

PAMPHLETS

The Tariff System of China.

In the United States consular report of February 5, Consul-General George E. Anderson writes from Hongkong a very instructive article on the Chinese tariff. "In a general way," he says, "the import duties on foreign goods entering the country are at specific rates, which are theoretically 5 per cent of the average price of the commodities. The export tariff is . . . practically 5 per cent duty upon the average export value of goods. In the way of imports at present the actual free list in China includes only rice, foreign cereals and flour, and gold and silver bullion and coin." But China has also internal revenue taxes, the most important and troublesome being the "likin" or transit taxes. "Along all trade routes throughout the Empire of China tax stations are established and barriers are erected. The transportation of any goods whatever, whether of native or of foreign production, past a barrier involves the payment of a tax. Originally the rate of the likin was one-tenth of 1 per cent, the term 'likin' signifying 'contribution of a thousandth.' It has gradually been raised and has lost all uniformity of amount, varying according to locality. Likin charges are generally farmed out and are collected with less regard for the law than for the limit of what the traffic will bear. While the amount of taxes collected on goods at any one station is not great, the total amount at all stations, when goods are transported any considerable distance, becomes very material. On goods produced in a district and sold in the markets of a neighboring city the amount of tax paid is not great; when these same goods are produced at a distance from the market, however, the tax becomes very burdensome. The result is that the system is particularly severe on commodities like silk and tea, of which the great quantities needed for export must, under the Chinese method of production, be collected from innumerable small producers, whether they are far from or near to the market center in which such supplies are collected. The distance such commodities must be transported before they can reach an open port at the coast for exportation increases the tax upon such goods, so that likin is a matter of much importance in the export trade. In the import trade the process is reversed, but is of no less moment. Not only must imported goods received at open ports be transported considerable distances at a high cost of transportation before native distributing points can be reached, but this likin tax must be paid at an increasing number of stations as the goods proceed farther and farther inland, until at times the likin taxes reach a proportion of the original value of the goods which renders it impossible for the natives to purchase and use them." An arrangement made by Great Britain with China for the abolition of "likin" is to go into effect as soon as it is accepted by all the powers trading with China, the old rate to continue until all powers agree to the new rate. This was accepted by the United States in 1904 but has not yet been accepted by Russia, Germany or France.

A. L. G.

Pamphlets Received.

The Nude in Art and Kindred Follies. By Oliver Wendell Smith.

The Growing Grocery Bill. By Allan L. Benson. Reprinted from Pearson's Magazine, 1912.

Public Opinion: Its Effect on Business. By Howard Elliott. Address before the Publicity Club of Minneapolis, Jan. 10, 1912.

The Standard Price of Cotton. By Henry Rawie. Published by the Author, 1201 American Bldg., Baltimore, Md. 1912. Price, 25 cents.

State Taxation of Interstate Commerce. By H. J. Davenport. Reprinted from The Political Science Quarterly, in two parts. Published by Ginn & Co., New York, 1912.

Oregon State Federation of Labor. Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Convention at Dalles, Ore., Jan. 15-18, 1912. E. J. Stack, Secretary, Labor Temple, Portland, Ore.

Government by Ballot: Arizona Constitution—Initiative, Referendum, and Recall. Speech of George Sutherland of Utah in the Senate of the United States, July 11, 1911.

Light on the Courts for Lawyers and Laymen. Number 2. Franchise Value; Land and Pavement Values. By Jesse F. Orton, Elmhurst, N. Y., 1912. Reprinted from The Independent.

Address of Miss Lind-af-Hageby at the Public Meeting of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, Feb. 5, 1909. Issued by the American Vivisection Society, 36 S. 18th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Initiative and Referendum. Published for the Constitutional Convention of Ohio, 1912. Compiled by C. B. Galbreath, Secretary. The F. J. Heer Printing Co., Columbus, O., 1912.

The Buckskin Book of the Boy Pioneers of America. Compiled by the Founder, Daniel C. Beard. Published by Pictorial Review, Official Organ of the Society, 222 W. 39th St., New York City. 1911.

Wealth and Health from Gardens on Idle City Land. Philadelphia Vacant Lots Cultivation Association, Fifteenth Annual Report, Season of 1911. James H. Dix, Superintendent, 1122 Land Title Building.

Why Should We Change Our Form of Government? Address by Nicholas Murray Butler before the Commercial Club of St. Louis, November 27, 1911. Presented by Mr. Sutherland and Ordered to be Printed. Washington, D. C.

The Strike at Lawrence, Massachusetts. Hearings before the Committee on Rules of the House of Representatives on House Resolutions 409 and 433. March 2-7, 1912. Printed at the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

In Re Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, Respondents. Argument of Mr. Jackson H. Ralston on behalf of the Respondents. In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, March 13, 1912. Judd & Detweiler, Printers, Washington, D. C.

Review of Legislative Proceedings of Session of 1911, in the State of Washington. By the Joint Legislative Committee of the Direct Legislation League of Washington, State Federation of Labor, Farmers' Union and State Grange. Charles R. Case, Secretary-Treasurer Joint Committee, 1518 Sixteenth Ave. N., Seattle, Wash.

Preparation of Woman for Citizenship. By Virginia Barlow Le Roy. Published by The Political Settlement Committee, Woman Suffrage Party, Illinois. Room 1310, 127 N. Dearborn St., Chicago. A miniature working democracy in each ward or precinct which aims, too, at the larger and actual democracy of the nation, is here advocated as one good way to prepare women for citizenship.