

ECONOMIC CHANGES HIT CHINESE PORT

Demand for Products in Foreign Markets Drop Off

Washington.—The treaty port of Swatow, in southeast China, came to the world's attention recently as the scene of serious Sino-Japanese disputes over customs duties on rice. Chinese ships entering the port had to pass down a receiving line of Japanese warships, and Chinese troops dug miles of trenches near the city as Japanese marines threatened to land.

"Although Swatow is one of China's most important ports, circumstances seem to have conspired in recent years to reduce its usually brisk trade," says the National Geographic society. "Lessened demand for its products in foreign markets, especially in Siam and the Straits Settlements, have caused a diminution of the city's exports; and heavy local taxation, together with boycotts, has affected its imports."

"Swatow residents have learned to economize by using Chinese-made matches and hosiery instead of foreign ones, artificial woolen yarn instead of the genuine, locally-distilled oil instead of imported kerosene, cheap dried and salted fish in place of the more expensive sharks' fins and cuttle-fish.

Destitute Coolies Return.
"A large part of Swatow's former purchasing power was due to money sent home by immigrant coolies working in Siam, in the Straits Settlements, and in the tin mines of Netherland India. At present this source of wealth is falling as hundreds of coolies, destitute and unable to find work elsewhere, are pouring back into Swatow."

"An added burden to Swatow's commercial depression is the frequent presence of bandits in the mountainous regions of the hinterland. Parts of the Kwangtung province, for which Swatow is an important distribution center, are harassed by them.

"Europeans made a poor first-impresion on Swatow. Early European traders kidnaped so many coolies from there to be laborers in other countries that Chinese hatred of foreigners raged in the port. Even for several years after the treaty of 1858, which made Swatow a treaty port, foreigners were not welcome in the city. This feeling has largely been changed and today Chinese, European, and American homes and offices are side by side.

"Not only has the port had troubles commercially, but it has even had difficulties geographically. Situated on low alluvial plains at the mouth of the Han river, it had occasionally been flooded by inadequately controlled tributary streams. After a survey in 1921, dikes were built which give the city better protection.

"Calamities which Swatow anticipates annually are typhoons, which frequently rage between August and October. Situated at the southern end of the strait between the China coast and Taiwan, and less protected from the sea than many other Chinese ports, Swatow is at full mercy of the typhoons. As soon as a typhoon approaches within 100 miles of the city two guns are fired from its signal station every five minutes night and day. In August, 1922, an unusually severe typhoon and tidal wave greatly damaged the port's shipping and property.

But Climate is O. K.
"One thing, however, Swatow does not have to worry about is its climate. It is ranked as the healthiest port in China by some authorities. Cholera is noticeably absent. During the hot summer season, the heat is alleviated by cool sea breezes, while the winters are bracing. The city had an insufficient water supply until 1914, when a modern water system was installed.

"Swatow originated as a small fishing village. Its name probably was derived from swa, (a wicker basket for catching fish) and tow, (head). Today, a large percentage of the people in and near the port engage in fishing. They catch flying fish, sea breams and other varieties, and many of the fish-peddlers carry their wares in baskets on their heads.

"Swatow's population was about 178,000 in 1931. Most of the city's residents are Chinese merchants, farmers or fishermen, but there are also several hundred foreigners engaged in trade. These are mostly Japanese, English, German, American, French and Portuguese.

"The city's modern improvements include waterworks, a new telephone system, electric lights, a sugar refinery, and mills for expressing oil from peanuts."

Freak Laws Unrepealed on British Statute Books

London.—A recent freak court case at Huddersfield caused lawyers to search the statute books and remind Britons that curious laws remain unrepealed and could send anyone to jail.

Still illegal in Britain are:
Smoking a cigarette in the street.
Sunday radio broadcasting.
Christmas dinner of more than three courses.

Making a mince pie, "an abominable and idolatrous thing."
Playing billiards on Sunday.
It is possible, according to the old laws, for anyone to be liable for inducing another person to drink more liquor than would be good for him.

Abolished Baby
Cruelty.—Recent candidates for child custody in various courts in California, who had a book of 200 words by which to speak English. Candidates who failed with the pronunciation in English.

HIT OR MISS

"A CHRISTMAS STORY"

'Twas Christmas Eve!
The snowflakes fell on housetop,
street and spire,
Until earth's foulest spots were clad
in holiday attire.

Around the gloomy prison walls
The pure, white showers fell
And silvered o'er the iron bars that
guarded each dark cell.

In one of these, upon his cot,
A youth, so young, so fair, sat,
Darkly brooding on the lot that led
his footsteps there.

Scarce twenty changeful years had
sped
Above his bright young head,
So bowed in woeful misery upon a
prison bed.

Adown the gloomy corridor a dark-
robed figure glides,
And halts beside this grated cell
Where woe and sin abide.

She tells him, with such tender
words, of hope and pardon, too,
Of brighter paths on earth to win,
Of honest work to do.

And something in the low, sweet
voice,
That fills his heart with pain, reminds
him of his mother, dead,
Like some sweet, sad, refrain.

