



EVIDENCE ON EAST-INDIA AFFAIRS :

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

per pound; and at these rates the sale value of the Company's tea stands as follows :

First.—Sold by the East-India Company, 1828-9 :		
30,269,508 lbs. of tea, at 2s. 3d. .97 per lb. in bond, is.....		£3,527,659
Duty, at 100 per cent. on.....	£3,234,076	
Ditto 96 do.	281,839	
		<u>3,515,913</u>

Total value of tea-duty paid in one year..... £7,043,572

Assumed price taken in this statement :

30,269,508 lbs. of tea, average price of 1s. 6d. per lb. in bond, is.....	2,270,213	
Duty at 100 per cent.....	£136,407	
Ditto - 96 do.....	2,048,453	
		<u>2,184,860</u>

Total value, duty paid, by this statement..... 4,455,073

Additional amount paid by the country for tea in one year, in consequence of the East-India Company's monopoly..... £2,588,499

Secondly.—But if the average price of the present charter be taken at 2s. 9d. .92 per lb., it will appear that the same quantity of tea has, under the Company's system, cost the country annually more by £4,091,107 (as per statement below) than would have been expended on this commodity if allowed to be imported by individuals :

30,269,508 lbs. of tea, at 2s. 9d. .92 per lb. in bond, being the average price during the present charter.....	£4,278,090	
Duty, at 100 per cent. on.....	£4,028,090	
Ditto - 96 do.....	240,000	
		<u>4,268,090</u>

Total value of tea-duty paid in one year..... 8,546,180

Assumed price taken in this statement :

30,269,508 lbs. of tea, average price of 1s. 6d. per lb. is.....	2,270,213	
Duty at 100 per cent. on.....	£136,407	
Ditto - 96 do.....	2,048,453	
		<u>2,184,860</u>

Total value, duty paid, by this statement.... 4,455,073

Total difference in one year..... £4,091,107

The following exhibits the probable profit of the merchant on the assumed average price of 1s. 6d. per lb. in bond :

Shipped in China.....	<i>lbs.</i> 30,269,508
Loss of weight and allowance, 5 per cent...	1,513,475

28,756,033 at 1s. 6d., £ 2,156,709

Charges



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 415

Charges of warehousing, &c., 3 per cent.....	£64,701	
Brokerage, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.....	11,009	
		75,710
Net proceeds.....	2,080,999	
Cost, as per other side, including freight, insurance and commission	1,763,232	
		£317,767
Leaving net profit (or 18 per cent.).....		

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

3455a. From what document or authority have you taken the prices which you have set down in that statement as the prime cost of the teas at Canton?—From prices-current in China, and from correspondence on the subject with agents and merchants there.

3456a. Are they the prices of the first, middle, or lower quality of teas of each kind?—They are the prices of all the different kinds of tea sold at the Company's sales in 1828-9; nine different kinds of tea.

3457a. How do you know that those prices are the prices of teas of the same quality with those purchased by the Company's servants in China?—They are the prices, and the only prices, quoted in the price-currents.

3458a. Are you in the habit of receiving regular price-currents from Canton?—Yes, regularly. I could also state, as a further confirmation of the fact, that some of the private tea trade of the last year passed through my own hands, and I know that it was to the full as good as the Company's.

3459a. From what documents have you taken your estimate of the average sale of the Company's teas?—From No. 42, p. 124, of the "Papers relating to the Trade of India and China," February 1830.

3460a. Are the Committee to understand, as the result of the statement which has now been read, that if the tea imported by the East-India Company in the last year had been imported by private merchants, allowing a freight of £10 per ton and 18 per cent. profit, the country would have been supplied with the same quantity of tea, and of the same quality, at a less sum by £2,588,499 than what they have paid to the Company?—I have not the least doubt of it.

3461a. Do you consider that that would have been without any loss to the revenue, or paying the same amount of revenue to the Government?—Certainly not.

3462a. Is your statement of the average price on which you have founded the calculation of tea, with regard to the duty, taken from the documents which you have mentioned?—It is founded upon the average price of tea for fifteen years, as stated in the before-mentioned document, No. 42.

3463a. Are the Committee to understand, that if that trade, which has been carried on by the Company for fifteen years, and assuming the average price given by them, had been carried on by private individuals, that the public



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

public would have paid less during each of those years to the amount of £4,000,000, which you have stated?—Provided 30,000,000 pounds of tea were sold in each year.

3464a. Has not half of that sum which you state to have been paid by the public more than under your calculation would have been paid if the trade had been carried on by private individuals, consisted of duty to the Government?—Certainly; one half of it, or nearly so.

3465a. Are the Committee to understand, that you have made in that account all the usual commercial charges for freight, warehousing, brokerage, wastage, and that after those allowances the merchant would have received his 18 per cent. profit clear?—I have.

3466a. In that calculation which you have made, you have estimated the greatly reduced sale-price of the tea, occasioning thereby a great loss in the amount of revenue, the duty on tea being an *ad valorem* duty; have you considered how that loss of revenue which would, on that calculation, take place if the trade was opened, could be supplied to the government?—That circumstance struck me immediately upon preparing the former statement; and as I thought it would be desirable that the revenue should, at all events, be provided for, I prepared another statement, to show how I think, at least, that object might be effected. I have that statement here, which I had intended also for publication, and which I will deliver in.

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

A STATEMENT, exhibiting the amount of Duty which would be levied on the Teas as sold by the East-India Company, 1828–9, if the scale of American duties, given in page 49 of the papers ordered to be printed by the House of Commons 4th June 1829, were adopted; showing also what would be the amount, if the importation reached to one-third more than the present supply.

	Imported 1828-1829.	American Duty, per lb.	Sterling Amount.	Supposed Import- ation of One-third additional.	American Duty.	Sterling Amount.
	lb.	s. d.	£.	lb.	s. d.	£.
Bohea	3,778,012	0 6	94,450	5,037,000	0 6	125,925
Congou	20,142,873	0 12½	1,049,107	28,213,000	0 12½	1,469,427
Campoi	284,197	0 0	14,801			
Souchong	601,739	0 0	31,340			
Pekoe.....	131,281	0 0	6,837	5,754,000	1 2	335,650
Twankay	4,101,845	1 2	239,274			
Hyson Skin ...	213,993	0 0	12,482			
Hyson	1,014,923	1 8	84,576	1,353,000	1 8	112,750
Gunpowder ...	645	2 1	67	862	2 1	90
	30,269,508	£	1,532,934	40,357,862	£	2,043,842

By



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 417

By these calculations it would appear that the present importation of tea of 30,000,000 pounds and upwards would only produce a duty, at the American rate, of £1,532,934, while the existing *ad valorem* duty may be calculated to produce £3,515,000. If it is estimated that an increase of importation to the amount of one-third, in addition to the present quantity (40,357,000 pounds) be taken at the American duty, it amounts to only £2,043,000, a sum still very short of the duty now produced. It may however be presumed, that the consumption would be increased one-third; and it may be desirable that nearly the same amount of revenue may be secured as is now produced. In order to effect this, it will be more simple to fix a rated duty than to fix an *ad valorem* one. Indeed difficulties will occur at the out-ports in levying the latter, while by the adoption of a rated duty there could be no difficulty in the matter. The rates at which these duties may be fixed are as follows:

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

	Rated Duty.	The Duty payable on the Teas sold at the Company's Sale, 1828-9.
	s. d.	s. d.
Bohea.....	1 — per lb.	1 6½ per lb.
Congo.....	1 9 0	2 3½ —
Campoi	—	2 9 —
Souchong, and all other black Tea, except Pekoe	—	2 10½ —
Twankay.....	1 9 —	2 5½ —
Hyson Skin.....	—	2 3½ —
Young Hyson.....	2 8 —	none.
Hyson.....	—	4 1½ —
Gunpowder	—	6 6½ —
Pekoe.....	—	3 9½ —

Annexed are the Calculations showing the Amount of Duty at the above Rates, on a presumed importation of about 40,000,000 lbs.

	Importation 1828-9.	With One-third additional.	Rated Duty.	Amount of Duty.
	lbs.	lbs.	s. d.	£
Bohea.....	3,778,012	5,037,000	1 0 per lb.	251,850
Congo.....	20,142,873		—	
Campoi	284,197		1 9 —	2,453,325
Souchong	601,739	5,754,000	1 9 —	503,475
Twankay	4,101,845		—	
Hyson Skin.....	213,993		1 9 —	
Hyson.....	1,014,923	1,528,000	2 8 —	237,080
Gunpowder.....	645		—	
Pekoe.....	131,281		—	
	30,269,508	40,357,000		£ 3,445,730

With



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

With duties fixed at the above rates, an addition of 10,000,000 pounds of tea may be added to the consumption of the country, at a cost of £6,472,000 for the entire supply of 40,000,000 of pounds, duty paid. The cost to the country of 30,269,000 pounds of tea in 1828-9 was £7,043,000; but were it not for the difficulties which are likely to be created at the out-ports in continuing an *ad valorem* duty, the 40,000,000 pounds of tea, which would probably be imported, would yield about £3,000,000 in revenue, without any alteration in the present *ad valorem* duties, notwithstanding the greatest proportion of the teas would sell under 2s. per pound, and be therefore subject to only 96 per cent. This is a case without the bounds of probability, as in the event of the out-ports participating in the trade to China, a rated duty on tea must necessarily be substituted for an *ad valorem* one.

In making this calculation, I have assumed that there will be an increase in the importation to the amount of at least one-third additional, if the price is reduced; for tea is now become almost a necessary of life, and therefore I have thought it safe to take the import and sale at forty millions of pounds, instead of thirty.

3467a. Are the Committee to understand the result of that statement to be this, that if the quantity of tea required for the consumption of England were imported by private merchants at the rates at which you conceive they can do it, the community would receive 40,000,000 of pounds of tea for £6,000,000 sterling, instead of paying £7,000,000, which they now do, for 30,000,000 of pounds of tea, the Government receiving at the same time the same amount of duty as they did before?—Certainly, with the trifling difference between the amount of duty stated in this table and the present estimated amount of Government duty. The difference is only £70,183.

3468a. Are those calculations founded upon the supposition that there will be no increase of price in Canton of the teas, although there will be an increase, to the amount of one-third, in the consumption?—They are founded upon the prices which I have here taken, averaging 1s. 6d. per pound.

3469a. What grounds have you for supposing that 40,000,000 lbs of tea can be purchased in Canton at the same rate of price for which we now purchase 30,000,000 lbs?—If there was a sudden demand for an increased quantity of tea, no doubt the price of tea, like the price of every other article under similar circumstances, would be raised for a time, but only for a time. The Chinese have the means of producing much larger quantities of tea if there was an effectual demand for it, and in proportion as they produced larger quantities the price would again fall.

3470a. Then you conceive that if the increase in the demand to the amount of 10,000,000 of pounds were a progressive increase, that additional quantity might be furnished without any advance in price?—Without any material advance.

3471a. Do you not consider that that increase in quantity would chiefly be in the lower-priced teas of China?—Certainly in the congo and bohea.

3472a. Are those the kinds in general use in China?—All the higher classes



classes in China who use tea, drink the finest tea, and therefore the demand for the finer sorts being of limited extent as well in China as in this country, it is probable the increase would take place in the lower qualities.

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

3473a. Do not the lower classes usually drink tea in China?—Yes; and their consumption, as far as it goes, would of course be in the lower descriptions of tea.

3474a. Therefore you suppose the additional demand of 10,000,000 lbs. out of the whole consumption of China, would not, in a few years, occasion any great difference in price?—If the demand went on gradually increasing, I should think that it would not occasion any considerable increase of price; but even if it did occasion an increase of price at first, I conceive that as the supply would in the course of a very short time meet the demand, the price would again fall to its natural level.

3475a. You have made a statement respecting the revenue to Government on the supposition that 40,000,000 of pounds would be consumed, have you made any calculation how the revenue would be paid, supposing there were no increase beyond the present amount of consumption of 30,000,000 lbs?—You might do it by collecting the present rates of duty as a rated duty.

3476a. Do you consider that the same amount of revenue might be collected as a rated duty, which is stated in No. 41 to be the present amount of duty?—I have never made any calculation of it; but from a superficial view of this account, I should say certainly. Taking the sale prices of that account, or 100 per cent. on the sale prices, as a rated duty upon the different descriptions of tea mentioned therein, you would, of course, realize the same amount of revenue, or £8,527,659.

3477a. Are you aware of the quantity of tea which has been exported from Canton during the last four or five years, in each year, by the English and Americans together?—I have no actual account of it, but it is stated in these official tables. The statement, No. 27, contains an account of the exports from Canton by the Americans intended for European consumption; and the account No. 26, contains the amount of their exports for American consumption. These two statements, added to the amount of the Company's exports of tea, would show the actual amount exported.

3478a. Have you made any computation of the average price per pound which the Company pays for their tea at Canton upon the whole quantity? I have no statement to show it, neither have I seen any official document from which I could accurately frame it. I think the information can only be supplied with strict accuracy from the India-House.

3479a. Do you happen to know whether the prices quoted in the Canton price-currents are regulated by the prices given by the East-India Company for their tea, they being, of course, the principal purchasers in that market?—Being the principal purchasers in the market, their purchases will, of course,



22 March 1880.

H. Richards, Esq.

course, very materially influence the prices at which the tea is procured; but there are other purchasers in the market, the Americans and the Indian merchants, and their demand for tea will, of course, have its effect in influencing the price: but I should consider the Company's demand for tea to have the chief influence upon the actual price of the tea quoted in the price-currents.

3480*a*. Then you consider it a fair datum to consider the cost of the East-India Company's teas to be the prices stated in the Canton price-currents?—Certainly, I do.

3481*a*. Are you aware whether the Company's contract prices for tea are those stated in the price-currents?—I think that information can only be procured, with the accuracy to be depended upon, from the records of the India-House itself.

3482*a*. From your intercourse with persons carrying on the China trade, are you aware of any peculiar difficulties in the way of merchants trading with China?—Private merchants of this country are shut out of China altogether. The merchants from India are allowed to carry on a trade between India and China; but that trade now, and the consequences of that trade, are most materially obstructed by its not being entirely thrown open. The great obstructions experienced in this case by the Indian merchants may be considered a question of national importance. The removal of those obstructions would be attended with immense advantages to this country.

3483*a*. By whom are the obstructions interposed?—By the system; that is, by the operation of the Chinese monopoly, which is sanctioned by Act of Parliament.

3484*a*. Do you mean by the East-India Company or by the Chinese?—I mean to say that obstructions arise out of the system itself.

