

1,466,000; and printed jeans, 'Hk. Tls. 775,000. The figures for Japanese white or dyed piece goods rose by Hk. Tls. 5,149,000 when compared with 1925, but the percentage 44 per cent.—remained the same for both years; once again the chief item was satteen drills, with a rise of Hk. Tls. 1,718,000.

#### A Timber Boom

The timber trade was one of the most successful of the year. After a salutary lesson in 1925, minor dealers refrained from large speculative purchases, and business was conducted on a sounder basis. The total importations of timber increased by Hk. Tls. 4,991,000 in value, or nearly 100 per cent. This advance, it is true, was not quite sufficient to make up for the decline of the previous year; but, unlike in 1924, when quantities of lumber intended for Japanese reconstructive purposes were dumped on Shanghai, the total figures for the year more nearly represented the true requirements of the market. The most important item was ordinary sawn softwood, which showed an increase of 66,776,000 superficial feet, amounting to Hk. Tls. 3,142,000 in value. Oregon pine contributed by far the largest share. At the opening of the year's stocks were somewhat low, and, on the brisk demand, prices advanced from about Tls. 48 per 1,000 feet to between Tls. 50 and Tls. 52. There they remained until the late spring, when they began to fall rather heavily. A change for the better occurred in October, owing to the fall in silver, and prices rose to as high as Tls. 58. Consumption fell off slightly during the last quarter on account of disturbed political conditions and the approach of the new year settlement. Business closed in 1926 with rates steady at about Tls. 54. There is an increasing demand in Shanghai for Japanese pine, and this variety of timber is likely to take the place of Foochow poles as the main competitor of American softwood.

A further notable advance was made in the motor car trade during the year. One of the most interesting features was the increased demand for trucks and charabancs, which are coming into common use in China, not only for commercial purposes, but also for the transport of troops and munitions. Importations into Shanghai rose from Hk. Tls. 114,000 to Hk. Tls. 306,000 in value.

#### Harbour Improvement

An appendix dealing with harbour work gives full particulars of the re-arrangement of moorings, stating it was expected the whole scheme would be completed by the end of June, 1927, and it is hoped that the accommodation for shipping in the harbour, thus provided, will then be adequate to meet requirements for some years to come. Any additional accommodation required in the future will have to be formed by extending the line of moorings in the Lower Section northward and developing the harbour at its southern end. A suggestion has already been submitted that the southern limit of the harbour be extended to the Chanchiatang Creek. The benefit to be derived from the new arrangement of buoys in the harbour is already apparent. The channel between the "A" and "B" buoys and the Pootung shore in the Lower Section is 800 feet wide, which provides a fine, clear fairway for shipping under way. At the upper end of these buoys the channel between the "C" class buoys and the Pootung shore in the 11th and 10th Sections is 1,000 feet wide, providing not only a fine, clear fairway, but also a sheet of water 9,000 feet in length, whereon the largest vessels entering the harbour will be able to swing if necessary. Then follows another channel of 800 feet wide between the "A" class buoys and the Pootung shore in the 10th Section, which terminates in a large swinging basin 3,000 feet in length. This basin stretches from the Shanghai to the Pootung shore, and will be kept clear of anchored shipping, other than those using an anchor for the purpose of swinging. In it two vessels of the largest class entering the port will be able to swing at one and the same time in safety. All this completed—and it is hoped that it will be completed in the very near future—large and small vessels should be able to move and manoeuvre on the waters of the harbour with vastly greater ease

and safety than they have been able to do in the past.

When the rearrangement of the moorings scheme was considered and adopted toward the end of 1925 and early in 1926, it was considered as a foregone conclusion that the development of Upper Gough Island as a depot for the storage of gasoline and other highly inflammable liquids, and the frontage thereof as wharfage ground for the accommodation of gasoline-laden vessels, would be nearing completion by the time the head-and-stern moorings were laid. Obstruction of an unforeseen nature evolved, however, and the development of Gough Island as a gasoline depot was delayed. This, together with the fact that the rearrangement of the moorings scheme developed more rapidly than it was expected to do, has somewhat upset the general arrangement for accommodation of gasoline-laden vessels visiting the port.

