

TIENTSIN

NORTH CHINA

天津  
紫竹林



THE ROTARY CLUB OF TIENTSIN

No 1444

JANUARY 1934

# TIENTSIN, NORTH CHINA.

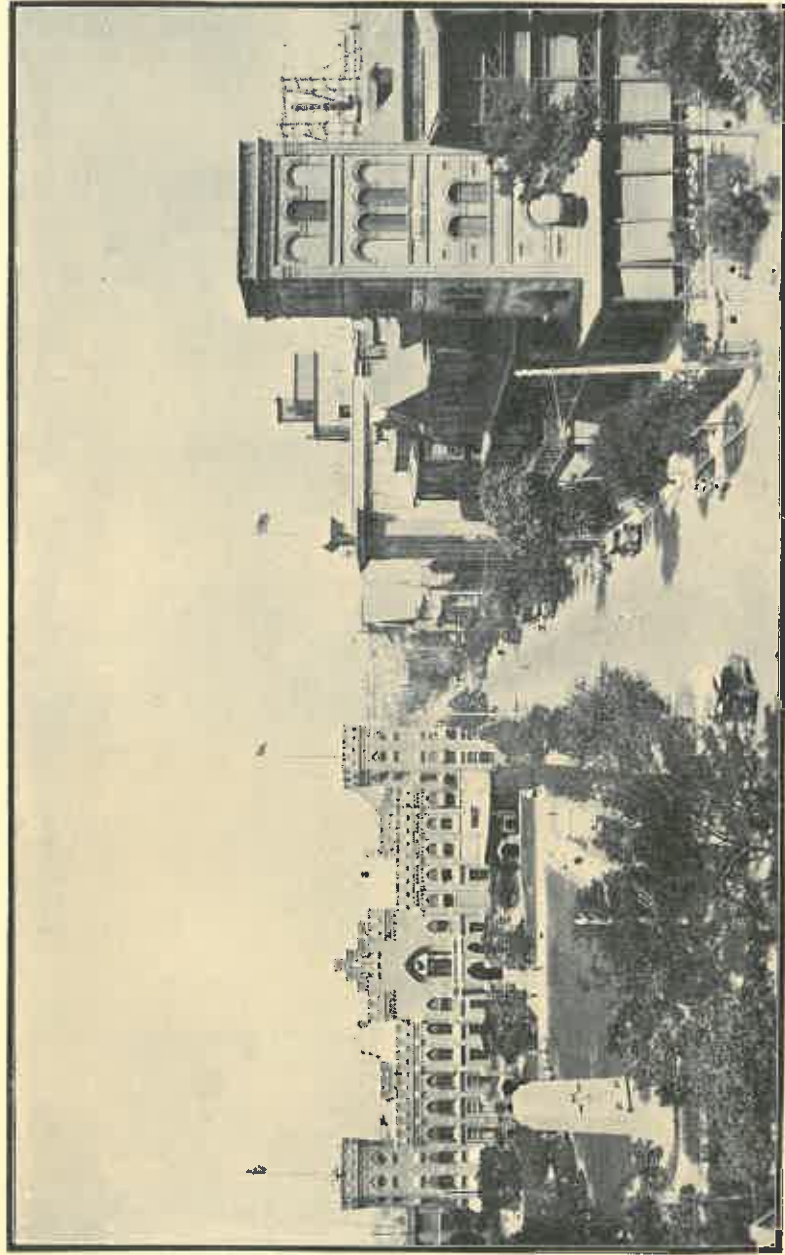
THE PORT,  
ITS HISTORY, AND  
ROTARY CLUB ACTIVITIES.



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*This pamphlet has been prepared by Past President W. V. Pennell, Editor of the Peking & Tientsin Times, at the request of President V. W. Stapleton-Cotton and the Board of Directors, for circulation among Rotary Clubs in various parts of the world. The Tientsin Rotary Club will be glad to receive any similar publications.*



*Victoria Road, Tientsin, showing the Cenotaph, Victoria Gardens, Gordon Hall, and on right, Astor House Hotel.*

## TIENTSIN.

BY W. V. PENNELL,

Past President of the Tientsin Rotary Club.

Rotarians are men of travel, and our Clubs are always interested in the stories visitors from other Clubs, often from other Continents, tell us of their own doings and of the circumstances and environment in which they live. Rotary is itself an expression of our close-knit modern world, and the comradely intercourse of its members stresses it.