Sweet Sister Mary, done her work,
From the prison turned to leave,
with hope
That one young soul was saved on
that glad Christmas Eve.

And 'round the gloomy prison walls
The pure white snowflakes fell, until
a silver curtain hid
Each inmate in his cell.

A score of years have passed away.
Again the snow falls down, and again
Christmas Eve
Has dawned upon a Northern town.

We stand within the massive walls
That guard a convent brood, a
hundred helpless orphans,
And a noble sisterhood.

An old acquaintance here we find,
The care marks on her brow bespeak
her honored rank,
For she is Mother Mary now.

The convent treasury is bare!
Poor Mother Mary sighs. Her chil-
dren may not eat
The feast that's held in Paradise.

But hark! The convent bell is rung!
A peal so sharp and clear!
The smiling portress hastens in with
a present for Ma Mere!

The package is a bulky one, and
when the sum is told,
The awe-struck sisters marvel
O'er the coins of solid gold!

But Mother Mary does not heed the
gold that shines so bright.
A vision of the long ago
Comes to her aged sight.

She reads, "Dear Lady, please accept
"This gift I send to thee, in token
of a Christmas Eve
"When you were kind to me.

"Your words of hopeful comfort
sank deep into my sore young
heart,
"And gave me courage yet to strive
"To win a better part."

The soul-touched Mother speaks at
last,
And tears are in her voice!
"Our Lord hath sent the Christmas
feast!
"Come, praise Him, and rejoice!"

Jesse Campen, Sr., came up to my
office one day this week to bring me
a message in which I was interested.
Realizing that Mr. Campen is not as
young as he once was, I mentioned,
in thanking him for his trouble, that
it was too bad he had to climb the
steps.

"Oh, that's nothing," he said. "I
don't mind a little thing like that. I
can climb up on top of a house about
as easily as I ever did."

Now, Mr. Campen is in his eighty-
fourth year, and so I asked him if he
was still scampering up ladders on
houses like he used to, and he said
the only trouble with him was that
folks wouldn't give him enough work
to keep him busy. He said the last
work he had to amount to anything
was in November when he built a
barn out on the Newbold farm. He
built that barn with the help of one
man. He went up on top and shingled
the roof, if you please, the two
working together, of course. He said
he really wasn't as agile as he used
to be but that he never felt afraid
to climb up high.

Since he was sixteen years old Mr.
Campen has never spent three days
in bed from sickness, and he has
never had the services of a physician
but one twenty minutes in his whole
life. He has been a hard worker
and a good one, and still is if he can
get the work to do.

"If you have any window lights to
put in, or anything like that, just
call on me," he said, as he went out.

A little olive oil rubbed over paper
that has stuck to a polished surface
softens paper and makes it easier to
remove.

PINEY WOODS

Ralph Pithisic has returned to his
home in Cincinnati, Ohio, after being
called here because of the illness and
death of his mother, Mrs. Mary
Pithisic.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Chappell
spent last Sunday with their pa-
rents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Chappell.

Misses Ethia and Novella Winslow
and Messrs. Otto Bunch and Andrew
Hobbs visited Miss Syble Chappell
Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Chappell and
son, Thomas, made a business trip
to Elizabeth City Saturday.

Mrs. Purvis Chappell and son,
Harvey, visited at the home of Mr.
John Hendren's Sunday.

Mrs. G. W. Chappell and daughter,
Cora Mae, spent Wednesday after-
noon with her daughter, Mrs. Percy
Chappell.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Winslow vis-
ited their grandmother, Mrs. J. R.
Chappell, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Brafford and
children returned to their home in
Washington, D. C., after attending
the funeral of Mrs. Brafford's moth-
er, Mrs. Mary Pithisic.

Mrs. W. P. Chappell was called to
the bedside of her father, W. K. Hen-
dren, Friday. He was very ill with
pneumonia and passed away Sunday
morning.

SPORTS TALK

By "White"

The Perquimans High basketball
teams, both boys and girls, have
opened up with a bang.

Last Friday night the teams play-
ed the locals in a double header on
the local court. The Indians took
the first game from the locals to the
tune of 20 to 12. Nixon was high
scorer for the P. C. H. S. boys, scor-
ing 8 points. Robinson for the locals
was high scorer, scoring 7 points.

The girls then came along and
took charge of the second game. The
Perquimans girls pushed up scores
of 39 points to their opponents' 3. The
game was very one-sided, although
the locals had several starts of a few
years ago.

Newby was high scorer for the In-
dians. Mayes of the locals chalked
up the only points made by the
locals.

On Tuesday night the boys and
girls played their second game of the
season, in a double-header with Au-
lander, on the local court.

In the first game, the girls romped
on the Aulander team to the tune of
36 to 19. The Perquimans girls had
the Aulander girls out-classed
through the entire game. Newby
was high scorer for the girls, making
nearly all the points for the P. C. H.
S. girls. Spivey made several nice
over-hand shots, finding the basket
nearly every time.

In the second game the Perquimans
boys took charge of the Aulander
boys and ran up a score of 35 points
to Aulander's 9.