#### DALBANK UNSEALED

##### Temporary Measure to Permit Investigation

In the Provisional Court on Tuesday an application was made by the Nationalist authorities for the temporary unsealing of the premises of the Dalbank which was sealed a fortnight ago by order of the Court.

An order was accordingly made that the Dalbank should temporarily be unsealed at 9 o'clock the following morning to enable the members of the commission in charge of the matter to make certain investigations.

#### STORE AND HOTEL THIEVES ARRESTED

On Monday the French Police arrested a Russian, Alexandre Sergievitch Mikhailoff, in the French Park, on a charge of being one of the principal authors of a very important theft last June at Sun Sun & Co., Ltd., Nanking Road.

A great number of stolen articles, photographic lenses, fountain pens, eversharp pencils and various other articles have been recovered by the French Police.

The French police think that they have set their hands on a very large organized gang of thieves operating in the department stores and the hotels of Shanghai.

Mikhailoff, has been handed to the International police, the theft having been committed in the Settlement.

THE Oriental Cotton Mill, 36 Yangtzepoo Road, which closed down on July 1 because of a dispute with the employees over a bonus, has reopened.

THE Chung Hua Book Co.'s printing works at 277 Bubbling Well Road and the sales department at 580 Foochow Road, which suspended work on July 3, the management claiming that they did not have sufficient capital to go on operating, reopened on Monday morning with a skeleton staff which gradually will be brought up to normal.

A LUNCHEON was given on July 29 by the U. S. Consul at Chefoo, Mr. Leroy Webber, at the Chefoo Club, to Admiral Williams, Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Asiatic Fleet, those present including all the leading Chinese officials and gentry, as well as Admiral Williams' staff and senior naval officers now stationed at Chefoo. The Consular Body was represented by the host, the Japanese, British, Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian Consuls. Other guests included the Commissioner of Customs, heads of Chambers of Commerce and other foreign civic and commercial organizations. Mr. Webber made some very appropriate remarks about the man "that made good" and said that a large measure of this success was due to the inspiration received by the Admiral from Mrs. Williams. The Admiral, in responding, spoke of the splendid co-operation received by the Navy from the American foreign service, of which his host was one of the very efficient and best-liked members. He hoped his successor would find his term in China as happy and interesting, but more peaceful than he had.

#### ARMED ROBBERIES IN SHANGHAI

The shroffs had a bad day of it on Thursday, July 28.

Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon a rent-collecting shroff from 256 Connaught Road was approached on Tatung Road, near Sinza Road, by two men, one of them armed with a pistol. He had just been collecting rents in the Ching Yue alleyway off Tatung Road and had received \$220 from his master's clients. While the man with the pistol kept the shroff at attention, the other went through his pockets, taking all of the money. Once they had the loot in their possession the man with the pistol ordered the shroff to face about. He did so and in half a minute turned back, just in time to see them fleeing round a corner up Tatung Road.

The other shroff robbery occurred at 6.15 p.m. along Boone Road in the West Hongkew district. Three highwaymen, one of them armed held up a shroff who was returning to his home in Chapei and relieved him of \$69.20, the proceeds of his afternoon's work. All three escaped.

#### Gang of Three Captured as Result of Quick Work

The detective branch of West Hongkew station had a hectic morning on Sunday with a gang of armed robbers who held up a shop at 1521 North Shans Road and then went to 34 Loong Ka alleyway off North Soochow Road with the intention of holding up a dwelling house. After a forenoon of good work the police had the entire gang of three in the cells of West Hongkew.

At 7.30 a.m. the three men went to the Transportation Co. hong at 1521 North Shans Road, entered by an open door and took \$110 in cash from the drawer. The robbery was reported to West Hongkew and Det.-Sgt. Williamson and two Chinese detectives were sent out.

