in the N.

When first opened for trade (1854), *Yokohama* was a small fishing village; but it has now a population of over 394,000, and transacts half the trade of Japan, of which it is the chief seaport.

Kyoto was the capital of Japan from the 8th century until 1868. The city has many fine temples, and is the Buddhist centre of Japan. Velvets, brocades, embroideries, porcelain, enamels, and inlaid metal-work are products of native industry and art.

Osaka (over a million inhabitants) and *Kobé* are two towns S. of Kyoto, which have profited much by the opening of Japan to foreigners. They have extensive cotton factories and large shipbuilding works.

Nagoya, on the railway connecting Tokyo and Kyoto, is the centre of an important rice-growing district, and manufactures much porcelain for export.

Nagasaki, on the S.W. of Kiushiu I., has a magnificent land-locked harbour, and is noted for its shipbuilding. It is an important coaling-station; abundant and excellent supplies of coal are obtained from an island 8 miles to the S.E.

Hakodate, on the strait between the Is. of Yezo and Hondo, has a situation curiously like that of Gibraltar. A free port since 1859, it exports dried fish, edible seaweed, rice, sulphur, etc.

Possessions.

KOREA. See page 106.

FORMOSA was annexed (along with the *Pescadores Is.*, lying 25 miles to the W.), after the war with China in 1894-5.

Densely-wooded mountains extend from N. to S., including *Mt. Morrison* (over 14,000 feet), the highest peak in the Empire.

The island is remarkably fertile; vegetation is luxuriously abundant; orchids, rhododendrons, etc., grow wild in profusion.

On the W. of the mountains there is a rich alluvial plain, producing *rice, tea, sugar, and hemp*; this region is cultivated by Chinese settlers.

There are *gold* and *coal* mines. *Sulphur* and *iron* are also obtainable, but are not sought after.

A *Governor-General* is in charge of the administration.

The *Lu Chu Is.*, situated in the N. Pacific about half-way between *Kiushiu* and *Formosa*, were annexed in 1876.

The *Bonin Is.* are another N. Pacific group belonging to Japan; they lie 700 miles to the S.E. of Japan Proper.

The *Kurile Is.* are a chain of volcanic islands extending from *Kamtchatka* to *Yezo*; they are inhabited by *Ainus*, and, in the summer, are resorted to by hunters and fishermen.

Sakhalin is an island divided by the Gulf of Tartary from the Siberian E. coast; it was given to Russia in 1875, but the S. half was restored to Japan in 1905, and was then given its ancient *Ainu* name of *Karafuto*.

THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO.

Regional Divisions.

The Malay Archipelago occupies a considerable area on both sides of the Equator. With regard to the distribution of animal and vegetable life, it is divided into two quite distinct regions by a boundary-line which may be considered as passing through the deep channel between the island of *Bali* (or *Little Java*) and *Lombok*.

To the W. of the line are the *Philippines*, *Borneo*, *Sumatra*, and *Java*, which closely resemble the Asiatic mainland in their animal life and vegetable productions. To the E. are various islands, principally the *Lesser Sunda Islands*, *New Guinea*, and the *Moluccas*, whose fauna and flora are closely allied to those of *Australia*. *Celebes* may be assigned to either division.

The majority of the islands are of volcanic formation and contain active, dormant, and extinct cones.

For long the Malay Archipelago was divided between *Spain* and *Holland*; but *Spain* lost her last possession in 1898, when the *Philippines* were ceded to the *United States*. With the exception of the N.E. of *Timor*, which is *Portuguese*, N.E. *New Guinea*, which belongs to *Germany*, S.E. *New Guinea* (*Papua*) and N.W. *Borneo*, which are *British*, the remainder of the Malay Archipelago belongs to *Holland*.

Productions and Climate.

The soil is generally extremely fertile, and produces *spices*, *coffee*, *cacao* (or *cocoa*), *sugar*, *rice*, *sago*, *tapioca*, *cinchona*, *cotton*, *tobacco*, and *indigo*.

Minerals are also abundant, as *coal*, *gold*, and *tin* in the Dutch East Indies, *iron*, *lignite* (a wood-like coal), and *copper* in the Philippines.



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A RICE FIELD, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The climate is tropical and humid. There are the usual rainy and dry seasons, which differ, however, in different parts. The equatorial belt has rain at all seasons; but S. of this the rain lasts from November to March, while to the N. this is the dry season. The Philippines are in the region of typhoons.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Position and Extent.

These form the most northerly group of the Malay Archipelago. They number about 1,700 islands, covering an area (127,000 square miles) greater than the British Isles. The two largest are *Luzon* and *Mindanao*.

