

aged forty who had been educated in England and who had also sent his son to England. He was one of the handful of really enlightened up-to-date officials, rigorous in suppressing ill and energetic in conducting reforms.

Just south of Yungcheng is the Salt Lake, about 7 miles long by 3 miles wide, from which the Chinese Government derive a large revenue. It is surrounded by a mud wall and trench, with eleven gates; and a guard of 800 men is maintained to prevent smuggling. In normal seasons the part of the Lake producing salt is about 4 miles long by 1 mile wide. On the bed of the Lake about 50 feet from the surface there appears to be a layer of rock salt. In circular pits or wells driven down to this depth the water becomes impregnated with salt. The brine is lifted to the surface by gangs of labourers and is run into evaporating pans and condensed by solar evaporation until salt is formed. It is then sold to salt merchants.

In the old days the Salt Commissioners in China used to make huge profits. But since the administration of the Salt Revenue was entrusted to Sir Richard Dane and an efficient European staff has been organised, the revenue has increased enormously. Salt in China is not a Government monopoly. It belongs to a Guild of Salt Merchants. But the Government puts a tax on what is taken out of the salt enclosures.

Famine refugees in some numbers—mostly from Honan—had found their way to Yungcheng, and those that were fit were put on relief works, such as road-making. Some good macadamised