Inquiries revealed that the men had escaped along North Soochow Road and they were finally tracked to 34 Loong Ka Lee. The two Chinese were stationed at the doorways and a chauffeur sent out to get reinforcements. When these arrived Williamson tried the back door and when he found this to be barred he knocked it in.

The robbers had intimidated the occupants and when the police entered they had mingled with them so that the police could not fire. Two Chinese police pounced on two of the suspects and on one found a fully-loaded pistol. The third man, seeing this, ran to another room, but was followed by Williamson. Seeing himself cornered, the robber threw his loaded pistol on the top of a wardrobe and himself dived under the bed where he was easily captured.

All the property taken from 1521 North Shans Road was recovered from robbers. They were brought before the Provisional Court on Monday morning and charged. Their case was remanded.

#### Chinese Murdered in Cold Blood

One Chinese was murdered in cold blood and a second badly wounded at 4 a.m. on Monday when a gang of five armed men broke into a Chinese dwelling at 691 Markham Road, intimidated two females, went to an upstairs room and deliberately shot both the men.

At the time there were two women occupants on the ground floor attending a sick woman. Two of the gang entered and warned them to keep quiet. With the other three guarding, the two men went directly upstairs and in a few seconds about seven shots were fired in rapid succession. The two murderers then descended the stairs and left as quietly as they had come.

After the gunmen had left the two women went upstairs and there found one of the occupants of a room, who owns a small line kiln in Chinese territory, lying on the bed in a pool of blood. The other man was lying on another bed a short distance away. He was badly wounded and later taken to the Shantung Road Hospital. He has not been able as yet to give a description of the men and neither can this be given by the two women.

Police inquiries reveal that the bedroom where the murder took

place did not show any sign of a struggle, leading to the belief that both men were shot while they lay in their beds. The motive of the murder could not be ascertained. In the bedroom were found six Mauser cartridge cases and three spent bullets.

#### Unarmed Police in Chase of Armed Robbers

Another shooting affair took place in Jukong Road, near the Shanghai North station, on Monday night, which resulted in two policemen being shot and an apprentice severely wounded.

It appears, from the Chapei police reports, that seven armed men, speaking the Kompo dialect, entered the home of Mr. Wu Wu-chong and intimidated the inmates. Three stood on guard and the others began to ransack the place. Completing their work downstairs, they went upstairs and pillaged everything they could lay hands on. The mistress of the house managed to get out of the back door and raised an alarm, which brought a number of Chapei police to the spot. The police, however, have been unarmed since the Nationalists took possession of Shanghai and on Monday night they were likewise without rifles or pistols.

Hearing the alarm, the miscreants rushed downstairs and, seeing the police, immediately opened fire at them, wounding one in the left leg and the other in the face. These two men were able to get into rickshas and return to the station where they made a report. Reinforcements were sent to the scene but the robbers had fled. However, unarmed as they were, the police gave chase, but they were no match for the miscreants who kept up their fire. An apprentice was struck in the hip by a stray bullet and he was removed to hospital in a very serious condition.

The robbers then made across country and escaped in the darkness. No arrests were made but the police are continuing their investigations.

#### A Big Haul

THE biggest haul made by armed robbers in recent weeks was consummated on Wednesday morning at 6 Shanhaikuan Road, by four men, each of whom carried a pistol. Although a Chinese rang the burglar alarm, the bandits overcame the respondent and made off with \$2,600. The robbers entered the house just after seven o'clock, and were ransacking the lower floor, when they were overheard by a woman in an upstairs room. She informed her brother-in-law, who rang the alarm. A watchman, who was at a distance from the house, came in response, but was met by the guard on the lower floor, who covered him and prevented his obtaining further assistance. They remained on the premises for the better portion of an hour, making a thorough ransack of the resident's belongings. It was about 20 minutes after their departure with the loot, that the watchman reported to the police.