3485*a*. Is it the system adopted by the Chinese, or the system as regulated by this country?—I mean the whole system, and what is commonly called the Chinese monopoly particularly.

3486*a*. In China or in England?—Altogether, both in India and in China.

3487*a*. Do you mean arising from the laws of England or the laws of China?—It arises out of the peculiar manner in which the trade is carried on, and the operation of the system altogether upon the trade.

3488. Will you explain in what way the system throws difficulties in the way, both as regards the Chinese government and the Company's establishment?—I have long been of opinion that the Company's trade has been a source of great injury, not only to India, but to this country also; and likewise to have involved the Company themselves in all their present difficulties and incumbrances. I have no hesitation, indeed, in saying, that I consider it, from the official accounts which have been printed and published, to be the sole cause of every fraction of their debt, both at home and abroad.

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In other respects it cannot be disputed, now-a-days, that it must be very injurious to any country for the sovereign to be carrying on trade on his own account in his own dominions. Such injury is experienced, or at all events was experienced, to very considerable extent, during the whole of the time I was in India. The Company, from having no active circulating capital of their own, are obliged to be supplied with funds for the purchase of their teas in China from their Indian revenue. A large portion of the revenues required for the China trade is taken in kind on the western side of India; in other words, they take a large quantity of cotton, or used to do so when I was in Bombay, from the districts belonging to themselves, where, as sovereigns of the country, they consider themselves entitled to one-half the gross produce of the soil as a land-tax. That one-half, in the cotton-districts, being taken in kind, the ryots or cultivators were compelled to surrender the other half to the Company's agents at a certain price; but this price was not a price agreed upon at the time of the purchase between the Company's commercial resident and the cultivators. The price was fixed, after the cotton had been embarked on board the Company's ships and sent off to China, by a committee, consisting of the judge of the district, the collector of the district, and the commercial resident, who met for the purpose of settling the price which the ryots were to receive for the remaining half of the cotton, and that price they were obliged to take. The price was often below that which they could have got from private merchants. This was formerly the case on the western side of India, and it is probably the system of the present day. Besides which, I have reason to know that whenever the Company go into the market for the purchase of any commodity in India not under their immediate control, the knowledge of their being purchasers has the effect of immediately raising the price of the article, and it raises it so materially in the Indian market, as to render it extremely difficult for the merchants in India to make remittances to this country. It often happens, therefore, that they cannot send home goods at the market price of those goods, except at a dead loss; and their legitimate commercial operations, as regards the intercourse between India and England, are thus materially obstructed, which I take to be entirely owing to the system now prevailing, of the government being traders in their own country. It would be a vast advantage to the Indian merchants if they could be allowed to make their remittances by way of China; but there they are obstructed also: and there the obstruction is, as it appears to me, of great national importance. If the trade of China were perfectly free, the merchants of India would increase their consignments to China, and from the sale-proceeds of those consignments they might be enabled to purchase the bills of the British traders on England at a reasonable rate of exchange, and thereby make remittances upon favourable terms. At present they are precluded from this advantage; the consequence is, that the returns for their consignments to China are necessarily sent back to India; they go back to India partly in bills granted by the supercargoes in China on the India governments at a low rate of exchange,

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

change, and partly in bullion and goods. During the years 1828-9 the exchange from Canton on Calcutta was but 200 rupees for 100 Spanish dollars, whilst the par of exchange is 207 rupees for 100 Spanish dollars. The same thing took place with regard to the exchange on Bombay; private merchants could only get bills at 212 rupees for 100 Spanish dollars instead of 220, the real par. The consequence of this obstruction is, that private merchants are under the necessity of carrying back such goods, in small quantities, as will sell in India; and of late years, particularly as the Company's treasury in Canton has been shut against bills on this country, of returning to India with large quantities of bullion. There is scarcely a ship that has lately come from Canton to Calcutta that has not brought back dollars and Sycee silver to a great amount. Instead, therefore, of the ordinary advantages of legitimate traffic, the Indian merchants are actually deprived of those means of remittance to England which they are most desirous of accomplishing, and through which the national interests would be greatly promoted. In this way there is, as I conceive, a most important obstruction thrown in the way of the commercial intercourse between India and England, by the restrictions on trade arising out of the system of the Company's China monopoly.

3489*a*. How does that interference affect the dealings with the Chinese at Canton?—The dealings with the Chinese at Canton would be proportionally increased if the trade was thrown open, because it would encourage greater exports from this country, and larger exports from India to China, if the Indian merchants had the means of remitting to England, which they are now in search of, and in which they are so much obstructed.

3490*a*. Do you consider the exports from China as sufficient to afford the means of remittance for all the exports which it is now so difficult to obtain?—I have no doubt that from such a country as China almost any amount might be provided for the purpose of returns to this country, to India, and to other parts of the world.

3491*a*. On what authority do you form that opinion?—I ground it upon the belief, that such a country as China, with all its varieties of soil and climate, and occupied by a naturally industrious population, cannot fail to produce all the articles which it now yields in far greater quantities than it now does.

3492*a*. Have you had any communication or information enabling you to form an opinion of the anxiety of the Chinese to extend their trade?—I believe that the Chinese are a perfectly commercial people. Wherever the Chinese have been established, in Sincapore, in Java, in Borneo, and in the other eastern islands where they are settled in great numbers, they are found to be the principal traders, and the most industrious people in the country. I therefore take the Chinese, generally speaking, to be a perfectly commercial people, and exceedingly anxious to extend their commercial dealings,

in



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 423

in spite of any restrictive regulations that may be imposed upon them by the Chinese government.

22 March 1830.

3493a. Have you had any specific examples brought to your notice of the desire on the part of the Chinese, in other ports than Canton, to open a communication with English merchants?—Yes. I have in my possession an extract of a letter from an European merchant who had visited China, to his friend and correspondent in Calcutta. It is dated Canton, 19th September 1823; and the extract is as follows:

R. Richards, Esq.

“The Manilla people only are allowed liberty to trade to Amoy, which would have been granted to us could we have waited. A mandarin followed us *seven miles from the port of Amoy to entreat our return*, which, however our plans would not admit of. We experienced civil treatment, even from the mandarins of rank, and the complaisance of the inhabitants generally formed an agreeable contrast to the haughty demeanour of the lowest here (Canton). The single circumstance of foreigners not being denied women (as they are most rigidly here, Canton) speaks volumes. No foreigner is allowed to remain after the departure of his ship. As far as we could learn, no charge similar to measurement-duty is levied on foreign ships. The government revenue is derived from an export duty, which the foreigner pays on his export cargo: but this duty appears to be not fixed; and I suspect the injudiciousness of the mandarins in increasing it beyond bounds, is the cause of the discontinuance of the trade by the Manilla people. It is probable that, with a view to bring it back, the mandarins would now be more reasonable. They seemed to say, that the Hong merchants of Amoy are pretty much in the bankrupt situation of those here (Canton). They inquired much for most of the articles from the eastern isles imported in their junks; and also for rice, *for which they rely mainly on Formosa*; but we could form no idea of the price to be obtained for them. The prices of the European articles we saw in the shops were not so much above the Canton rates as was to be expected. I am very keen for an adventure to Amoy, for the purpose of opening new channels for opium in that quarter, the chief mart of its consumption; but it is too weighty a concern for us to undertake singly; and I have contented myself with writing to Manilla for information, and with sounding our friends there on the subject. As you have already adventured in a Chinese bottom, you will, I hope, give a lift to our plans also. The foreign trade in junks is not contraband in China, since the accession of the present family (about 1660). It is *connived at by the government, and is, I believe, even licensed at Amoy*. I do not see why a junk could not load goods at Amoy or elsewhere, as if for a foreign port (Manilla, Batavia, &c.), and afterwards tranship them to a foreign vessel waiting in the neighbourhood.”

3494a. What, in your opinion, would be the result of opening the trade with China to Englishmen generally?—I believe it would have the effect of extending the commercial intercourse between this country and the East most materially. I ventured in the year 1813 to predict, that that would be the consequence of opening the trade to India. That opinion is most abundantly proved by No. 40 of the “Papers relating to the Finances of India,” which is contained in the collection presented by His Majesty’s command in February 1830, and now on this table. It was stated at that time (1813) by the advocates of the Company, that it was impossible to increase the export trade to India. I ventured to entertain a different opinion; and I refer to this statement, No. 40, in support of the opinion I then



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

then gave. That statement shows that, on the average of sixteen years, the Company's exports of goods to India were only 385,650 rupees per annum, whereas the average of sixteen years exports by private individuals from Great Britain is 1,56,96,078 rupees. The treasure exported by the East-India Company averages 12,15,294 rupees, and by individuals 24,40,113 rupees. The total of the exports by the East-India Company is therefore 57,10,344 rupees, and by private individuals 1,81,36,191 rupees. If the whole of the exports by individuals from foreign Europe and America contained in that statement be added to the English exports, it will give a total of 2,82,54,537 rupees by individuals, against 50,71,344 rupees by the Company. Thus the trade to India is proved to have been capable of increase, which I then maintained would be the case; and though this increase exceeds even my expectations, considering all circumstances, still, great as it is, I have a most perfect conviction that, if the trade to China was also opened, there would be a far greater increase of the exports from this country than is exhibited in this statement.

3495a. Are you not aware of the peculiarities of the Chinese government with regard to trade, and that a comparison cannot therefore be fairly made between India and China as to any expected increase?—I know that the Chinese government have imposed restrictive regulations upon the foreign trade of their own country; but I know, at the same time, that these regulations are completely set at nought by the commercial spirit of the people.

3496a. Are you aware that the Chinese government prohibit entirely the exportation of silver?—They do.

3497a. Have you any means of stating to the Committee what quantities are annually exported notwithstanding those prohibitions?—I have already stated in a former answer, that large quantities of silver were necessarily exported from Canton to Calcutta, and to Bombay, in consequence of the low rate of exchange prevailing there, and the impossibility of the Indian merchants getting a remittance for their funds to this country *via* China. I have in my office in the City various accounts of remittances of bullion to Bengal and Bombay in different seasons; but just previous to my coming down to the Committee I fell in with a Canton price-current and register, which gives the following as the exports of bullion from Canton to Calcutta and Bombay in the year 1828. The exportation to Bengal in dollars was 2,169,837. In Sycee silver, 19,210; South American silver, 55,273; total, 2,244,320 dollars. The exportation to Bombay in dollars, Sycee and South American silver, 3,423,659 dollars. Total exported, 5,667,979 dollars. The importations of dollars in the season 1828, are stated in the same register to amount to about 2,304,800; and the circulation of Company's bills on the Supreme Government of Bengal would probably not amount to more than seventeen lacs of dollars. I copied this information out of the printed register, dated 26th February 1828.

3498a. Are you not afraid, that if the trade were thrown open by removing the



the Company's present exclusive privilege, there might be danger of interruption to the trade with Englishmen?—Not the least. I am clearly of opinion that we have means, and more powerful means, of controlling the trade with China, than the Chinese government itself.

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

3499a. On what do you found that opinion?—From the printed official statements before the public. It appears in one of them, *viz.* No. 29 of Papers, &c. 4th June 1829, that out of 15,000,000 of imports into Canton in one year, 11,000,000 were of the article of opium. Now the Chinese, although it is a prohibited article, are in the constant habit of using it, the higher ranks as well as the lower ranks. They cannot therefore do without it. It is well known that those persons who are in the habit of using opium cannot leave it off; the Chinese would therefore require importations of opium to the same extent as formerly. They require also large supplies of dollars; for it is a curious fact, as stated in the register I have before quoted, that the importation of dollars into China in the year referred to was only 2,304,800, when the exports to Bombay and Bengal amounted to above 5,600,000. In this state of export and import, it is therefore clear that China must be in constant need of a supply of dollars, which, in the case supposed, it could only procure from private traders. The Chinese also require to be supplied, as stated in the extract of the letter I gave in, with rice from the island of Formosa. It is understood that two, at least, of the provinces on the eastern side of China are deficient in that commodity, and that if those supplies were stopped it would go a great way to create disturbance in the country. Although I do not anticipate any such obstruction as is contemplated in the question (for I have no idea that the Chinese would have the least objection to the opening of the trade), still if measures of coercion should be rendered eventually necessary, the employment of two or three cruisers upon the coast would effectually prevent the entrance of those very important supplies into China, which I have above enumerated; the consequence of which would be great distress to the Chinese themselves, and, in all probability, immediate concessions and advances for a renewal of friendly intercourse, even if they had been previously disposed, under the orders of their own government, to obstruct it. Let it also be recollected that they would have, if the trade were stopped, large supplies of tea on hand; and if they could not sell those teas to English merchants, I should be glad to know to whom they would sell them. In this respect our means of influencing the trade are also great, for a stoppage of the tea-trade would be attended with incalculable distress to a vast mass of population in the tea districts; it is therefore to the full as much their interest to sell as it is ours to buy. But if all these means and powerful incentives were to fail, we have still a hope left; for it is well known by those gentlemen who have lived in the Eastern Islands for some time, that the Chinese merchants established in those islands would at any time contract with foreigners upon the spot to supply any quantity of tea, and of any quality that might be desired. If therefore English ships were prohibited going to China, I conceive that supplies



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

plies of tea and other Chinese articles might just as easily be got from Singapore, or Java, and other ports in the Eastern Archipelago, as they can now from China itself. These then are the grounds of my belief, that under all circumstances, we have the means of controlling the trade with China, even more effectually than the Chinese government itself; for when the Chinese merchants and the mass of the community find that they have an interest in carrying on certain branches of trade, they will do it; as is sufficiently manifest in their importation of opium, and export of silver, in spite of the most severe laws that can be enacted by their own government.

3500*a*. Are you of opinion, that it is as much the interest of China to trade with us, as it is of England to trade with China?—I think so, if not more.

3501*a*. In what way do you consider that a few English cruisers would so influence the Chinese government as to oblige them to open the trade, if, by any circumstance, it was once interrupted?—I allude to that as an extreme case, and of course only to be resorted to in the event of its being found indispensably necessary, or justified by some previous act of aggression on the part of the Chinese authorities. I am far from thinking it one that is likely to happen; but if it should be necessary to control the government of China by force, I think that, by the means I have suggested, you might effectually accomplish the intended object. I repeat, however, that I do not anticipate you ever would be obliged to have recourse to any such measure of hostility; for my firm belief is, that the Chinese would gladly hail the approach of free-traders, and receive their goods, giving theirs in return, without the least difficulty.