The islands were discovered in 1521 by the Portuguese navigator Magellan, who was killed by the natives on one of them. They were named the Philippines after Philip II. of Spain, and were annexed by Spain in 1569.

In 1898 the United States captured Manila, the Spanish forces were withdrawn, and the Philippines passed into the possession of the United States.

Productions.

The most important productions are *tobacco-leaf* (making excellent cigars), *hemp*, *sugar*, *rice*, *spices*, *tea*, *cocoa*, *coffee*, *copra*, and *indigo*. *Tropical fruits* are abundant. *Pine-apple fibre* is manufactured into a delicate, pale-yellow cloth, used for making scarves.

The mineral products are *gold*, *iron*, *quicksilver*, *copper*, and a kind of coal, called *lignite*; mining enterprise is progressing.

Towns.

Manila, upon the island of Luzon, is the capital of the Philippines; it is famous for its manufacture of cigars, second in quality only to the Cuban product.

Cavité is a strongly fortified seaport, with an arsenal, about 8 miles S.W. of Manila.

Iloilo is the second commercial town of the Philippines, exporting sugar, tobacco, Manila hemp, and perfume.

BRITISH BORNEO.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO occupies the extreme N.E. of the island. It was ceded by the Sultans of Brunei and Sulu. It is under the administration of the British N. Borneo Company. In 1888 it was proclaimed a British Protectorate.

Labuan, an island just off the N.W. coast, was ceded to Britain by the Sultan of Borneo in 1846; it was then constituted a Crown colony, but was transferred to the Borneo Company in 1890, and, in 1907, was annexed to the Singapore government.

Tobacco, coffee, pepper, and india-rubber are the chief exports.

Sandakan, on the N.E., is the principal town.

BRUNEI is a small native state lying between British N. Borneo and Sarawak. It became a British Protectorate in 1888; and in 1906 the Sultan consented to the administration of the State by a British resident.

SARAWAK, the largest of the divisions of British Borneo, was made over by the Sultan of Brunei to Sir James Brooke in 1842, and was ruled by him as Rajah till his death in 1868, when he was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Charles Johnson Brooke. The latter placed the State under British protection in 1888.

Gold, silver, diamonds, and coal (in abundance) are the principal mineral resources. *Sago, rice, india-rubber, spices, pepper, tobacco, and gambier* are the vegetable products.

Kuching, on the Sarawak river, is the chief town.

THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

Extent.

These consist of *Java, Madura*, and the islands called the "*Outposts*"—Sumatra, the S., E., and W. of Borneo, Celebes, the Moluccas, the Timor group, the Lesser Sunda Is., and the N. and W. of New Guinea. They comprise an area (736,000 square miles) about 60 times as extensive as the mother-country.

Government.

They are ruled by a Governor-General, appointed by the sovereign of the Netherlands. He is assisted by a Council.

In Java and some parts of Sumatra and Celebes, what is known as the "*culture system*" is in operation; coffee is a Government export, and the natives are required to deliver their produce to the officials at a fixed price. The "*culture system*" was introduced into Java in 1832 by Governor-General Jan Van den Bosch, and originally included all the native industries.

Trade.

The chief exports are *coffee, tea, rice, sugar, cinchona, tobacco, copra, indigo, and tin*. Nearly all the export trade is done with the Netherlands.

JAVA.

Configuration.

Java is the most important, though not the largest, of the Dutch possessions; for it is the most fertile, highly cultivated, and densely peopled of the islands of the archipelago.

A mountain-chain traverses the island from E. to W. An alluvial plain extends to the N., where the coast is low and fringed with mangrove-swamps. The land descends steeply on the S. There are many volcanoes, some of them active; and the whole island is covered with mud that has been cast forth from them.

The rivers are numerous, but are not suited to navigation.

Towns.

Batavia (which has been given the ancient name of Holland) is the capital of the Dutch E. Indies. It is a large town, situated on a low plain. It has fine docks at *Tanjong Priok*, which are connected with Batavia by road and railway.

Samarang is a fortified town on the N. coast, and is the commercial centre of middle Java.

Surakarta, in the centre of the island, is the capital of a native Sultan who is a vassal of the Dutch.

BALI.

Bali, on the E. of Java, from which it is separated by a very narrow strait, resembles eastern Java very closely; it is often called *Little Java*.

Its inhabitants are a highly intelligent people, successful both as artificers in gold and iron, and as agriculturists. *Coffee, rice, tobacco,* and *copra* are produced in abundance.

SUMATRA.

Position and Extent.

Sumatra is three times the size of Java, but its population is only one-eighth that of the smaller island.