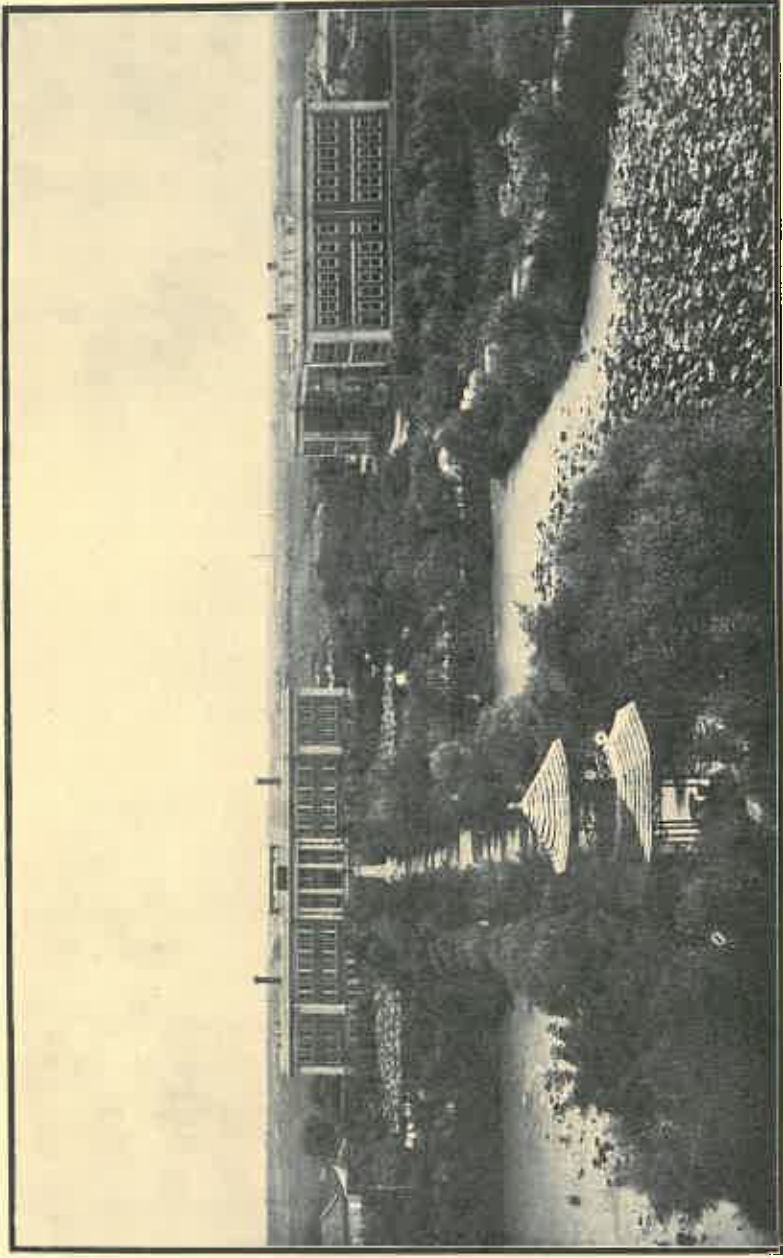
In common with many other Clubs we have received letters from distant places asking for the history of our Club and its city. It reveals an interest which it is to our common welfare to encourage, for it promotes understanding and knowledge as well as the Rotary spirit, which I believe to be a very precious thing in a world now being refashioned in all its vast ramifications.

Therefore it is a pleasure as well as a duty imposed upon me as Chairman of the Publicity Committee, to write this brief sketch of Tientsin and its Rotary Club, a Club which expresses the Sixth Object as few others do, since in a total membership of 54 we have no less than 14 nationalities represented. That is a percentage record which, I believe, is unsurpassed.