3502*a*. Have you known of any circumstance obliging the Chinese government to make terms with individuals interrupting their trade?—I am not acquainted with any that I could speak very decidedly to; I have heard of such occurrences, but the public records are probably the best authority on this head.

3503*a*. Do you suppose it would be necessary to export bullion to China for the purchase of tea, silks, and other articles which would be required by the extended trade you contemplate?—Certainly not, no more than it is now necessary to export bullion to India. The trade would soon fall into channels which would render it easy for British merchants resorting to China to furnish themselves with funds, by giving bills to Indian merchants, or their representatives in China, or to agents on the spot; and funds would thus be raised to any required extent upon reasonable terms, such as would enable the trade to be carried on, in all probability, with advantage to both parties.

3504*a*. Is it your opinion that the operation of the trade at Canton would be equally beneficial to India as to England, in promoting the general commerce between all the three countries?—The advantage that would result to the Indian merchants from making the trade to China perfectly free, and
by



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 427

by thus promoting British exports, appears to me to be absolutely in- 22 March 1830.
calculable.

3505*a*. Is not the export of goods to India at the present moment limited by the difficulty of obtaining returns?—Most certainly; in the way I have explained.

R. Richards, Esq.

3506*a*. Is it your opinion that the exports from China to England, and to the rest of the world, which might be available by English merchants, would remove that difficulty, and consequently increase the general trade, not only from China, but from England to India?—It would, in my opinion, increase it incalculably. I cannot express my conviction on this head too strongly.

3507*a*. And these are the grounds on which you consider such advantages would accrue to both India and England from a free intercourse with China?—Yes.

3508*a*. Do you know how the Company pay their investments in China, as it is evident from the official returns that they do not send out manufactures equal to purchase their investments?—I have always been of opinion, ever since I had the first opportunity, in the year 1812–13, of analyzing the Company's accounts, that their trade is entirely supplied by their revenues; and that, so far from their commerce ever being of the slightest aid to the territorial concern, it is the territory that alone supports and upholds their commerce. They could not, in my opinion, carry on trade without the support of the revenue. Their supplies of investments, both from India and China, are invariably furnished by Indian revenues.

3509*a*. Is it your opinion that the government of India, under these circumstances, would be maintained better by the Company not being traders, either to India or to China, than as they now are?—I am quite sure that it would. I have no doubt that it would be found, upon a careful examination of the official accounts which have been laid before Parliament, that there has been a surplus revenue from the territories of India, to a very considerable amount, for the last thirty-five or thirty-six years at the least, which accounts I have had an opportunity of inspecting. That surplus revenue would have enabled the Company to carry on the political concern without any foreign aid whatever. I consider, on the other hand, that the commerce of the East-India Company is the sole cause of all their incumbrances and debts. I avail myself with pleasure of the opportunity which the question affords me, of adding my unreserved belief, from a careful examination of the records of the India Company, which have been printed and circulated in four large folio volumes, for the use, I believe, of their servants abroad—from the ability displayed in those records, and the anxious disposition uniformly expressed to promote the welfare of their territorial possessions, that the East-India Company will be found to be by far the best
organ



22 March 1830. organ or instrument that His Majesty's Government can employ for the future political administration of that country; and I do lament most sincerely, that they should ever think it necessary to mix up a commercial character with their political one, inasmuch as I, as conscientiously, believe their commerce to be their bane.

R. Rickards, Esq.

3510a. Will you be prepared, at a future period, to submit to the Committee a statement, showing how far the revenues of India are, in your opinion, from the documents laid before Parliament, adequate to maintain the government of that country without the aid or interference of commerce?—Yes, I am perfectly prepared to prove it now.

3511a. You have stated, that by the Company going into the market in India as merchants, considerable derangement and increase of price takes place at various places where their investments are purchased: are you able to state what effect the sales of those investments have on the general state of commerce in England, when they take place?—As far as regards their interfering with the purchase of goods in India, I have already stated, that whenever the Company's agents are known to be in the market, it invariably has the effect of running up the prices from 15 to 30 per cent. The price of cotton, for example, I have known to be run up by this cause. Since I have left India I have also known of many instances, from correspondence I have carried on with India, where the same effect has been produced in other articles. I remember, upon one occasion, that when the Company first entered into the indigo trade, the government of Bengal were afraid of making their purchases openly for the Company's investment. They employed an agent upon the spot to make purchases for them. It was very soon found out by the resident merchants of Calcutta that there was a Company's agent in the market, and the price was run up in the course of about eight or ten days from 190 rupees a maund to 230, 240, and 250 rupees a maund. I happen to know of one house in Calcutta, that having made a purchase of a considerable quantity of indigo at 190 rupees per maund, sold it in a few days afterwards for 230 or 240 rupees per maund, and thus realized upon the resale of it, in consequence of the Company being in the market, between three and four lacs of rupees before they had had time to pay for the original purchase.

3512a. Would not that rise in price be occasioned by any other great customer coming into the market?—By such a customer as the East-India Company.

3513a. Do you know any persons trading to India who have the capital at command that the East-India Company have, to go into the market and purchase so largely of any commodity?—I know of no capital that the Company possess, except what they obtain annually from their revenues in India;



India; but that capital is so enormous, that it is impossible for any private merchant to compete with them.

22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

3514a. Can you state any effect that has been produced on the markets in England by the Company's sales of their large purchases?—In some instances it may affect the markets here; but the Company's sales in general of their goods have been very fairly made, and I would not say that it affects the markets here materially, although in some instances it may have done so.

3515a. You consider the effects to be principally in their making their purchases in India?—That is the great cause of derangement, and which is absolutely ruinous to the commercial intercourse between the two countries.

3516a. Are you able to state how far that principle may apply to their purchases in Canton?—Their purchases in Canton are made, as I stated before, by supplies, in a great measure, which are forwarded from India in goods to Canton for that purpose; those goods are either taken in kind from the revenues of India, as I have before explained in respect to the west of India, or else they are purchased in the public market, as in Bengal, at a price far above that which the private merchants would give; and as long as the China monopoly is continued, these injuries will also be perpetuated.

3517a. You refer now to the proportion of goods which the Company purchase in India?—Yes.

3518a. How does that affect the purchase of tea?—Upon a fair mercantile statement of the concern, it would certainly affect the out-turn of the speculation.

3519a. Do you mean to say that much of the Company's revenue is collected in kind in Bombay?—I know that it was when I was in India, in the cotton districts belonging to the Company on the western side of the peninsula. They were constantly in the habit of taking their proportion of the cotton produce, or half of the gross produce, in kind.

3520a. Was not that always a very small proportion of the cotton exported from India to China?—Not a small proportion. I know that in Bengal they purchase cotton; but I have letters from gentlemen in Calcutta, stating that the prices in the year 1821 of cotton to the East-India Company was about 25 rupees per maund, when it was procurable by private merchants at the rate of 15. This was ascertained from the circumstance of the Company having sent out orders to Calcutta, that the commanders and officers of their ships should only be allowed to take cotton to China on condition of taking it from the Company at the prices which it cost them. On another year it was stated, that the cost was in the same way to the captains



22 March 1830.

R. Richards, Esq.

and officers of the Indiamen 18 rupees, when the current market price of it in Calcutta was 14.

3521a. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of opening the trade to China to the English generally; would it give the British merchants any advantage over the Americans and Dutch, or other people, for the supply of Europe?—A very great advantage over all other nations; and that advantage would arise out of the facilities which I have before mentioned, that would be mutually granted to each other by the Indian and the British traders. It would also give a great advantage to British merchants, in as far as it would enable them to supply all our colonies, South America, and even the countries of Europe, with Chinese produce, which they could do then upon better terms than the Americans, or the French, or the Portuguese, or Dutch, or any other nation that has been in the habit of trading to China. The advantages of opening the trade to China, both to England and to India, as I before said, appear to me to be quite incalculable.

3522a. Are our colonies principally supplied with Chinese produce by other countries?—The Americans now participate very largely in the carrying trade; but I have had conversations myself with Americans on this very subject, and their apprehension is, that if the trade to China were once thrown open to British merchants, they (the Americans) would be entirely thrown out of the market. There is doubtless some cause for this alarm, from what has already taken place in India. In consequence of the degree of freedom given to the trade in India since 1813, British merchants have completely excluded the Americans from that country; it is therefore no unreasonable conclusion that the same effect would be produced by opening the trade to China. The Americans are at all events alive to it as a probable result.

Martis, 23^o die Martii, 1830.

HENRY WILLIAM MASTERSON, Esq. called in, and examined.

23 March 1830.

*H. W. Masterson,
Esq.*

3523a. I BELIEVE you are vice-consul at Rotterdam?—I am.

3524a. You do not receive any salary?—No; I have never received any remuneration from any one on that account.

3525a. Are you engaged in trade?—For the last fifteen years I have had the superintendence of a commercial concern at Rotterdam.

3526a. Is



3526a. Is that commercial concern upon an extensive scale?—It has been upon an extensive scale. 23 March 1830.

3527a. Have you directed much of your attention to the tea-trade in Holland?—I have for the last ten or twelve years. *H. W. Masterson, Esq.*

3528a. Can you exhibit any view of the tea-trade, for what period?—I can lay before the Committee a statement made up by myself, containing a view of the Netherlands tea-trade for the last twelve years, distinguishing the quantity imported by the Dutch, and by Americans, the only other parties who have been engaged in the trade. About half a million of quarter-chests of tea have been imported in that period, giving an average annual importation of about 41,000 quarter-chests.

3529a. Does that include the whole of the Netherlands?—It includes Belgium and the whole of the Netherlands. The statement exhibits about three-fifths of the trade in the hands of the Americans, and two-fifths only in the hands of the Dutch, during the whole of that period. The statement shows also the duties and prices; the duty varies from five-eighths of a penny per English pound to four-pence and five-eighths, according to circumstances, bringing it into English money and weights.

3530a. Is that an *ad valorem* duty?—No; there was an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. in 1818, when this statement commences; but some alteration was then made with a view of favouring the Dutch flag, which has not, however, had that effect; indeed the duties are so low, that the difference between importations by Dutch and foreign flags is only about an English penny in the lower prices, and on the higher prices it is nothing.

3531a. Are there any duties paid upon importations in foreign bottoms into the Dutch ports?—For the lower sorts of teas, instead of five-eighths of a penny by a Dutch vessel, it is one penny and five-eighths by foreign vessels, and there is a duty of a tenth upon English vessels; that is a general additional duty upon all articles imported in English vessels.

3532a. Will you have the goodness to deliver in the statement you have prepared?—[*The witness delivered in the same, which was read, as follows:*]



23 March 1830.

TEA TRADE TO

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

IMPORTATIONS.						DUTIES ON
Netherland Vessels.		Great Britain & Ireland.		TOTAL.		
Number of whole Cargoes.	Quantity.	Number of whole Cargoes.	Quantity, in whole or broken Cargoes.	Imports.	By Netherland Vessels.	
1818	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ chests. 37,381	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ chests. 53,154	$\frac{1}{4}$ chests. 90,535	10 per cent. ad valorem		
1819	1 6,948	11 52,981	59,929	<i>If imported direct:</i> Bohea and low Congo, } $\frac{7}{16}$ th of a 5 guilders 6 cents per 100 } penny per Nethd. lbs. } Eng. lb. Other sorts, 10 guilders } $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a 12 cents } penny.		
1820	3 14,029	12 59,343	73,372	<i>If imported indirect:</i> Bohea and low Congo, } $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny 16 guilders 19 cents. } per Eng. lb. Other sorts, 32 guilders } 3 pence. 36 cents		
1821	1 6,279	2 10,934	17,213	<i>If imported direct, and in whole Cargoes:</i> Bohea and low Congo, } $\frac{7}{16}$ th of a 7 guilders per 100 N. } penny per lbs. } Eng. lb. Other sorts, 12 guild- } $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a ers. } penny.		
1822	2 8,987	4 19,037	28,024	<i>If imported indirect, in broken Cargoes:</i> Bohea and low Congo, } $1\frac{1}{2}$ th of a 18 guilders } penny per All other sorts, 34 guild- } Eng. lb. ers } 3 pence.		
1823	— —	4 26,192	26,192	<i>Imported direct, in whole Cargoes:</i> As before.		
1824	1 6,811	2 6,212	13,023	<i>If imported indirect, in broken Cargoes:</i> Bohea and low Congo, } $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence 27 guilders per 100 N. } per Eng. lb. lbs. } All other sorts, 51 } $4\frac{1}{8}$ th pence guilders		
1825	1 6,364	5 30,860	37,224			
1826	6 37,764	1 8,004	45,768			
1827	4 23,583	— 4,455	28,038			
1828	4 29,834	3 16,838	46,672			
1829	3 21,034	1 5,358	26,392			
32	199,014	53	293,368	492,382		

N.B.—THE different sized packages of tea have all been brought to quarter-chests in the above Table. The $\frac{1}{4}$ chest taken at 66 Eng. lbs. net, makes the average annual import, 2,700,000 lbs. The average consumption is estimated at 2,600,000 lbs.

Rotterdam, the 8th March 1830.



23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

THE NETHERLANDS.

IMPORTATIONS.	P R I C E S (Duty paid), Taken about the middle of each Year.	
	In Dutch Money, Per $\frac{1}{2}$ Netherland lb.	In English Money, Per English lb.
		s. d. s. d.
No difference	Black, 11 to 51 stivers, per $\frac{1}{2}$ N. lb. (low Bohea to fine Souchong) Green, 23 to 75 stivers. (common Skin to fine Hyson) }	Black, 0 10 to 3 10 Green, 1 9 to 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
No difference	Black, 10 to 50 stivers.	Black, 0 9 to 3 9
	Green, 16 to 56 —	Green, 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Black, 10 to 42 —	Black, 0 9 to 3 2
	Green, 17 to 54 —	Green, 1 3 to 4 0
.....	Black, 10 to 40 —	Black, 0 9 to 3 0
	Green, 16 to 42 —	Green, 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 2
Bohea and low } 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ths Congo, 18 guilders } penny per per 100 N. lbs. } Eng. lb. All other sorts, } 3 pence. 34 guilders	Black, 16 to 48 —	Black, 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 7
	Green, 22 to 56 —	Green, 1 8 to 4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Black, 15 to 42 —	Black, 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 2
	Green, 25 to 51 —	Green, 1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 10
	Black, 16 to 45 —	Black, 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Green, 27 to 50 —	Green, 1 11 to 3 9
	Black, 16 to 55 —	Black, 1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Green, 28 to 50 —	Green, 2 1 to 3 9
	Black, 10 to 45 —	Black, 0 9 to 3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Green, 19 to 46 —	Green, 1 5 to 3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
If direct, in whole Cargoes : Bohea and low } 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ths Congo, 18 guilders, } penny. All other sorts, } 3 pence. 34 guilders	Black, 10 to 40 —	Black, 0 9 to 3 0
	Green, 18 to 48 —	Green, 1 4 to 3 7
Indirect, and in broken Cargoes : Bohea and low } 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pence. Congo, 27 guilders } All other sorts, } 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ th 51 guilders. } pence.	Black, 9 to 45 —	Black, 0 8 to 3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Green, 15 to 42 —	Green, 1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 2
	Black, 10 to 48 —	Black, 0 9 to 3 7
	Green, 17 to 50 —	Green, 1 3 to 3 9

N.B.—From $\frac{1}{10}$ th to $\frac{1}{20}$ th of a penny must be added to the foregoing specific duties on tea, for the general augmentation on the duties of all goods, which varies from year to year, and has fluctuated between 13 and 15 per cent.