It is separated from the Malay Peninsula by the Strait of Malacca, and from Java by the Sunda Strait.

Surface.

Much of the island is mountainous, especially on the W. ; and there are several active volcanoes. The island is well watered. The chief rivers flow to the E., through alluvial prairie-lands.

Climate and Productions.

Sumatra is crossed by the equator ; the climate is tropical, and there is abundant rainfall. Vegetation is of wonderful variety. The mountains are covered with dense forests.

Rice, sago, coffee, cocoa-nuts, sugar, pepper, spices, rubber, and tobacco are the chief agricultural products.

Gold, coal, and petroleum are the mineral resources.

Trade closely resembles that of Java, except that more *tobacco* is cultivated and exported. *Black pepper, gutta-percha, and camphor* are important exports.

Towns.

Palembang, in S. Sumatra, is the chief town. In the Middle Ages it was of great commercial importance, being a centre of the trade between Arabia and China.

Benkulen, on the W. coast, was formerly a British possession, but was exchanged for Malacca in 1825.

Banka, an island off the E. of Sumatra, and *Billiton*, another island still more to the E., are famous for their apparently inexhaustible supplies of tin.

BORNEO.

Position and Extent.

Borneo is the largest island of the Malay Archipelago, and, in respect of area (about 300,000 square miles), ranks after Australia and New Guinea as the third island in the world.

It is separated by the Sulu Sea from the Philippine Islands, and from Celebes by the Macassar Strait.

Surface.

This island differs from others of the group in showing no trace of modern volcanic eruption. It is mountainous, and in its extreme N. is situated *Mt. Kinabalu* (13,700 feet), the highest peak in the Malay Archipelago. There are many rivers, which begin as mountain-torrents,

and end by spreading out into lagoons or deltas. Many of them are navigable for large boats, but navigation is impeded by rapids and waterfalls in the upper courses, and by the formation of sand-bars across the mouths.

Productions.

Rice, sugar, tobacco, spices, pepper, rubber, and indigo are cultivated; but there is little external trade. The *tobacco, sugar, and pepper* which are exported, are products raised by the Chinese and Europeans; *edible birds' nests, beeswax, gutta-percha, and tortoise-shell* are exported by the natives.

There are extensive deposits of *coal* and other minerals. *Gold* is mined in Dutch Borneo. There are *diamond* mines at Landak (W. Borneo).

Towns.

Banjermasin is the capital of Dutch Borneo, and a port of considerable size.

Pontianak is the capital of the western part of Dutch Borneo. Rubber is exported from here in considerable quantities. There are diamond mines in the neighbourhood.

CELEBES.

Configuration.

Celebes, which is situated E. of Borneo, is an island with a most remarkable configuration; for it has a high central mass, from which extend four long, lofty peninsulas, without any alluvial lowlands.

Climate.

The northern part has an equatorial climate, while the S. has definite wet and dry seasons. It is considered to be one of the healthiest islands of the Archipelago.

Celebes is noted for its food-crops and forest produce. Macassar oil was originally produced in this island, probably from the sandalwood tree.

Government.

The Minahassa and Macassar districts, in the extreme N.E. and the extreme S. respectively, are alone effectively occupied by the Dutch;

the remainder is ruled by independent Rajahs, who do not acknowledge the authority of the Dutch.

Macassar, the chief town and port, has the largest trade of the Archipelago.

THE MOLUCCAS.

The Moluccas, or Spice Islands, are very numerous. They are known to be, for the most part, volcanic cones ; but they are as yet little explored.

They are most fertile, and have long been noted for the *nutmeg* and the *clove*. Until 1873, the Dutch restricted clove-culture to Amboyna by exterminating the tree in every other island ; but this restriction has now been abandoned. The Banda Is., 60 miles S. of the Moluccas, monopolized (till 1873) the cultivation of the nutmeg-tree.

Amboyna, on a small island of the same name, famous in history as the scene of the massacre of the English settlers in 1623, is the capital.

THE LESSER SUNDA ISLANDS.

The Lesser Sunda Islands form a long chain stretching E. of Java as far as Timor. They are volcanic and mountainous, and subject to failure of rainfall. The chief of them are Sumbawa, Sandalwood, Flores, and Timor.

Timor is the most important of the islands ; the N.E. part belongs to the Portuguese, and the S.W. to the Dutch.

Coffee, *nutmeg*, *pepper*, and *sandalwood* are the principal products. *Petroleum* is found in many parts ; and there are signs of *gold*.

NEW GUINEA.

Position and Extent.