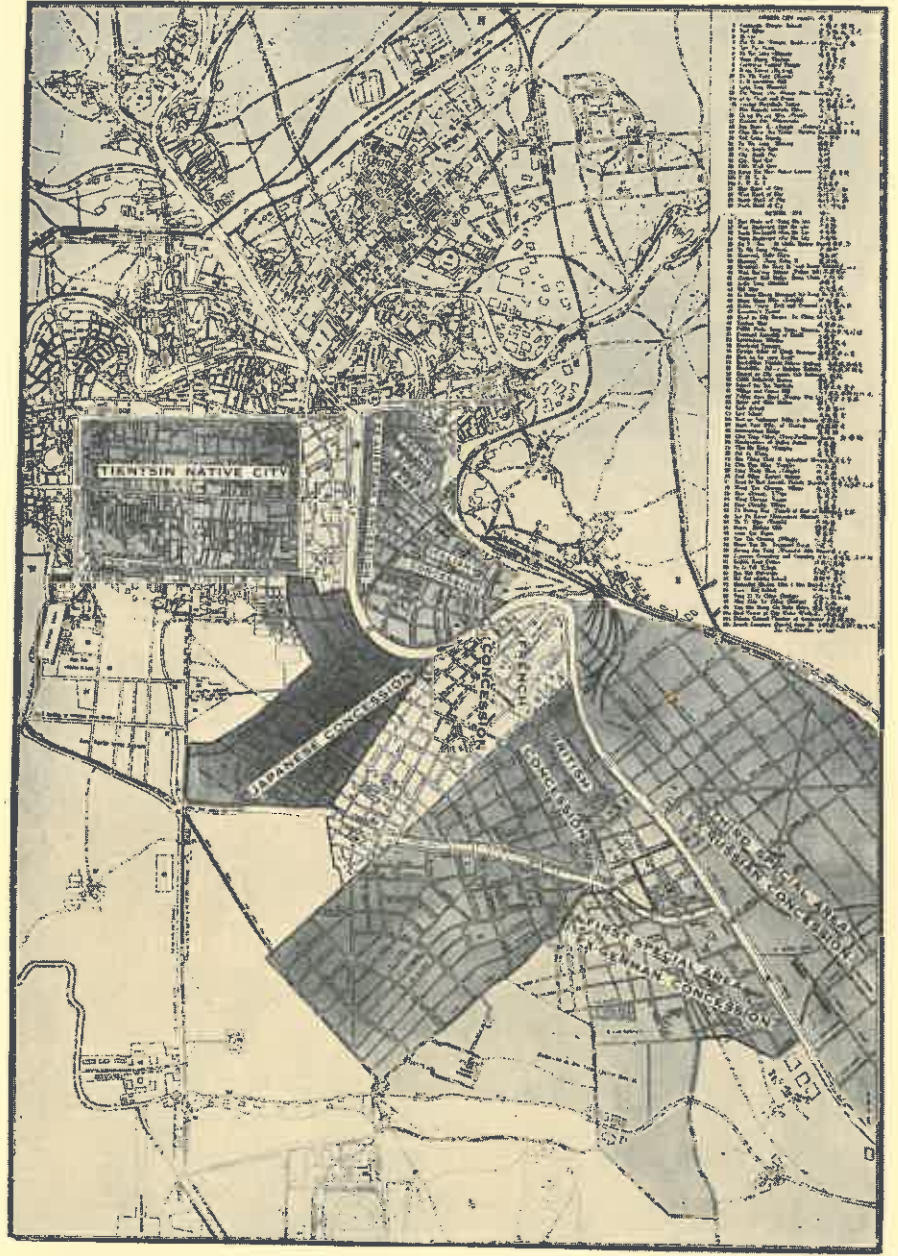
The whole world is interested in China and her problems to-day, and many Clubs may deem it sufficiently interesting and expedient to have a summary of this story of Tientsin and its Rotary Club read in full meeting, in order that the information it gives may be more widely known.