H. W. MASTERSON.



23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3533a. What is the population of the Netherlands?—Six millions; two millions for Holland, and four millions for Belgium.

3534a. Do the Belgians consume much tea?—Comparatively with the Dutch, very little.

3535a. Is any part of the tea brought into Holland exported?—A portion is exported, but a very small one, as Hamburgh competes with Holland in the exportation to the interior of Germany. Some portion of tea goes from Holland even as far as Poland; it is supposed with the intention of smuggling it into Russia.

3536a. Does any of it find its way up the Rhine?—Yes, some green tea to Germany, and some black tea to Poland, for the purpose I have mentioned.

3537a. Do the Dutch consume more black or more green tea?—The Dutch consume more black than green teas. Some provinces, Friesland for example, more green than black. Brabant, which is supplied from Holland, as it imports very little tea, takes chiefly green tea from Holland. Some very fine hyson and gunpowder tea is supposed to find a particular demand, at present, in Holland for Brabant, for the consumption of the numerous English settlers in Brussels and that quarter, who take the higher-priced teas.

3538a. Has the consumption of teas in Holland been increasing since 1818?—It has been stationary; it is supposed to be about 2,400,000 pounds Dutch, about 2,700,000 pounds English. The consumption is supposed to be about 40,000 chests: the importation is about 41,000 chests.

3539a. Can you describe the quality of the tea consumed in Holland?—From my own knowledge, I will not take upon myself to speak of the quality of tea. I have brought with me samples of a cargo of tea which is now selling at Amsterdam, and which is considered by the trade in Holland as a good cargo, and may be considered a fair specimen of tea exported from China by foreigners; these samples are of tea which will have been sold on the 17th instant.

[The Witness produced the same.]

3540. Have you any means of knowing whether that is the same quality or inferior in quality to that which is consumed in England?—From my own knowledge I cannot pretend to speak; but I have a case in point, of a person in Holland having required some tea, about a year since, of a particular quality, good souchong, which was not at that time to be obtained in Holland. He sent a sample of what he required to a merchant in England. I have the letter with me which he received in reply, and I will produce it; it is dated London, the 2d of May 1829, and it is as follows:—“My broker has just tasted the sample of tea referred to in yours of the 18th ultimo, and pronounces it superior to any we have here at the present moment. Some equal to it may arrive by the ships daily expected, and if so he will report to me, and it shall be communicated to you, and for that



that purpose the remainder of your sample will be retained: it would be worth here, I mean as a legal importation, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d. per lb." The grocer's shop price for that tea in Rotterdam was 42 stivers, duty of 3½ stivers paid, or at the rate of 2s. 10½d. per English pound, duty off.

23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3541a. Was there much of that tea, a sample of which was sent to this country, in Holland?—There was none of it. I presume that the person in question had five or six quarter-chests of it, a portion of a parcel he had bought from the cargo of the American ship *Washington*.

3542a. Was it select tea?—I know nothing of it further than that he had bought some of the tea, and wanted some more.

3543a. Do you happen to know whether it arose from the teas in England being two years old that the dealer of Rotterdam could not obtain tea of a similar quality to the sample he sent over?—I never heard any detail further than this letter exhibits, which he put into my hands at the time.

3544a. Do you mean to state, that it is the course of trade for merchants in Holland to send for tea to England in that way?—No, it is quite an uncommon thing; I never heard of such a thing before. It was the grocer's own idea that he could get the tea he wanted in that way.

3545a. Do you mean to say 4s. 4d. is the average price of souchong at the Company's sales?—No, it was a particularly good quality. The letter states that there was no quality so good here at the time, but that the price would be 4s. 4d. for that quality, the price of which was 42 stivers in Holland.

3546a. Is not the souchong a black tea?—It is.

3547a. Is 'that of the highest quality?—It is not the highest priced in Holland: we have souchong in Holland as high as 56 stivers, but there was none of that particular description in the market.

3548a. Can you give the Committee any idea of the relative prices of tea in England and Holland?—I can give no better idea of the relative prices than by this instance; the prices in the table I have delivered in show that tea has been very stationary in value; there has been very little fluctuation for ten years; 8d. has been the lowest price, and 10d. the highest, for the lowest quality of bohea; this is the wholesale price, duty paid.

3549a. Have you any account of all the descriptions of teas?—To make up the table I have delivered in I have taken three descriptions of black tea, bohea, congo, and souchong, and two descriptions of green, hyson-skin and hyson. The prices have varied during twelve years, for black tea, from bohea to the best souchong, as follows; the lowest rates have been from 8d. to 3s. 4½d., and the highest from 10d. to 4s. 1½d.

3550a. Then the fluctuation has been for the lowest quality from 8d. to 10d., and for the best quality from 3s. 4½d. to 4s. 1½d.?—Yes, that has been the greatest fluctuation in twelve years. The lowest price, I find, of hyson skin



23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

skin is 1s. 8d. duty paid, and the highest price for that lowest quality of green seems to be 2s. 1d., and the highest for the best quality 5s. 7½d.

3551a. Is the bohea the lowest description of tea?—It is.

3552a. Is the best of the bohea equal to any description of congo, or not?—No, I am not aware that it is.

3553a. The congo is the next quality, is any of that equal to souchong?—No; at least the prices indicate so.

3554a. Can you state the price of tea sold retail in Holland, and compare that with the price of tea sold wholesale?—The retail prices, as compared with the wholesale prices in Holland, show a very great difference in the low qualities, but in the higher qualities the retail prices differ but little from the wholesale prices. In the lower qualities, of course, the shopkeeper, whose profits are very great, is obliged to allow of its being apparent that he is making 50 per cent. profit, because he can mix no tea of an inferior price with that which is of the lowest quality; but in the higher price of tea, he invariably sells at nearly the prices which he buys at wholesale, because he mixes inferior teas with those superior qualities, and because he has a considerable profit in the allowance of draft and tare upon the purchase of them; but bohea tea, of which the prices are at 8d. and 10d. wholesale, is about 16 stivers a pound retail, 1s. 2½d. per English pound.

3555a. Have you any information with respect to the proportion which the retail price in Holland bears to the wholesale price in England?—The letter I have produced states 42 stivers to be the retail price in Holland of tea, which was stated to be worth 50d. English wholesale. Now, the difference between 50d. per pound, the English wholesale price, and 42 stivers, the Dutch retail price, is equal to 32 per cent.

3556a. Does either of the prices you have stated include the duty?—I have left out the amount of duty in both cases; the retail dealer's profits are included in the Dutch price.

3557a. Are the prices you have named as existing at Rotterdam the wholesale prices, including the profit of the retail dealer?—For a single quarter-chest.

3558a. And the prices in this country are the wholesale prices as they exist at the India-House for large quantities?—For a lot, I presume. I am not aware of the previous correspondence that passed between the parties in this case; but a few chests only could have been wanted.

3559a. You have stated the duty to be from five-eighths of a penny to 4d. and five-eighths; and in the wholesale price you have given of the different qualities of tea, you have reckoned the duty paid: can you state what difference it would have made if you had taken off the duty in those different cases?—It is matter of calculation, and could be easily ascertained, as it depends upon the quality of the several sorts of tea.

3560a. Are



3560a. Are the Committee to understand, that in calculating the price, including the duty, you are to deduct five-eighths of a penny from the lowest quality, and 4d. and five-eighths from the highest?—You may take it as a general rule to deduct 4d. and five-eighths from the highest quality without exception; but the duties upon the lower depend upon the nature of the importation, whether by Dutch or foreign vessels.

23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3561a. Can you describe the character and constitution of the trading company in Holland?—The company was established in 1824, for trade to all parts of the world, with a view to promote the trade of the country generally, and Netherland manufactures particularly. The capital originally amounted to 37,000,000 guilders, that is about £3,000,000 sterling; it has been reduced to 27,000,000 guilders.

3562a. Has that reduction been occasioned by losses in trade?—I believe it has been reduced by losses considerably more than that; but they have reduced their nominal capital to that extent, by buying up some of their bonds in the market.

3563a. Do they trade very extensively?—They commenced trading to all parts of the world; but they have found it unprofitable in most branches, and they have restricted themselves to a few at present.

3564a. Has their trade in tea been a losing or a gainful concern?—It has been a favourite object, particularly with the King of the Netherlands, that the Dutch should import teas themselves under the Dutch flag, and with that view they have persevered in the trade. Since 1825 they have imported about 100,000 quarter-chests, and they are understood to have lost about 25 tonnes of guilders by it; that is, about £200,000 in the tea-trade.

3565a. How much per cent. is that upon the capital employed?—To answer that it would be necessary to ascertain what the 100,000 chests cost. Suppose we took it at 30 stivers per pound upon the average, it would bring the value to £800,000, and the loss would be about 25 per cent. upon the trade with China. In this year (1830) they send no ships to China; and it is generally understood in Holland that they will be guided in doing so again or not, by the decision which England may come to with respect to English merchants being permitted to interfere in the trade to Holland in tea. In the event of their being so permitted, it is said the company will not persist in it.

3566a. Supposing the tea-trade to be thrown open to English merchants, do you imagine that the Dutch company will continue the trade or not?—It is reported by persons who state that they have it from the Directors themselves, that the company are induced to lie by this year, to see what is the result of the present inquiry here; that they have struggled to great disadvantage against the Americans, but that in the event of British merchants being enabled to enter on the trade, they will give up all hopes of continuing it.



23 March 1880.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3567*a*. Is it understood what are the grounds on which that disadvantages exists of carrying on the trade in Holland?—It is understood in Holland to be caused by their having nothing of any value to export to China.

3568*a*. Is it conceived then, that the result of an open trade between England and China would be to lower the price of teas in Europe?—It is no doubt the opinion in Holland, that as the company cannot compete with the Americans, who have a free trade, they would be still less able to do so with the English, who probably, for the sake of merely obtaining remittances for their exports from Hindoostan to China, if not for their exportations, manufacturers from England would be able considerably to undersell the Americans. The Dutch, as well as the merchants of other nations, have latterly given up the hope of importing teas or colonial produce to any profit upon the cost prices, and are aware that they can merely import to advantage as remittances for exports.

3569*a*. Is not the Dutch Company limited in its exportations to the manufactures of Belgium?—They have exported from Holland very little latterly to China, and hardly any Netherland manufactures; they have even sent rice to China from Java. With the permission of the Committee, I will read an extract from a discourse of M. Schimmelpennick, the president of the Dutch Trading Company. In addressing the Commissioners in June 1828, he says: “Le résultat de nos expéditions pour Canton en 1826, qui ont été réalisées en parti durant le cours de l’année 1827, vous sera détaillé dans les pièces jointes au bilan. Vous y observerez, Messieurs, que, quoique ces dernières expéditions se soient lisées avec beaucoup moins de perte que les précédentes, ce commerce, si particulièrement enjoint à la direction, lui a de nouveau coûté des sacrifices trop grands pour, qu’à la longue, elle puisse se trouver autorisée à y exposer la société.”

3570*a*. Are not the Dutch Company obliged to export Belgian manufactures?—It has been proposed to them, as I understand, to follow the American plan, and to export English manufactures; but they are not able, by the constitution of their establishment, to do so; they are restricted to their own manufactures.

3571*a*. Supposing they were allowed to export British manufactures to China, do you not conceive that they might carry on the China trade with a greater prospect of advantage than they can do now, being restricted to the export of Belgian manufactures?—There seems to be no doubt of it, since the Americans carry on the trade; and it is understood in Holland that the Americans are only enabled to bring tea to Holland at present prices, by the manufactures they import to China. The Dutch are aware that the English, of course, could export their own manufactures to as great advantage as the Americans; but they suppose, also, that many of the English East-India houses have great funds always lying at Canton, for which they are anxious to find remittances, and are heedless whether the goods they invest them in sell for cost-price or not, so long as they get a good return of the profits already



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 439

already realized by their Indian trade to China, which the funds lying there represent; upon which principle trade, in all colonial produce, has been carrying on for a considerable time.

23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3572a. Would the English merchants have a considerable advantage in carrying on that trade, inasmuch as it is England which produces the article most in requisition in the China market?—It is understood so in Holland; and that they have that further advantage in the exports of raw cotton and other goods that go to China from Hindoostan.

3573a. Are the Dutch Trading Company prohibited from sending manufactures of other countries besides England?—They are; the society was established for the encouragement of Dutch trade and manufactures.

3574a. Supposing the trade between England and China to be thrown open, are you not of opinion that a considerable proportion of the whole tea trade of the world would centre in England?—My own opinion, and the opinion of most people in Holland is, that if the Dutch government were not excited by any particular jealousy of England, that is, if they allowed the English to remain upon the same footing as the Americans now are, that both the Americans and the Dutch would cease to supply Holland with tea, and the whole supply of Holland, whatever that is, would be furnished by British merchants.

3575a. Should you not say that the chief supply of the Continent of Europe would go through this country?—I should suppose so.

3576a. Do you know whether it is probable that any portion of the tea consumed in the United States of America would, under those circumstances, be first sent to this country?—I should not wish to give an opinion upon that. I have no sufficient information upon that subject.

3577a. Are there any private merchants carrying on the tea trade in Holland at this moment?—The history of the tea trade in Holland since the expulsion of the French in 1814 is as follows. In 1815 a monopoly of the trade was granted to a Dutch company, "to prevent," as the preamble of the royal decree stated, "the trade falling into the hands of foreigners." In 1817 that company was dissolved. In 1818, when the table I have given in commences, the Americans took the lead in the trade. In 1822 an alteration in the duty was made, to favour the importation by national vessels. In 1825 the Trading Company entered on it; and in 1826 Dutch importations again became considerable, but were still unprofitable, and were again abandoned by private Dutch merchants, but have been continued by the Company till now, when the Dutch altogether have abandoned it.