#### Tenants Intimidated

FIVE armed robbers operated in the West Hongkew district on Wednesday evening and at 581 North Honan Road intimidated the tenants with their pistols. They left the premises a few minutes after eight o'clock, the richer by \$80. Just before 11 p.m., three men entered the open door of the residence at 259 Pingliang Road and made off with \$36. At 9 o'clock, four men, one of whom carried a pistol, entered a shop at 191 Park Road. After terrorizing the shop-keeper and his family, they took four watches and about \$30 in cash.

#### A Raid in Settlement

THE armed robbers of the Settlement adopted Wednesday morning for a series of raids, in each instance having no difficulty in entering their objectives through open doors. This procedure is different from their usual habits, for in the past the hours between seven in the evening and midnight appeared most favourable for them. At 7 a.m. three men, with two pistols, entered the dwelling situated at 259 Tongshan Road, and left with \$900. At 11.20 a.m. six men obtained \$105 from 263 Elgin Road, while just after seven o'clock a crowd took \$2,600 from 6 Shanhaikuan Road.

Mr. Yu Ya-ching has gone to Nanking to confer with high officials there.

#### PERSONAL NOTES

Miss Ruth E. Hilton has left for the United States.

Mrs. A. V. Hitch left Shanghai on Wednesday morning for Japan, on her way to Canada.

Mr. Boyers, Chinese Postal Commissioner at Mukden till lately, has been transferred to Kaifengfu.

Dr. R. P. Price, of Taichow, has gone to Korea for temporary service there with the Southern Presbyterian Mission.

Mr. W. Turner, general manager of Reuters, left on the P. & O. S. Kalyan, making a business trip to Hongkong.

AMONG recent appointments by the Secretary of State for the Colonies is Dr. T. W. Ware as Medical Officer, Hongkong.

Dr. J. F. Rock, botanical explorer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is returning home to the United States, after doing research work in Yunnan.

THE death is announced of Mr. Elward F. Riley, manager of the Harbin branch of the National City Bank of New York. He died at Harbin of pneumonia.

CAPT. Rickard Jentoft has died in Hongkong from injuries sustained at the hands of the pirates who took control of his steamer, the Solviken, 120 miles south of Hongkong whilst on its way to Saigon.

THE American Consulate-General is interested in securing information regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Alexander Kaufman, who formerly resided at No. 23 Chaufong Road. Information in this regard will be appreciated.

The death was announced on Sunday at the Country Hospital, Shanghai, of little Ernestine Smith, seven-year-old daughter of Lieut.-Comdr. Smith of the U.S.S. Elcano and Mrs. Smith, following a short illness. Death was due to acute peritonitis.

GENERAL John Duncan, Commander-in-Chief of the Shanghai Defence Force, left on Sunday last on H. M. S. Frobisher for Weihaiwei. After remaining at Weihaiwei for two days, General Duncan goes to Tientsin, returning to Shanghai about the middle of next week.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the engagement of Miss M. Hope Maxwell, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James L. Maxwell, of the China Medical Association, and Mr. William M. McLennan, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Murdo McLennan of Arivruich, Lewis, formerly of Shanghai.

HONGKONG papers announce the death of Mr. T. Peterson, aged 36 years, of the Taikoo Dockyard, as a result of what is believed to be cholera. Mr. Peterson formerly was employed by Barclay & Currie, the well-known engineering firm of Glasgow. He was an enthusiastic member of the Taikoo Recreation Club, and a member of the First Division bowls team.

Dr. Edward Hindle has been elected to the Beit Senior Fellowship for research in tropical medicine, of a value of £1,000 for five years, in respect of the subject of "Spirochaetosis, with special reference to the causation of yellow fever." Dr. Edward Hindle has been during the past two years employed in the Kala-azar Commission's research work in North China. He is one of the most distinguished Anglo-American biologists.

Mr. Chung Wing Kwong, a member of the Educational Commission of the Kuomintang in Nanking, is to relieve Dr. James M. Henry as President of Canton Christian College, to be known in future as Lingnan University. From August 1, the College formally becomes a Chinese managed institution, taking over from the Americans, whose board of Trustees in charge of the College was for many years in New York City. Dr. Henry will remain at the College as Vice-President.