New Guinea is separated from Australia (of which it was once part) by Torres Strait. Next to Australia, it is the largest island in the world, being about six times the size of England.

Climate and Productions.

New Guinea lies in the region of S.E. trade-winds, followed by rain-bringing N.W. monsoons. The climate is exceedingly hot and moist, with an average temperature of 85° to 90° F. Vegetation is very abundant,

ranging from tropical to alpine growths. The animal life is closely related to that of Australia, being characterized by many species of marsupials (*i.e.*, pouched mammals).

Divisions.

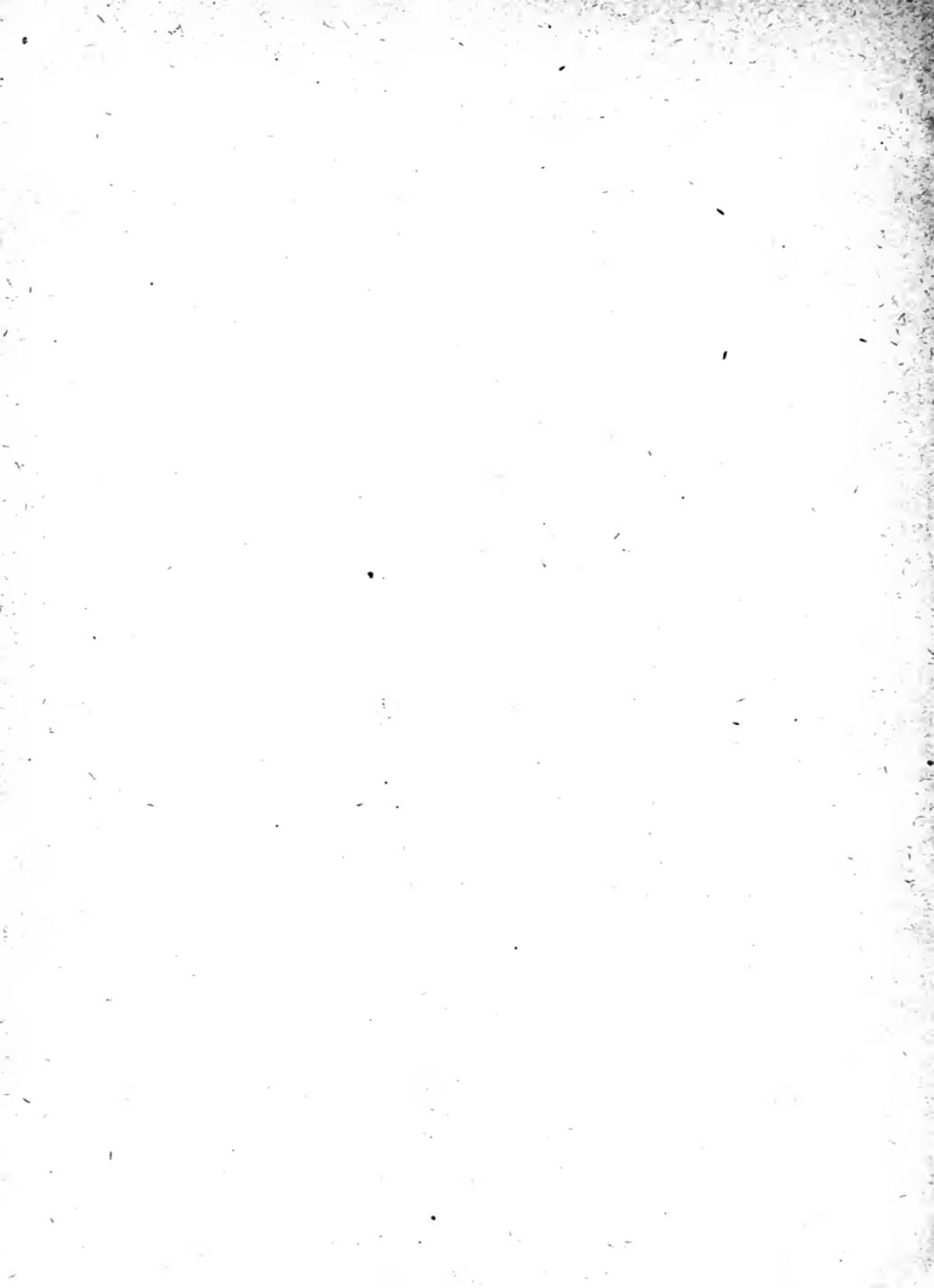
BRITISH NEW GUINEA (since 1906 known as the Territory of Papua) occupies an area of about 90,000 square miles in the S.E. of the island. The Papuan tribes, once cannibals, have now, under active missionary influence, mostly settled down to peaceful occupations. They show skill in agriculture, the making of earthenware, and wood-carving. *Cocoanuts, sago, coffee, rubber,* and *hemp* are cultivated. *Gold* and *copper* are mined. The exports include *trepang, copra, sandalwood, coffee, rubber, gold,* and *pearls*.