3578a. Are you aware of a large quantity of tea being purchased at the East-India House in London, and exported to Holland in the year 1814?—I have no knowledge of it. I was not in Holland at that time; I went there first in 1815.

3579a. Do not the Dutch Company at the present moment pay very large



23 March 1830. large freights?—The last freights of the Dutch Company were 810 guilders per last of 21 quarter-chests, and 15 per cent. primage; that would amount, at 66 English pounds per quarter-chest, to about 5*d.* per pound English, but it is subject to the deduction of any outward freights they can make for the ships.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3580. Can you state what is the expense of navigating their ships, as compared with ours?—I have no means at hand of establishing an accurate comparison.

3581*a.* Supposing the Dutch Company to carry on that trade, and not to have manufactures that they can export, would not almost the whole of the freight fall upon the tea?—Clearly.

3582*a.* In the case of a trade carried on by private individuals, is it or not the fact, that at the present moment a great portion of the freight upon an article imported, such as tea, would fall upon the manufactured goods which were exported from the country into which the tea was to be imported?—Undoubtedly the manufactured and exported article must yield profits sufficiently large to pay the freight charges, and the difference between the cost price and the selling price of the article, which appears to be the case by the American trade.

3583*a.* So that the tea imported under those circumstances would only be a means of remittance?—A means of realizing the profit to be made upon exports, which is the case at present, and has been the case for some time past, with coffee and almost every other imported article.

3584*a.* How many months consumption of tea is there commonly in Holland?—Never more than a year's. At this moment we have probably of stocks openly known, three-quarters of a year's consumption; but there are many private speculators who hold old teas, which may complete the stock to a year's consumption. The Americans never hold stocks. There is not 1,500 quarter-chests of American tea in Holland.

3585*a.* Is not the fresh tea better than that which has been kept for some time?—So much so, that the American cargoes that come indirectly from America, are on that account not of so current sale as those imported direct from China.

3586*a.* Have you ever heard of any tea grown in the Brazils being sold in the Dutch market?—I never heard of any being sold in the Dutch market; but I have had it reported to me by a broker, that he had seen black tea grown in the Brazils, which was equal in flavour to any that came from China. The tea-taster of the Dutch Trading Company at Canton was employed to examine the tea attempted to be cultivated in Java, and he found it to be worthless, and the gardens were rooted up; but the broker alluded to reported to me, that the sample sent to him of the tea growing in the Brazils was excellent, and he wished through me to get information relative to the further



further cultivation of this tea, but I have had no means of informing myself further on the subject. 23 March 1830.

3587a. Is not it cultivated by Chinese in both places?—I presume it is.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3588a. Do you know whether it is cultivated to any large extent in the Brazils?—I do not know.

3589a. Have you ever seen any of the tea brought to Russia?—The house I belong to was induced to order samples of tea from Moscow, a twelvemonth ago, with a view of seeing whether it would answer in Holland; but the teas which were sent from Moscow appeared to be of a different growth, and different quality entirely from the teas we are used to in this part of the world, and were not at all suited to the Dutch taste.

3590a. Do you know what part of China it came from?—No; but I should presume, from the geographical position of Russia, that it came from the opposite extremity of the Chinese empire to that from which we obtain our supply. We obtained from a correspondent at Moscow the samples in question, and the tea was very fine to look at, but it had a totally different taste to what we are used to.

3591a. Do you conceive that that tea is suited to the European consumption?—It would not do for us at all in Holland, and certainly our tea is much the same as yours.

3592a. Does not the difficulty in supplying an outward cargo from Holland materially enhance the price of importation?—Certainly.

3593a. Would not the economy arising from the existence of a facility in supplying an outward cargo reduce, in an extraordinary degree, the expense of importing tea?—Certainly.

3594a. Are dollars easily procurable in Holland?—Without difficulty; but generally from England. When we have had occasion to send out dollars we have procured them from England.

3595a. In what proportion do dollars supply the means of importation for tea?—The greater part, when the trade was in the hands of private merchants; as to the Company, I cannot say.

3596a. Are you able to form a comparison between the rate of Dutch freight and the rate of American freight?—I am not able to speak of it from my own knowledge, but I believe it to be much lower than the Dutch; the general impression is, that it is much lower.

3597a. What sized ships do the Dutch employ generally?—Generally vessels from 400 to 500 tons.

3598a. Are they, in your estimation, preferable to the largest class of vessels of 1200 tons, used by this country?—I cannot say, from my own knowledge; but the Dutch use the smaller vessels because the larger are not suited to their rivers.

3599a. What



23 March 1830.

H. W. *Masterson*,
Esq.

3599*a*. What crew would a 400-ton Dutch vessel be manned by?—Twenty or twenty-two.

3600*a*. Do you know the rate of insurance out and home?—It is principally done here. I believe it has been rather high, the Dutch India-men having had a bad character; the English underwriters have suffered by them.

3601*a*. Do you know what the rate of insurance has been?—Six guineas, I believe.

3602*a*. Are they armed vessels?—No.

3603*a*. How do you account for the diminution that has taken place in the importation into the Netherlands since 1818, as it appears that in the year 1818 it was about 90,000 quarter-chests, and the importation then was considerably larger than it has been subsequently?—If they had gone on importing at that rate, of 90,000 chests in a year, it is evident that they should have had too great a stock. The import on the whole has been so as to leave, on an average of the last twelve years, not more than a single year's stock; but if it had been going on at the high rate at which it was in 1818, when the Americans imported 53,000 quarter-chests, we should have had much too large a supply.

3604*a*. Does the Dutch Trading Company possess exclusive privileges?—The principle upon which it originally went was that of possessing exclusive privileges. The establishment of a company of that kind would have been offensive to people whose predilections, the result of ancient habits, were all in favour of a free trade.

3605*a*. Do not they receive some tea from this country in Holland?—I am not aware of it.

3606*a*. Are you aware whether there is any smuggling of tea from Holland to this country?—I should think not; for this reason: I presume that the measures taken on this side are too effective to admit of it; and we observe on our side, that the smuggling towns of Terveer and Flushing are going to decay, and that smuggling to England in all articles seems to be falling off.

3607*a*. Can you state whether the stock of the Dutch Company was at any time at a premium?—It was, soon after its establishment, at 105. It opened at 100; and it has been down to 79 at the lowest. It is now about 94½.

3608*a*. Is it conceived amongst the merchants in Holland, that a company so established, is the best means by which trade can be carried on?—The establishment of the company altogether is offensive almost to the whole of the people in Holland. They were led to suppose that their manufactures would flourish with the support of that company; but it does not appear that the company have been able to force their manufactures into use abroad; and they have lost a very considerable sum, the amount of which remains yet to be known. The dividend or interest does not afford any criterion of it: that has been always the same, and it is guaranteed by the King.

3609*a*. Are



3609a. Are you aware whether the operations of that company have interfered with the regular trade of Holland?—It is considered nearly to have ruined the trade in almost every branch it has meddled with.

23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3610a. Do you consider that the operations of such a company are, upon general principles, exceedingly injurious to the conduct of mercantile transactions?—It is the opinion of the merchants of Holland, generally, that the dissolution of the company would be one of the greatest benefits they could receive; and as the company is daily suffering great losses, hopes are entertained, even by those who are shareholders, that it will not be continued until the expiration of the term originally fixed for its existence, but that it will be dissolved earlier.

3611a. Do you know what sum the government pays to make up the deficit?—I have never heard it mentioned, and I believe it is not known. I do not believe there are any means of ascertaining it. The King has guaranteed that $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. shall be paid, and the shareholders are secure of that annuity; but at the end of the term for which the Company is established, it is feared that the losses will have absorbed the whole capital.

3612a. How old is that guarantee?—The original guarantee was given in 1824, and it has been faithfully fulfilled; but privileges are given to the company which were never anticipated in the first instance. The government, naturally, to reduce this outlay of interest, gives advantages to the company.

3613a. Is not the deficit made good out of the King's own private funds?—His Majesty guarantees it; where the money comes from I have not the means of knowing.

3614a. Does it appear in the budget in Holland?—No.

3615a. Does any apprehension exist that the government will be tired of making up this deficit?—Great hopes of it are entertained; it has been the only hope that the general trade has entertained for a long time.

3616a. For how many years is the guarantee?—For the whole term, I believe, twenty-four or twenty-five years.

3617a. Is not the King a large shareholder in the company?—He is.

3618a. Have this company any territorial revenue to back them?—Nothing of that kind. They were to be merely upon the footing of ordinary merchants; but they have had great advantages given to them: the government coffee has been given to them at a fixed price, which price was, of course, intended to be very advantageous to them; that is, the coffee which belongs to the government estates in Java.

3619a. Is there any monopoly in coffee?—There is coffee which is deliverable only to the government officers, and instead of selling it themselves in the public market, they give it to the Company at a certain price.

3620a. Is there any law or regulation in Holland to prevent private adventurers sending ships to China and receiving back returns?—Not any.



23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3621a. Is it within your knowledge whether any such adventures have taken place?—Frequently, up to 1825: I think private merchants then abandoned the trade entirely. The house I have to do with imported a cargo in 1822.

3622a. What was the general result of those private adventures?—Loss.

3623a. To what extent?—I cannot say.

3624a. Was it 25 per cent.?—Judging by the other results alluded to, I should suppose it might be. Our own loss was not any thing like that; it was not an original adventure to China, but the supercargo took the ship there. The teas turned out pretty well, but not so as to induce us to go out again.

3625a. Can you inform the Committee whether such trade of private adventurers has been profitable or otherwise?—Certainly unprofitable.

3626a. What are the exports to Java?—Wine, Dutch claret, gin, &c., but the quantities trifling. It is a misfortune that we have so little of our own goods to export, and if there were not troops to export, we should not be able to find any freight outwards; the only hope for the ship-owner is to get a hundred men as freight for a vessel to Java.

3627a. Is there any regulation in Holland which would prevent the trade to China being carried on by private Dutch merchants in the same manner as it is now done by Americans; that is to say, by sending their ships to a port of England, loading them with British manufactures, and carrying them on to China?—There is none; private adventurers might do that, undoubtedly.

3628a. Can you state why this having been a profitable trade in the hands of the Americans, it might not continue to be so in the hands of the Dutch?—It might undoubtedly be so, I should suppose. It is a singular spectacle to see the Americans do that which the Dutch have the same means of doing, if they had the same enterprize and ability for the trade.

3629a. Do you not conceive that the Americans succeed in the trade from their being able to buy English manufactures for exportation to China, and that the Dutch fail, because they have not permission to do the same?—I certainly conceive that the Americans succeed for that reason, when put into competition with the Dutch company, which cannot buy English manufactures; but there is no reason why the Dutch private adventurers should not carry on a trade in the same way as the Americans, excepting the want of enterprize.

3630a. Is not there much more energy in the American character than in the Dutch character?—I believe that is a fact which is historically recognized.

3631a. Whereas the Dutch used formerly to have a large share of the carrying trade of the world, is not it the fact at present that the trade has fallen



fallen into the hands of the English and the Americans?—The Dutch trade has fallen off altogether. 23 March 1830.

3632*a*. Is it considered that the interference of the King of the Netherlands as a private merchant is prejudicial to the commercial interests of the country?—It is deprecated by the whole nation.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

3633*a*. Is it to be understood, that the injury which has been done to the Dutch trade by the Dutch Trading Company has been in consequence of their great command of capital, or in consequence of their exclusive privileges?—From both; from the government favouring them, giving them the preference of government freights and the preference of their contracts, and from their great command of capital, coming into the market with such large quantities of goods, with sales, for instance, of 100,000 bags of coffee at once, and telling the trade that there will be such sales at regular times, in autumn and in spring, so that the private merchants have little chance with the buyers in the mean time, and the company also trading at a loss to themselves.

3634*a*. Do you conceive that regular sales of that description, of a very large amount of goods, are injurious to the trading concerns of the country in that particular article?—It has interfered with the private trade of individual merchants in Holland.

3635*a*. Does not such a system tend, at one period, to depress prices unnaturally, and at another time to raise them unnaturally?—It prevents the holders of small quantities of property from making sales: buyers of course waiting till the larger quantities come into the market, there is an inactivity in the market till the larger sales come on.

3636*a*. Has it a tendency to derange commercial speculation?—It has appeared so in Holland.

3637*a*. Do the Dutch Company sell their teas by auction?—They sell their teas by auction, and at fixed periods, as they do other goods, in spring and autumn; their spring sale is now taking place; they have put up two cargoes this Spring, 17,000 quarter-chests, three or four days ago.

3638*a*. Does much remain unsold at those auctions?—Generally not; the company have a habit, however, of buying in. The general traders would prefer that, as they have fixed sales, they should sell outright all they put up: they think it is more injurious for them to sell a portion, and then keep back the rest.

3639*a*. Is there any fixed rate of advance in the bidding at the auction?—No.

3640*a*. Do you conceive that the Netherlands would derive any advantage, if a complete monopoly of the supply of tea to that country were given to the Dutch Company?—They would have the prices considerably augmented; it would be of advantage to the Company only.

3641*a*. Would it be of advantage to the consumers in Holland?—Certainly



23 March 1830.

H. W. Masterson,
Esq.

tainly not. They get it cheaper from the competition of the Americans ; and they imagine that they would get it cheaper still from that of the English, on account of the funds which the English have lying at Canton, seeking remittance.

3642a. What is the nature of the auction in Holland by which it is sold ?—The Trading Company sell in lots of twenty quarter-chests.

3643a. Is the bidding by the fall or by the rise ?—By the rise. The Trading Company have introduced new conditions of trade, which are not agreeable to private merchants.

3644a. Are they bound by law to put up their teas at the cost price ?—They are not bound to any thing of that nature.

3645a. Have you had much means of communication with persons who have been to China ?—Of course I have in Holland, with English and others.

3646a. Have you ever heard them express any opinion as to the difficulty of transacting business in the port of Canton ?—I never heard of the Dutch meeting with any difficulty. The English whom I have seen, who were acquainted with Canton, have been gentlemen from Java chiefly, not trading to Canton particularly ; but I never heard from the Dutch of their meeting with any difficulty. I am informed by the gentleman whose brother is the tea-taster to the Dutch Company, that at first they did not get such good teas as the Americans, but that they can now get equally good teas with the Americans.

3647a. Have they any establishment at Canton now ?—They send their tea-taster there when they send their ships out, otherwise they take him back again to Java during the interval that the ships are away.

