

in the town. Exports to Kwantung about 2,000 tan, to Shui-chuan about 6,000 tan and the rest to other provinces. The value of the total exports is about 250,000 taels. *Opium* is mostly bought up by 5 big merchants. Annual quantity 4 million liang representing a value of about 450,000 taels (1 liang = 0.16—0.17 taels). About 10,000 liang are consumed in the town, the rest being exported to Tientsin. Chihli, Honan etc. *White cotton cloth* is imported chiefly from Hupeh, a little from Shensi, 7 wholesale buyers importing about 20,000 rolls of 30 pi each annually (1 pi is over 20 arshins) to a value of about 28—29,000 taels. White costs 22—24 taels per roll, green and blue 25 taels per roll. *Silken cloth*: over 30 shops of 3 categories. I. 5—6 shops with an annual turnover of about 20,000 taels each; II. 15 shops of 10,000 taels each; and III. 10 shops of 8,000 taels each. It is imported mostly from Shui-chuan, but also from Suchow, Hankow, Pien leang and other places to an annual value of 170—180,000 taels. 18 *pawnshops* carry on lending business on a combined capital of 3—400,000 taels. Average rate of interest 2 % per month. *Old clothes* are sold in 40 shops with a combined capital of about 200,000 taels. They are bought up in pawnshops, but are also brought partly from Shui-chuan and Hupeh. *Various small articles* are sold in 60 shops: I. 10 with a capital of 10,000 taels each; II. 8,000 each; and III. 5—6,000 taels each. The goods are imported from Kwantung, Tientsin, Honan and Hupeh. There are 4 *branches of banks* with connections in all the provinces. Their combined capital amounts to about 1 million taels. The bankers themselves come from Tajuan and Tientsin. *Purchase of money* is carried on by 1 Government and about 50 private offices with a combined capital of about 200,000 taels (excluding the Government office). There are 60 *dispensing chemists* with a combined capital of about 100,000 taels. The annual turnover in medicines is said to reach the respectable figure of about 300 tan. The surroundings of Lanchow and the neighbourhoods of Sining and Tsinchow produce many herbs used for medicines, but a good deal is also imported from Honan. Trade in *salt* is carried on by the Government in a large shop with 4—5 branches and by 4—5 private shops. The annual value is said to amount to 30—40,000 taels. Grey salt 0.02 per djin; white 0.3 per shyn and »snow» (syö) salt 0.15 per shyn. The salt is brought from Alashan and some is exported to Kung chang fu, Ti chow and Tsinchow. *Leather* 50—60 shops. Hides are bought in Hochow and Sining and cured here. About half is exported to Tientsin and Shensi. Combined capital about 100—150,000 taels. *Leather boxes* made of *kutes hide* keep 8—9 shops busy with a combined capital of 10,000 taels. *Silver goods* 40 shops with a combined capital of 80—90,000 taels. *Furriers* 20 shops with a combined capital of 120—130,000 taels. Dressed furs are brought mostly from Sining and Ningsiafu. *Books* over 10 shops with a combined capital of 70—80,000 taels. The books are obtained mostly from Shanghai and Shensi. *Oil* 30 shops with 180—190,000 taels capital. It is imported mainly from Sining, Hochow, Main, Taochow, Minchow, Tsinchow, Lianchow etc. *Iron* 12—13 shops with 120,000 taels capital. Imported from Hupeh, Hankow, Hing-anfu and Kalgan. *Coal* is mined 30—40 li from the town. Annual consumption valued at 400—500,000 taels. 60 merchants deal in coal. *Flour* is produced by 50 mills in the vicinity of the town to an annual value of 600—700,000 taels. *Brooms, baskets, spades* etc. are made here on a small scale, but are mostly brought from Tsinchow. 30 shops with a capital of 20—30,000 taels.