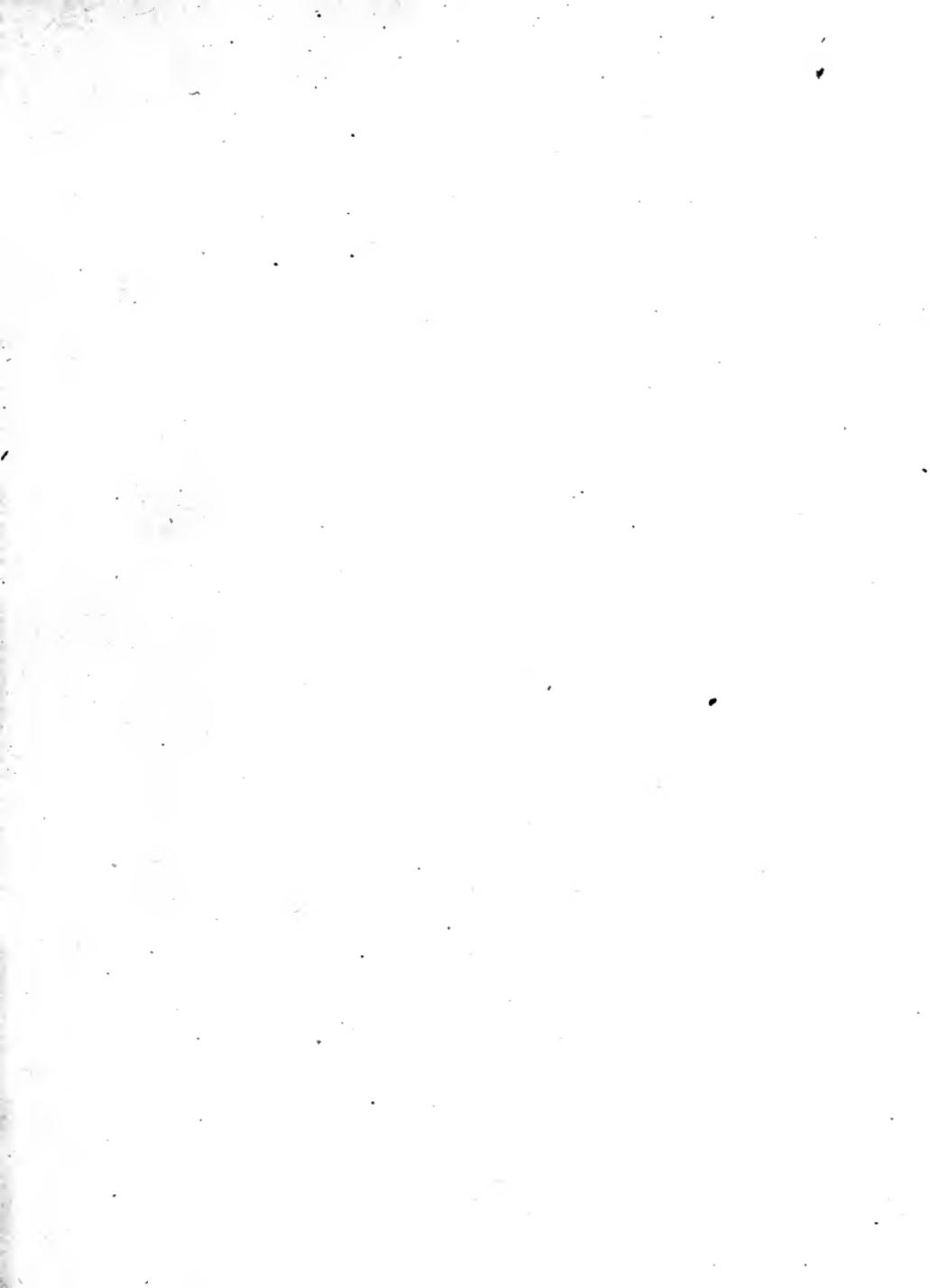
The former territory of German New Guinea or Kaiser Wilhelm's Land has been added to the British portion.

Port Moresby is the capital.

Samarai is another important port of entry.

DUTCH NEW GUINEA is the western half of the island. Though in Dutch possession since 1848, much of it remains unexplored. There are no towns, or centres of government, but only trading-stations along the coast





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