3648a. Have they any consul or factory there ?—I am not informed. I should think not, since they take the individual mentioned back to Java each season.

3649a. Do you know the average number of months that it takes to go from Holland to Canton ?—They generally reckon that the ships that go one year come back the next ; that is, as they send no ships this year, that there will be no Dutch tea next year.

Jovis, 25^o die Martii, 1830.

JOHN CRAWFURD, Esq. called in, and examined.

25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

3650a. You are residing here at present as agent to certain parties at Calcutta ?—I was appointed agent to the inhabitants of Calcutta without solicitation : I am now fulfilling my duty as their parliamentary agent.

3651. Is



25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

3651a. Is there a salary attached to it?—There is a very handsome one.

3652a. To what amount?—£1,500 a year, besides extra expenses, which I do not draw. I think the salary too much, and I have proposed to my constituents that it should be reduced.

3653a. Had they previously had a parliamentary agent in this country?—They never had: I am the first.

3654a. Is that appointment exclusive of the question now depending before the House of Commons?—It has no view to the mercantile pursuits of my constituents; it is for political questions only.

3655a. Do you represent the residents of Calcutta for any thing that you think affects their interests?—I represent the inhabitants of Calcutta generally, whether Europeans or natives.

3656a. What number of inhabitants have authorized you to act as their agent?—The majority.

3657a. Do you mean about 300,000 people?—When I say the majority of the inhabitants of Calcutta, I wish to be understood as having stated the majority of those who thought proper to express their opinions, having had an opportunity of doing so. With respect to having stated that it was a majority of half a million of people, or any such number, I never thought of saying so.

3658a. Are the Committee to understand that you were appointed by a majority of the inhabitants of Calcutta, as agent for them in any matters that might concern their political interests in India, and not as regarded the trade between England and China?—I have no recollection whatever of any mention being made in my instructions, public or confidential, of the China question; but I have no doubt that the China question is also embraced in them, and I will state my reason for saying so. There has been sent to me a printed requisition to the sheriff of Calcutta, to which I think there are 116 signatures of persons of all parties, requesting that a meeting might be called for the purpose of petitioning both Houses of Parliament to remove all restrictions from the India and China trade. The petitions, in all probability, will soon be sent to me, and I shall then act as the agent of the inhabitants of Calcutta, as far as regards the China trade as well as the Indian trade.

3659a. What is the date of that requisition?—To the best of my recollection the 29th of November; the meeting is called for the 15th of December. Of course, there can be no account of such a meeting yet, as the ship that brought this account had an unusually rapid passage.

3660a. Were your instructions transmitted to you, or did you receive them at Calcutta?—They were transmitted to me long after I left Calcutta. I beg again, with great respect, to assure the Committee that I have no object whatever in concealment; I wish that every thing should be known that I am concerned in.

3661a. You



25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

3661*a*. You have resided in different parts of the east?—I resided in various parts of the east for about nineteen years.

3662*a*. Will you state where?—In the Upper Provinces of the Bengal Presidency for about five years, in Calcutta for a time, probably in all amounting to about one year; in Prince of Wales' Island or Penang about three years, and in Java about six years. I went on a mission afterwards to Siam and Cochin China, which occupied something more than one year. I resided next as a resident of Singapore about three years; and from thence I proceeded to the Burman country. I was appointed commissioner by the Governor-general in the Burman territory; I went afterwards as envoy from the Governor-general to the court of Ava; after which I returned to Calcutta, and eventually to Europe.

3663*a*. Have not you visited some of the other islands?—I visited some of the other islands, but never resided in them; I visited the islands of Bali and Celebes.

3664*a*. Have you ever been in China?—I have not.

3665*a*. Have you had much intercourse with the Chinese settlers in the countries adjacent?—I have.

3666*a*. Where were they residing?—They reside in almost every country that is adjacent to China.

3667*a*. Had you an opportunity of seeing them in those places?—I had an opportunity of seeing them in Prince of Wales' Island, Java, Singapore, Siam, Cochin China, and a few in the Burman country during my mission to the court of Ava.

3668*a*. Can you furnish the Committee with any history of the Chinese emigrants settled in the neighbourhood of China, and an account of the nature of their emigrations?—I drew up a statement of that description, which I have here.

3669*a*. What do you make the number of Chinese emigrants settled in the countries adjacent to China?—The estimate is a very rough one of course, from the very nature of the subject. I make them between 700,000 or 800,000. The greater number of them are settled in Siam and Cochin China, not in the islands.

3670*a*. From your intercourse with those Chinese, do you conceive them to be an intelligent, active, and commercial people?—Eminently so. They are a very industrious people in every way; they are a business-like people; their manners more resemble Europeans in that part of their character than they do those of Asiatic nations.

3671*a*. In industry and intelligence do you conceive them to be superior to other Asiatic nations?—For all useful and practical purposes I think they are. There are perhaps a few points in which they are inferior to one or two other Asiatic nations, but those points are of very little moment.

3672. Have



3672a. Have you prepared a Statement for the information of the Committee upon the subject of the Chinese emigrations?—I have. 23 March 1830.

3673a. Will you have the goodness to read it?

—
John Crawford,
Esq.

[*The witness read the same, as follows :*]

“ A VIEW of the EMIGRATIONS of the CHINESE to the various Countries adjacent to China.

“ THE emigrations of the Chinese take place from the same provinces which conduct the foreign trade, viz. Canton, Fokein, Chekien, and Kiannan. Emigrations from the two latter, however, are not frequent, and seem to be confined to Tonquin and the Philippine Islands. The emigrants direct their course to every country in the neighbourhood of China where there is any probability of finding employment and protection; in some countries, however, they are excluded or restrained from political motives, and in others, distance or want of room affords them no encouragement to settle. Like the European nations, they are excluded altogether from settling in Japan, on political grounds; the government of Cochin China also affords them no great encouragement, from the same reason, and the Dutch and Spanish governments of Java and the Philippines have always looked upon them with a considerable share of suspicion. Distance, but above all, the existence of a dense and comparatively industrious population, excludes them from the British dominions in Hindustan, where we find only a few shoemakers and other artisans, and these confined to the towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. A few, I understand, have lately proceeded to the Mauritius.

“ Every emigrant who leaves China does so with the intention of returning to it, although comparatively few are able to accomplish this object. The expense of emigration to the countries to which the Chinese usually resort amounts but to a mere trifle. The passage-money in a Chinese junk from Canton to Singapore is but six Spanish dollars; and from Fokien but nine. Even these slender sums, however, are commonly paid from the fruits of the emigrant's labour on his arrival, and are seldom paid in advance. The emigrants, I think, are invariably of the labouring classes, and their whole equipment for the voyage, in ordinary cases, consists of little else than the coat on their backs, a bundle of old clothes, and a dirty mat and pillow to sleep on. They no sooner land than their condition is prodigiously improved: they meet their countrymen, and probably their friends or relatives; they find immediate employment in a congenial climate, and in countries where the wages of labour are perhaps three times as high as in China, and the necessities of life perhaps by one-half cheaper.

“ The Chinese are not only intellectually, but physically, superior to the nations and tribes among whom they settle. A Chinese is at least two inches taller than a Siamese, and by three inches taller than a Cochin Chinese, a Malay, or a Javanese, and his frame is proportionally strong and well built. Their superiority in personal skill, dexterity, and ingenuity, are still greater. All this is evinced in a very satisfactory manner, by the simple criterion of the comparative rates of wages of the different classes of inhabitants or sojourners at any given place where they all meet. At Singapore, for example, the wages of ordinary labour for the different classes of labourers are as follow: a Chinese, eight dollars a month; a native of the Coromandel coast, six dollars; and a Malay, four; making the work of the Chinese by one-third better than that of the first, and by 100 per cent. better than that of the second. When skill and dexterity are implied, the difference is of course wider; a Chinese



25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

Chinese house-carpenter will earn twelve dollars a month; while an Indian will earn no more than seven, and a Malayan thatcher or wood-cutter (for among this class there are no carpenters), but five.

"The different classes of Chinese settlers not only live apart, and keep distinct from the settlers of other nations, but also from each other. There is a very wide difference between the character, habits, and manners of the Chinese settlers, according to the parts of China from which they proceed. The natives of Fokien have a claim to a higher tone of character than any of the rest. Among the emigrants from the province of Canton there are three classes, *viz.* those from the town of Canton and its neighbourhood; the natives of Macao and other islands in the river; and the natives of some mountainous districts of the same province. The first of these, besides being addicted to mercantile pursuits, are the best artisans, and are much disposed to enter into mining speculations. It is they who are chiefly engaged in working the silver-mines of Tonquin, the gold-mines of Borneo and the Malay peninsula, and the tin-mines of the latter country and of Banca. The Chinese of Macao and the other islands are held in very little repute among the rest of their countrymen; but the third class, who are numerous, are the lowest in rank. Their most frequent employment is that of fishermen and mariners; and it is from among their ranks that European shipping, when in want, have occasionally received hands to assist in their navigation. Of all the Chinese these are the most noisy and unruly. There is still another class of Chinese, the settlers in the Burman dominions, who differ very remarkably from all that I have just enumerated. With the exception of a small number of emigrants from the province of Canton, who find their way to Ava by sea, these are all from the province of Yunnan, and in point of industry and intelligence seemed, as far as I could judge, much inferior to the colonists from Canton and Fokien. From all these, again, the mixed races are to be distinguished by their superior knowledge of the language, manners, and customs of the countries in which they reside, and by some inferiority in industry and enterprise. It is from this class that European merchants are supplied with brokers, money-counters, &c., and they are seldom to be seen in the condition of day-labourers or artisans. The Chinese settlers, of whatever class, engage with much eagerness in agricultural employments; seldom, however, when they can avoid it, as mere day-labourers. They conduct almost exclusively the cultivation and manufacture of the catechu or terra japonica in the Straits of Malacca, the pepper cultivation of Siam, and the culture of the cane and manufacture of sugar in Java, Siam, and the Philippines. Differing materially from each other in manners, habits, and almost always in language or dialect, and entertaining towards each other provincial prejudices and antipathies, broils and quarrels, sometimes even attended with bloodshed, frequently break out among them. These are occasionally subjects of embarrassment in the European settlements, the authorities of which have never, I am persuaded, any thing to apprehend from their combination or resistance; and I may add, that of all the Asiatic settlers in our eastern settlements, the Chinese are the most obedient to the laws, and notwithstanding the superior amount of their property, and even of their numbers, afford the least employment to the courts of justice. The Chinese population settled in the various countries adjacent to China, may be roughly estimated as follows:

The Philippine Islands	15,000
Borneo	120,000
Java	45,000
The Dutch settlement of Rhio, Straits of Malacca.....	18,000
Singapore	6,200

Carried forward 204,200



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 451

Brought forward	204,200
Malacca	2,000
Penang	8,500
Malayan Peninsula	40,000
Siam	440,000
Cochin China	15,000
Tonquin	25,000
Total.....	734,700

25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

"The population mentioned here is of a peculiar description, consisting, for the most part, of adult males, and of very few women or children, a circumstance easily explained. The laws of China, which prohibit emigration in general, are a dead letter as far as the men are concerned; but it is imperative in respect to women and children; or perhaps, more strictly, the manners and feelings of the people themselves prevent the latter from quitting the country. I have never seen or heard of a female amongst the emigrants, and never saw a Chinese woman, except at Hué, the capital of Cochin China, where two or three were pointed out to me as objects of curiosity, who had been kidnapped and brought there when children. The emigrants, however, without scruple, form connexions with the females of the country, and the descendants of these repeatedly intermarrying with Chinese, are in time not to be distinguished from the genuine Chinese, either in features or complexion. In all the countries where the Chinese have been long established, there exists a considerable creole population of this description, such as in Java, Siam, Cochin China, and the Philippines. But in countries where they have been only recently established, the disproportion of the sexes is immense. Thus, out of the 6,200 Chinese inhabitants of Singapore, the number of females is but 360, and even of these the greater part are Chinese only by name. The extent of the annual emigrations from China may be judged of from the fact, that the number which arrived at Singapore in 1825 amounted to above 3,500, and in 1826 to upwards of 5,500. The annual number of emigrants which arrive in Siam was rated to me when I was in that country at 7,000. A single junk has been known to bring 1,200 passengers; indeed, I have myself seen one bring 900 to Singapore. The number who return to China is considerable, but very small indeed in comparison to the arrivals. Even of these the greater number come back again; and I have known men of property, who have visited China and returned with titles."

3674a. Have you had that kind of communication and conversations with the Chinese, in any of the different parts where you have met them, as to be able to form any opinion how far the Chinese in their own country are to be considered a commercial people?—Upon that subject, never having been in China, I can offer no decided opinion; but my conviction is, that there is very little difference between them; and the emigrants I should, probably, upon the whole, be disposed to think would be found superior to those they left behind them, as the most active spirits chiefly would go abroad. No man leaves China but an able-bodied man, and no man that has not a certain portion of spirit and enterprize will quit the country.

3675a. Have you any means of furnishing the Committee with a view of the foreign trade of China carried on in junks?—I have also prepared a



25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

statement upon that subject. I beg to say, with respect to this and the other statement I gave in, that they are entirely the result of my own personal inquiry, chiefly derived from the Chinese themselves. I communicated with them through the medium of the Malay language, which I understand tolerably well. I was in the habit of always employing a couple of interpreters when I was Resident at Singapore, and when the Chinese commanders of vessels and others, not understanding the Malay language, called upon me, I transacted business with them generally through the medium of these persons. Chinese who reside any time in the Malayan countries, commonly make themselves in some measure acquainted with the Malay language, and there is no great difficulty in communicating with these without the aid of an interpreter.

3676a. Will you have the goodness to read the statement you have prepared on this subject?

[The witness read the same, as follows :]

“ NATIVE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA.

“The principal part of the junk trade is carried on by the four contiguous provinces of Canton, Fokien, Chekiang, and Kiannan. No foreign trade is permitted with the island of Formosa, and I have no means of describing the extent of the traffic which may be conducted between China, Corea, and the Luchew Islands. The following are the countries with which China carries on a trade in junks, viz. Japan, the Philippines, the Sooloo Islands, Celebes, the Moluccas, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Singapore, Rhio, the east coast of the Malayan Peninsula, Siam, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Tonquin. The ports of China at which this trade is conducted are Canton, Tchao-tcheou, Nomhong, Hoi-tcheou, Su-heng, Kongmoon, Changlim, and Hainan, in the province of Canton; Amoy and Chinchew, in the province of Fokien; Ningpo and Siang-hai, in the province of Tchekian; and Soutcheon, in the province of Kiannan. The following may be looked upon as an approximation to the number of junks carrying on trade with the different places already enumerated, viz.