At the beginning of the game the
Indians had trouble finding the basket,
but after a short time the boys
settled down and showed the Aulan-
der team that they meant business.
In the last half of the game the In-
dians scored 21 points to Aulander's
2. Some scoring!

The girls have played two games
and won two. The boys have done
the same. So it looks as though
both girls and boys have good teams.

Come out and support the teams.
If you haven't bought your season
ticket, get it at once.

The boys' basketball team has been
entered in the North Carolina East-
ern Conference.

Coach Rogers made a trip to Rocky
Mount last Saturday for the purpose.
There are four eastern teams in this
conference.

The Indians have their first confer-
ence game after the Christmas holi-
days. Their first game is with Eli-
zabeth City, on January 10. The
boys hope to give a good account of
themselves in the conference games
this year. The P. C. H. S. has not
had a boys' team in conference in
several years.

No game is scheduled as yet for
Friday night, but Coach Rogers hopes
to get one scheduled this week if
possible. After Christmas, though,
the teams will settle down to some
real basketball playing. Both teams
have some pretty stiff games this
season.

CHAPANOKE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swayne were
in Elizabeth City Saturday after-
noon.

C. J. White, who has been very ill
in the Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth
City, returned home Monday, and is
doing as well as could be expected.

Alonza Godfrey, of Woodville, was
a business visitor in Elizabeth City
Monday.

Mrs. Jesse Hurdle and her daugh-
ter, Miss Jennie Hurdle, were in Eli-
zabeth City Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander
were in Elizabeth City Tuesday after-
noon.

Mrs. Daisy Perry and Mrs. Eula
Perry were in Hertford on Tuesday.

Mrs. Alberto Rosa, formerly Miss
Elizabeth Wilson, and Miss Louise
Wilson will arrive Saturday from
Mercer University, Macon, Ga., to
spend the holidays with Mr. and Mrs.
J. C. Wilson, Jr.

Miss Cora Layden was a visitor in
Elizabeth City Saturday.

Dr. E. H. Potts will fill his regu-
lar appointment at Woodville Bap-
tist Church Sunday.

Carey Quincy, who is attending
school at Fork Union, will arrive on
Saturday to spend the Christmas holi-
days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs.
C. P. Quincy.

Mrs. J. C. Wilson was in Elizabeth
City Tuesday.

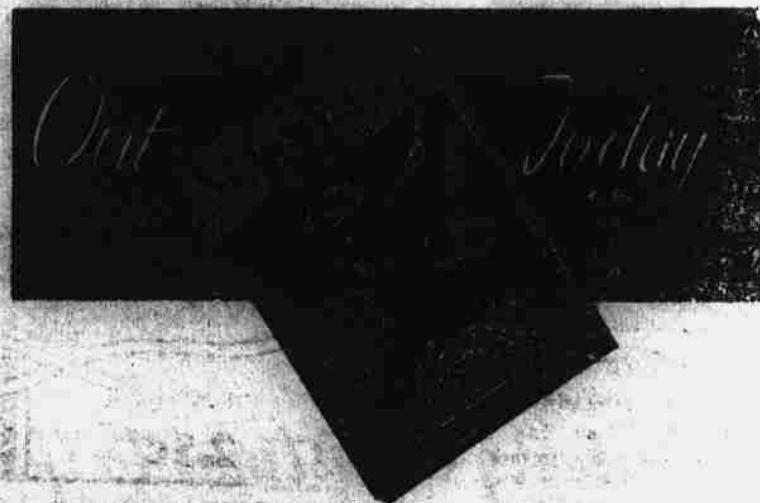
Mrs. Joe Elliott and Miss Lessie
Elliott were in Elizabeth City on
Monday.

Mrs. Johnnie Bray will spend the
Christmas holidays with her mother,
Mrs. Alfred Cheatham, in Roanoke,
Virginia.

"ON SICK LIST"
Mrs. T. F. Winslow is on the sick
list this week.

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NEWS of the WEEK



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Cotton Payments May Be Over 5 Cents

The cotton adjustment payments
under the 1936-39 contracts may be
considerably more than five cents a
pound, J. F. Criswell, of State Col-
lege, Raleigh, has revealed.

The five cent rate previously an-
nounced is the minimum and not a
fixed amount for the adjustment
payments, he explained.

The contract provides for a pay-
ment on the 1936 crop of not less
than five cents a pound on the aver-
age production of the land taken out
of cotton cultivation under terms of
the contract.

Contract signers may adjust their
acreage next year by 30 to 45 per-
cent of their base acreage, and re-
ceive adjustment payments accord-
ingly.

Criswell pointed out that growers
not under contract may expand their
production enough next year to flood
the market and beat prices down to a
low level.

The production of non-contracting
growers will depend largely on

whether the Bankhead Act is con-
tinued, he stated.

In the event that production in-
creases and the price goes down, the
adjustment payments to contracting
growers, together with the income
from the sale of cotton, will give
them a fair return for their crop.

But the growers without contracts
will be able to get only the amount
for which they can sell their cotton
on the market.

In case production should be ex-
panded materially, Criswell warned,
the price may drop to six or seven
cents a pound, or lower.

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