	Junks.
Japan, 10 junks, two voyages	20
Philippine Islands	13
Soo-loo Islands	4
Celebes	2
Borneo.....	13
Java.....	7
Sumatra	10
Singapore	8
Rhio.....	1
East Coast of Malay Peninsula.....	6
Siam.....	89
Cochin China	20
Cambodia	9
Tonquin	20
Total.....	222

“ This



SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 453

25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

"This statement does not include a great number of small junks belonging to the island of Hainan, which carry on trade with Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, Siam, and Singapore. Those for Siam amount yearly to about fifty, and for the Cochin Chinese dominions to about forty-three; these alone would bring the total number of vessels carrying on a direct trade between China and foreign countries to 307. The trade with Japan is confined to the port of Ningpo, in Chekiang, and expressly limited to ten vessels; but as the distance from Nangasaki is a voyage of no more than four days, it is performed twice a year. With the exception of this branch of trade the foreign intercourse of the two provinces of Chekian and Kiannan, which are famous for the production of raw silk, teas, and nankeens, is confined to the Philippine Islands,* Tonquin, Cochin China, Cambodia, and Siam, and none of this class of vessels, that I am aware of, have ever found their way to the western parts of the Indian Archipelago. The number of these trading with Siam is twenty-four, all of considerable size; those trading with the Cochin Chinese dominions, sixteen, also of considerable size; and those trading with the Philippines, five, making in all forty-five, of which the average burden does not fall short of 17,000 tons. I am the more particular in describing this branch of the Chinese commerce, as we do not ourselves, at present, partake of it, and as we possess no direct means of obtaining information in regard to it. All the junks carrying on this trade with Siam are owned in the latter country and not in China, and I am not sure how far it may not also be so in the other cases. I do not doubt but that a similar commerce will, in the event of a free trade, extend to Singapore, and that through this channel may eventually be obtained the green teas of Kiannan, and the raw silks of Chekiang.

"Besides the junks now described there is another numerous class, which may be denominated the colonial shipping of the Chinese. Wherever the Chinese are settled in any numbers, junks of this description are to be found, such as in Java, Sumatra, the Straits of Malacca, &c.; but the largest commerce of this description is conducted from the Cochin Chinese dominions, but especially from Siam, where the number was estimated to me at 200. Several junks of this description from the latter country come annually to Singapore, of which the burden is not less than from 300 to 400 tons.

"The junks which trade between China and the adjacent countries are some of them owned and built in China, but a considerable number also in the latter countries, particularly in Siam and Cochin China. Of those carrying on the Siamese trade, indeed, no less than eighty-one out of the eighty-nine, of considerable size, were represented to me as being built and owned in Siam. The small junks, however, carrying on the trade of Hainan, are all built and owned in China.

"The junks, whether colonial or trading direct with China, vary in burden from 2,000 peculs to 15,000, or carry of dead weight from about 120 to 900 tons. Of those of the last size I have only seen three or four, and these were at Siam, and the same which were commonly employed in carrying a mission and tribute yearly from Siam to Canton. Of the whole of the large class of junks, I should think the average burthen will not be overrated at 300 tons each, which would make the total tonnage employed in the native foreign trade of China between 60,000 and 70,000 tons, exclusive of the small junks of Hainan, which, estimated at 150 tons each, would make in all about 80,000 tons.

"The

* *Note.*—The provinces once conducted a trade amongst the Sooloo Islands and Borneo Proper, but owing to the anarchy which has of late years prevailed in these countries, it seems to be at present abandoned.



25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

"The junks built in China are usually constructed of fir and other inferior woods. When they arrive in Cambodia, Siam, and the Malayan Islands, they commonly furnish themselves with masts, rudders, and wooden anchors, of the superior timber of these countries. The junks built in Siam are a superior class of vessels, the planks and upper works being invariably of teak. The cost of ship-building is highest at the port of Amoy in Fokien, and lowest in Siam. At these places, and at Chang-lim in Canton, the cost of a junk of 8,000 peculs, or 476 tons burthen, was stated to me, by several commanders of junks, to be as follows :

	Dollars.
At Siam	7,400
Chang-lim.....	16,000
Amoy.....	21,000

"A junk of the size just named has commonly a crew of ninety hands, consisting of the following officers, besides the crew ; a commander, a pilot, an accountant, a captain of the helm, a captain of the anchor, and a captain of the hold. The commander receives no pay, but has the advantage of the cabin accommodation for passengers, reckoned, on the voyage between Canton and Sincapore, worth 150 Spanish dollars. He is also the agent of the owners, and receives a commission, commonly of 10 per cent. on *the profits* of such share of the adventure, generally a considerable one, in which they are concerned. The pilot receives for the voyage 200 dollars of wages, and 50 peculs of freight out and home. The helmsman has 15 peculs of freight, and no wages. The captains of the anchor and the hold have 9 peculs of freight each ; and the seamen 7 peculs each. None of these have any wages. The officers and seamen of the colonial junks are differently rewarded. In a Siamese junk, for example, trading between the Siamese capital and Sincapore, of 6,000 peculs burthen, the commander and pilot had each 100 dollars for the voyage, with 12 peculs of freight a-piece. The accountant and helmsman had half of this allowance, and each seaman had 13 dollars, with 5 peculs of freight.

"The construction and outfit of a Chinese junk are too well known to require description. They are clumsy and awkward in the extreme. The Chinese are quite unacquainted with navigation, saving the knowledge of the compass ; notwithstanding this, as their pilots are expert, as their voyages are short, and as they hardly ever sail except at the height of the monsoons, when a fair and steady seven or eight knot breeze carries them directly from port to port, the sea-risk is very small. During thirteen years acquaintance with this branch of trade, I can recollect hearing of but four shipwrecks ; and in all these instances the crews were saved.

"The construction and rigging of a Chinese junk may be looked upon as her proper registry, and they are a very effectual one ; for the least deviation from them would subject her at once to foreign charges and to foreign duties, and to all kinds of suspicion. The colonial junks, which are of more commodious form and outfit, would, if visiting China, be subjected to the same duties as foreign vessels. Junks built in Siam, or any other adjacent country, if constructed and fitted out after the customary model, are admitted to trade to China upon the same terms as those built and owned in the country. If any part of the crew consist of Siamese, Cochin Chinese, or other foreigners, the latter are admitted only at the port of Canton ; and if found in any other part of China would be seized and taken up by the police, exactly in the same manner as if they were Europeans. The native trade of China, conducted with foreign countries, is not a clandestine commerce, unacknowledged by the Chinese laws, but has in every case at least the express sanction of the vice-

roy



roy or governor of the province, who on petition decides the number of junks that shall be allowed to engage in it, and even enumerates the articles which it shall be legal to export and import. At every port also, where such a foreign trade is sanctioned, there is a hong or body of security merchants, as at Canton; a fact which shows clearly enough that this institution is parcel of the laws or customs of China, and not a peculiar restraint imposed upon the intercourse with Europeans.

25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

"The Chinese junks, properly constructed, pay no measurement duty, and no cumshaw or present; duties, however, are paid upon goods exported and imported, which seem, however, to differ at the different provinces. They are highest at Amoy, and lowest in the island of Hainan. The Chinese traders of Siam informed me that they carried on the fairest and easiest trade, subject to the fewest restrictions, in the ports of Ningpo and Sianghai in Chekiang, and Souchon in Kiannan. Great dexterity seems every where to be exercised by the Chinese in evading the duties. One practice, which is very often followed, will afford a good example of this. The coasting trade of China is nearly free from all duties and other imposts. The merchant takes advantage of this, and intending in reality to proceed to Siam or Cochin China, for example, clears a junk out for the island of Hainan, and thus avoids the payment of duties. When she returns she will lie four and five days off and on at the mouth of the port, until a regular bargain be made with the custom-house officers for the reduction of duties. The threat held out in such cases is to proceed to another port, and thus deprive the public officers of their customary perquisites. I was assured of the frequency of this practice by Chinese merchants of Cochin China, as well as by several commanders of junks at Singapore. From the last-named persons I had another fact of some consequence, as connected with the Chinese trade, *viz.* that a good many of the junks carrying on trade with foreign ports to the westward of China, often proceeded on voyages to the northward in the same season. In this manner they stated that about twenty considerable junks, besides a great many small ones, proceeded annually from Canton to Souchon, one of the capitals of Kiannan, and in wealth and commerce the rival of Canton, where they sold about 200 chests of opium at an advance of 50 per cent. beyond the Canton prices. Another place where the Canton junks, to the number of five or six, repair annually, is Chinchew, in the province of Shanton, within the gulph of Pechely, or Yellow Sea, and as far north as the 37th degree of latitude.

3677a. Do you mean to state, in a passage of the paper you have read, that the Chinese emigrants carry on the trade from Singapore to Canton, notwithstanding any interdiction by edict that may exist?—What I meant to state was, that in the event of junks being properly constructed and manned, at Singapore, for example, it would be of no consequence their being owned at Singapore. They would, notwithstanding such circumstance, be allowed to trade freely with any port of China, in the same way as junks built and manned in China itself.

3678a. Then is it to be understood that the objection of the Chinese to foreign ships is rather to their form than to any thing else?—Yes.

3679a. And the nationality of the sailors?—Yes.

3680a. Can



25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

3680a. Can you furnish the Committee with the rates of freight paid for goods, between port and port in China, or between ports of China and the islands to the eastward, during any number of years?—I can furnish the rate of freights paid upon some of the principal articles; it is a specific freight upon particular commodities; so much for raw silk, so much for earthenware, so much for tea. To the best of my recollection the charge upon tea and upon the coarser earthenware is the same.

3681a. Supposing the trade between China and Europe were to flow through the channel of an emporium, are you of opinion that the foreign trade carried on in Chinese junks might be very considerably increased?—Yes, I have no doubt it would; but I beg leave to give some explanation upon that point. If European nations were excluded from Canton, of course the trade would take the channel of an emporium entirely; but if European nations were admitted to Canton freely, if there were no restrictions upon their admission to Canton, I have great doubt whether it would centre in an emporium. Canton is a place of long-established trade, and people would prefer it, at least for a time, even if the others were more convenient; but this is a point exceedingly difficult to determine upon. I have often thought of it, but I have never been able to make up my mind, whether the trade would take the channel of Sincapore, or whether it would continue to centre at Canton. Trade takes a long time before it quits an established channel, even to go into a more convenient one, when such is opened or presented.

3682a. Supposing an interruption to take place in the European trade of China, are you of opinion that a considerable quantity of tea might be brought in Chinese vessels to Sincapore, or some other emporium in the eastern Archipelago?—I conceive so. I think it was a great point, during the discussions respecting the former charter with the East-India Company, to establish that fact themselves. Mr. Drummond, now Lord Strathallen, gave it distinctly in evidence, that a very large quantity of tea might be imported into Europe through such a channel. The evidence is to be found upon the records of the Committee of the House of Commons, I think, in 1812. It seemed, indeed, to be a settled point, especially in reference to the Philippine Islands, and others. I have a short entry on this subject, taken out of a note-book that I kept at Sincapore; it is dated the 22d of August 1825, and the result of a conversation with the commanders of some junks:—“The tea consumed in Cochin China is brought from Tchoutcheou, on the confines of Canton and Fokien, but in the jurisdiction of the former, to Hainan, from whence it comes to Saigun and other places. It is all the produce of Fokien. Into Saigun there are annually imported about 70,000 boxes of tea, of 20 catties each, and into Hué about 10,000 boxes. It is impossible to conjecture the quantity brought into Tonquin, as a great part of it is imported by land. The price of the ordinary qualities at Tchoutcheou and Canton is 26 dollars per pecul: the same tea would be sold at Saigun



Saigon for 40 dollars. My informants state, that any quantity whatever of tea may be imported into Sincapore, which the market may demand, from Chaotcheou, Changlim, and other parts, either black or green. The commanders of junks will do this in spite of any regulations to the contrary. Information furnished by commanders of Saigon junks, 22d August 1825." Note, 80,000 boxes of tea, of 20 catties each, are equal to about 2,130,000 pounds. The prices of 26 and 40 dollars per pecul are equal to 10d. and 15½d. per pound.

25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

3683a. Have you paid any attention to the statistics of China?—I have paid the usual attention to it. I have read a good deal upon the subject.

3684a. Will you state what you consider the population of China to be?—I have here a table containing a variety of statistical particulars with regard to China.

3685a. From what source have you derived that table?—I have a paper describing the sources from which I have taken it.

3686a. Will you have the goodness to deliver in those papers?—

[The witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows :]



25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

TABLE exhibiting a Brief View of the

PROVINCES.	Latitude of Provincial Capitals.	Travelling Distance of Provincial Capitals from Pekin.	Area of each Province in Statute Miles	Population.	Inhabitants to the Square Mile.	Revenue.
	N. °	Eng. Miles.				£.
Pecheleiy	39 55	—	59,700	3,504,038	58	923,931
Kiannan	32 4	862	35,000	30,405,258	357	2,458,476
Kiansi	28 37	1,024	72,000	5,922,160	82	981,374
Fokien.....	26 2	2,202	57,150	1,684,528	29	377,507
Chekian.....	30 20	1,185	37,200	18,975,099	510	1,357,593
Houkouan.....	30 34	1,133	168,300	33,702,379	200	738,123
Honan	34 52	553	62,000	2,662,969	43	1,052,826
Shanton	36 44	287	56,800	25,447,633	448	1,231,607
Shansi	37 53	431	63,500	1,860,816	29	1,061,916
Shensi	34 15	952	167,700	257,704	1½	497,610
Sechuen	30 40	2,048	175,600	7,789,782	44	195,484
Canton	23 10	2,720	97,100	1,491,271	15	424,567
Kouansi.....	25 13	2,680	87,800	2,569,518	29	146,828
Yunnan	25 6	2,946	131,400	2,255,459	17	165,306
Koneicheou	26 30	2,745	51,200	2,941,391	57	36,764

RECAPITULATION.

Area of China, exclusive of Tartary and dependent provinces, in English square miles.....	1,372,450
Total population of ditto.....	141,470,005
Rate of population to the square mile in ditto.....	103
Total revenue.....	11,649,912
Rate of taxation per head	1s. 7d. 76
Army	1,182,000
Rate of military force to the population.....	as 1 to 119



25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
*Esq.*Statistics of *China Proper*, &c. &c.

Rate of Taxation per Head.	Military Force.	DISTINGUISHING PRODUCTIONS AND INDUSTRY.
£. s. d.		
0 5 3	241,000	Tin, lead, the vine, mineral coal, marble, saltpetre, fossil alkali.
0 1 7	132,000	Corn, salt, cotton, cotton and silk fabrics, porcelain, fine green tea, foreign trade.
0 3 3	39,000	Gold, silver, lead, iron, tin, vitriol, corn, alum, fine porcelain.
0 4 5	76,000	Quicksilver, iron, iron manufactures, tin, silk fabrics, fine black tea, foreign trade, marble.
0 1 5	59,000	Corn, silk, silk fabrics, fine black and green teas, foreign trade.
0 0 5	88,000	Quicksilver, tin, corn, fine tea, paper, cinnabar.
0 7 10	24,000	Copper, corn.
0 0 11	35,000	Corn, trade seaways.
0 11 4	35,000	Mineral coal, woollen stuffs, salt from lakes and springs, the vine, sheep, cinnabar.
1 18 7	104,000	Mineral coal, cinnabar, rhubarb, musk, sheep, salt from lakes and springs and fossil salt, hair manufactures.
0 0 6	85,000	Copper, gold, iron, tin, lead, amber, musk, horses, silk, sugar, rhubarb, salt from springs.
0 5 9	99,000	Copper, iron, tin, lead, quicksilver, silk, sugar, camphor, foreign trade, marble.
0 1 1	42,000	Copper, tin, silver, cassia, sheep.
0 1 5	53,000	Gold, silver, copper, tin, zinc, silk, salt, tea, musk, trade by land with Burmans and Siamese.
0 0 3	70,000	Gold, silver, copper, quicksilver, grass cloth.

RECAPITULATION.

Population of China Proper	141,470,005
Ditto... of the province of Ching King, or Lias Toug.	486,643
Ditto... of.....Kansu	340,086
Computed population of Tartary.	12,000,000
Military force in Kansu, not included in the population.....	123,000
Ditto.....in Ching King.....ditto.....	4,000
Ditto.....in the country of the Manchoos	10,000
Ditto.....in.....ditto.....Mongols	30,000
Ditto.....in.....ditto.....Bucharla, &c.....	45,000
Ditto.....in Tibet.....	6,000
Marine.....	31,000
Civil officers, not included in the population.....	9,611
Military ditto	7,552
Army in China Proper, exclusive of officers.....	1,182,000



25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

NOTE.

The accompanying Table is chiefly compiled from the following authorities, *viz.* from a "Statistical View of China, extracted from original documents by M. Klapproth," contained in the Appendix to Timkowskie's Travels, London, 1827; from Du Halde's China; from the last edition of Grosier's China, 7 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1818; and from the Tables contained in a work, entitled, *Histoire de la Chine*, &c. &c. by M. Le Clerc, Besançon, 1777. A few particulars are derived from personal information.

Provinces.

The ancient division of China is into fifteen provinces; but two of the largest, Kiannan and Houkouan, have, of late years, been subdivided each into two, making the whole seventeen. The table is according to the old division.

Travelling Distance of Provincial Capitals from Peking.

The distance in the original documents are given in Chinese lis, a measure of 1897½ English feet, and taken from the Imperial Civil Kalendar.

Area.

This is calculated from a common map of China; and all modern maps of that country are known to be drawn from one original, that of the Jesuits. The Chinese territory extends from about the 20th to the 40th degree of north latitude; but the finest parts of it are embraced in the space which lies between the 28th and 38th degrees, whether in respect to soil, climate, or position.

Population.

The document which furnished the materials for the population is the new edition of 1790, of the work called the "Great Imperial Geography." The population of China has usually been supposed in Europe to be extravagantly estimated; but when the vast extent of the empire is considered, it is certain that the country is more *under* than overpeopled. This will appear clear enough from the following comparison with the population of some other countries.

China, per square mile.....	103	Austrian Dominions	110
Old British Possessions in Bengal	240	France	164
Hindustan throughout	104	England	222

By casting the eye over the Table, it will appear that the population is very unequally spread over the country. There are, in fact, but four provinces out of the fifteen which are densely inhabited, embracing between them little more than a fourth part of the area of the empire, but containing above two-thirds of the population, and of these three only are remarkable for their populousness. The rest of the empire is, in fact, but scantily inhabited. Much of the surface of China is mountainous and sterile, a fact which has struck all intelligent travellers and visitors. In point of natural fertility it is evidently much inferior to all our possessions in Bengal, and even to Hindustan in general, although over the latter country it possesses great advantage, in the number and superiority of its navigable rivers and harbours. The population, as elsewhere, has accumulated in the fertile alluvial plains towards the *debouchements* of the great rivers, along the borders of lakes, and in the neighbourhood of the creeks, bays, and harbours, with which some parts of the coast appear to be so remarkably indented. Two of the most populous, as well as industrious and civilized provinces, Kiannan and Chekian, besides abound-

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SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 461

ing in lakes and inlets of the sea, contain the *debouchements* of the two great rivers of China, and it is here that the mass of the population appears to be concentrated. Shanton, besides containing many harbours and lakes, is intersected by the Imperial Canal; and Houkouan, although a central province, contains extensive lakes, and is intersected by one of the large rivers, which appears to pass through a wide plain uninterrupted by mountains. Two of the provinces best known to us, Canton and Fokien, are so remarkably mountainous, that they seem always to have relied upon their neighbourhoods for supplies of corn, the first being furnished from the neighbouring province to the westward of it, and recently from the Philippine Islands, and the last from the fertile and under-peopled island of Formosa. I have no doubt, however, that the population of the province of Canton is for the present times much underrated, and that through means of the foreign trade it has greatly augmented within the forty years since the census was taken. By the editors of the Canton Register, I perceive that it is considered to be as populous as Scotland, or to contain about two millions and a half of inhabitants, which would give twenty-five instead of fifteen inhabitants to the square mile. The extent of the woods in the province of Canton, and the neighbouring one of Konansi, is indicated by the large amount of two articles of the exports of China to foreign parts, cassia and camphor, both of which are productions of the forest. Canton, for example, produces yearly not much less than 6,000 peculs of the latter article, or about 800,000 lbs. weight. The frequent presence of the metals in the north-western provinces indicates a mountainous country, a primitive formation, and a territory not distinguished for fertility. This, indeed, is well known to be the case, particularly with the great province of Yunnan. On the north-west frontier the country is still more sterile; and here occurs the great province of Shensi, with less than two inhabitants to a square mile. This part of the country is not only destitute of rivers, but liable to droughts, and to the depredations of locusts.

25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.*Revenue.*

The account of the revenue is taken from the Imperial Civil Kalendar, published quarterly at Pekin. The statement here given by M. Klaproth seems to be the same as that which has been translated by Mr. Huttman, the secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, and refers to as late a period as the year 1814. The Chinese revenue consists of a land-tax, partly levied in money and partly in kind, customs and transit duties, a monopoly of salt, licenses of pawnbrokers, and other miscellaneous taxes, a tax levied on coals at the mine, &c. M. Klaproth gives the total amount of the revenue levied in money at a sum which is equal, taking the Chinese ounce at 6s. to £10,005,250, and Mr. Huttman at £10,818,367: adding to the first the value of the tax in corn, we have the sum of £11,649,912 given in the table. According to this view, the taxes paid by one hundred and forty-one millions of Chinese do not greatly exceed *one-half* of what is paid by ninety millions of British subjects in India, much inferior to them in industry and civilization. The tax per head in China is 1s. 7d $\frac{1}{4}$: in the British possessions in India it is 4s. 8d $\frac{1}{4}$.* The land-tax in China, the principal one, is said to be fixed and permanent; and indeed the moderation of the taxes throughout is, in all probability, the principal element in the good government of the Chinese; for that good government exists, in a relative degree, is sufficiently indicated by the superiority of the people in all useful industry to every other Asiatic nation.

Military Force.

One-third of the military force of China is said to exist only on the muster-rolls.
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* Note.—East India Annual Revenue Accounts, printed May 1828.



25 March. 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

Whether this be the case or not, no doubt the whole is a burden upon the people and government. The amount is not so exorbitant as might be supposed, being but as one to 119 to the whole population; whereas the army of Russia, the country that most resembles China, is as one to 75.

3687a. You have stated that China Proper extends from the 20th degree of latitude to the 40th; are there not territories dependent upon China which extend much farther north than that?—Yes; there is an estimate of the population of those territories in the table, but it is little better than conjecture.

3688a. Will you state to what degree of latitude the territories dependent upon China reach?—I cannot; I should say, probably, to the 45th or 47th degree. Peking itself is nearly in the latitude of 40.

3689a. Have you paid particular attention to the tea trade?—Yes, I have paid a good deal of attention to it.

3690a. Will you state the result of your inquiries respecting the cultivation of tea?—Having never been in China, I have never seen the tea-plant cultivated properly as it ought to be: I have seen the tea-plant growing in Cochin China only.

3691a. In what degrees of latitude is it generally grown?—It will grow any where; but it will make very bad tea in warm climates. It is a very vigorous, hardy plant; I have seen it live upon the very Equator, or close to it; and it grows again as far as the 45th degree of latitude.

3692a. Within what degrees of latitude do you think it could be grown, so as to produce a good article of commerce?—One can judge only from what is known to take place in China. I believe good tea is confined generally to the climate probably extending from 25 to 32 or 33 degrees.

3693a. Do you understand that the tea-plant is cultivated in most of the provinces of China?—There is no doubt it is. I know it to be cultivated in the province of Yannen, which is the most western province of China, because I have seen it brought in considerable quantities to Ava; and it was stated to be the product of that province.

3694. Is it cultivated in any other country besides China?—It is cultivated in Japan, in Cochin China, and in Tonquin.

3695. Is any of the tea that is grown out of China as good as that which is the genuine China tea?—All other tea that I have seen is sufficiently bad. I take it that a great deal of skill and industry is necessary to grow tea. I should think that the vine is almost a complete parallel with the tea-plant. The tea is known to be botanically one species, so is the vine; and, I believe, every distinction that arises between green tea and black tea to be owing to climate, soil, and cultivation. The places that produce fine teas are



are like the spots which produce fine wines, from all accounts exceedingly limited; the places that produce coarse teas are very widely spread.

25 March 1830.

*John Crawford,
Esq.*

3696*a*. Is the coarse tea in general consumption throughout China?—From all I have been able to ascertain, it is in very general cultivation and general consumption. It could not be generally consumed unless it were generally cultivated. The people are poor, and could not afford to use it if it were not cultivated upon the very spot where it is consumed.

3697*a*. Do the lower orders in China drink tea?—I have understood universally. Those that reside in foreign countries are perpetually sipping tea. I recollect a Hindoo sepoy once called my attention to some Chinese who were at work, telling me, that those people never drank water, that they always drank tea; that was the explanation he gave. The matter appeared, of course, strange to one of a people who themselves hardly ever drink any thing but water.

3698*a*. Can you state the description of tea that is in common use amongst the lower class of Chinese; is it bohea or congo?—Those are European names. I believe I have understood from the Chinese, who have been in the tea districts, that the name of bohea, particularly, is that of a certain place, in which some of the finest black tea that is exported is grown; but I think it may be inferred from the statement I have drawn up, that the tea we name bohea is generally consumed in China. I have a comparative statement of the prices of new and old tea in Canton in season in 1828-9; I find that the bohea tea is precisely of the same price in the month of May, when out of season, that it is in the month of November, in season; that there is not the least variation in the price, whereas there is an immense variation in the prices of all the other kinds; particularly in those dealt in by Europeans, and especially in the green teas.

3699*a*. Do you infer that the teas consumed in China by the Chinese themselves are black teas?—I understand them to be universally black.

3700*a*. And the great bulk to be of an inferior description?—And the great bulk to be of an inferior description, of course.

3701*a*. Have you recently looked at the qualities of teas imported into this country, and can you state the proportion which the inferior descriptions of tea bear to the superior?—I have made a calculation of that, but I have it not by me. I have a statement of the proportions of the higher classes of tea in America and in this country. Tea is an article of general consumption in this country; it is not so to so great a degree in America. There is a larger proportion of good tea consumed in America than there is in this country, and a much larger proportion of inferior tea is consumed in this country.

3702*a*. Is it a fact that the great bulk of the imports of teas for the English market consists of inferior description of tea?—The great bulk of the tea consists of congo; I think, probably, 20,000,000 out of 30,000,000.

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25 March 1830.

John Crawford,
Esq.

3703a. Are you of opinion that the quantity of fine teas required for the market of Europe might be augmented in China?—I should think not very materially. The kinds that are now produced, I should think, much resemble in production some of the finer wines. There are, as is well known, some particular wines of which the quality cannot be much augmented without deterioration of quality. But that other fine teas, not at present known to us, may be discovered, I have no doubt, because there are evidently many fine teas that do not reach us; for example, the teas sent to Russia are obviously a different description of tea altogether from those that we receive, and the produce apparently of other provinces.

3704a. Do you know what provinces?—No; I suspect some of the central provinces.

3705a. Is that of a different description from what we import?—Yes, it differs from it materially; it is evidently another production; it differs from it as much as claret does from burgundy.

3706a. Are you aware whether fine tea is now produced in some of the provinces of China which have no export to Europe?—I have been told so by Chinese, and the fact is confirmed by the most authentic works I have read.

3707a. What are those provinces?—I understand there is very fine tea produced in Yunnan and Honkonang.

3708a. What kind of tea is produced in Cochin China?—Very inferior tea indeed; it is a large-leaved tea; very little care seems to be taken in the cultivation, and very little also in the preparation. The Cochin Chinese do not infuse, but boil it. The tea, it may be remarked, seems to be a peculiar plant, for the larger the leaf and the older, the less strength and flavour there seems to be in the tea, and the younger the leaf the more delicate and high-flavoured it is.

3709a. Do the better classes in Cochin China consume Chinese tea?—They do.

3710a. Is that the case in the Burman empire?—In the Burman empire they consume very little tea, besides what they grow themselves. This last, although a genuine tea botanically, is a peculiar variety. The Burmese mix it with oil of *seasimum* and garlic, and give it to their guests as a token of welcome. There is a very large consumption of it, and it is a considerable branch of trade.

3711a. Can you furnish the Committee with any information respecting the Russian tea-trade?—When I resided at Brussels, about eight or nine months ago, a Belgian gentleman of rank offered to furnish me with answers to any queries I might put upon the subject.

3712a. Was he engaged in commerce?—He was not engaged in commerce; but he wrote to a gentleman at St. Petersburg who was, and I have here