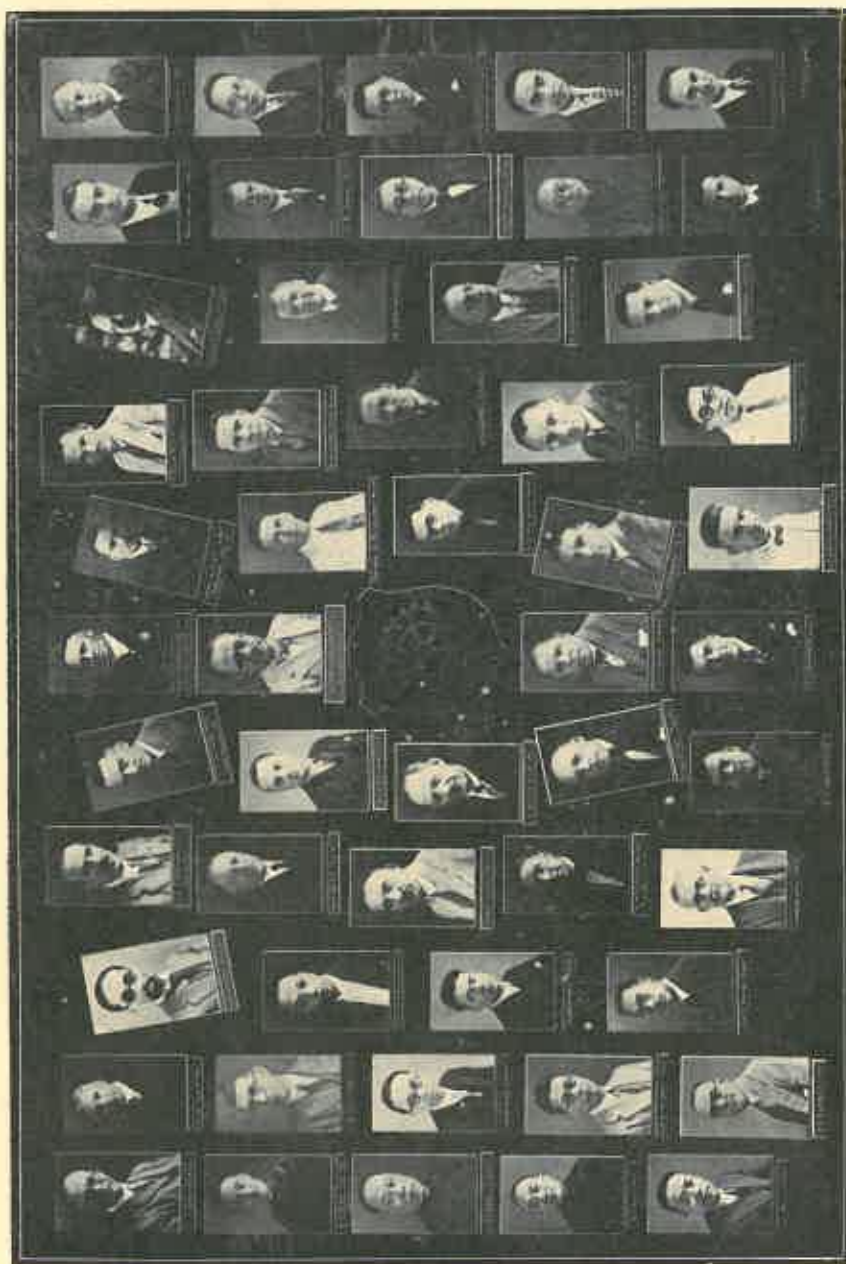
*The Hai Ho (Sea River) from the British Band.*



*Nankai University, one of the most noted institutions in China. Its head is Dr. Chang Po-Lin, one of China's most famous and respected figures.*



*Map of Tientsin.*



THE ROTARY CLUB OF TIENTSIN  
No. 1444  
1933-1934

## TIENTSIN 天津—HEAVEN FORD.

**Tze Chu Lin 紫竹林**—Bamboo Grove—  
(Chinese name for the Settlements.) Name of a  
Chinese Village originally situated in the mud flats  
and swamps from which the Foreign town has  
arisen.

Distance from Taku (on the Gulf of Chihli)  
by road 35 miles, from Peking 80 miles.

Distance from Tangku by rail 27.19, from  
Peking 86.64 miles.

Distance from Shanhaikwan by rail 175.54  
miles.

Length of River from Tientsin to Taku 36  
miles.

Population of the Chinese City about  
1,450,000.

—Hong List.

There is reason to believe that the vast  
alluvial plain of North China, of which the modern  
Tientsin is the entrepot, was once part of the  
Yellow Sea. The plain was largely created by the  
wandering Yellow River, eternally laden with  
immense quantities of silt. Twice the changes of  
its course brought the river through Tientsin, which  
was known as a fishing port by the picturesque  
name of the "Country of the Sea King" in the  
legendary age of the Great Yu, founder of the first  
Chinese Dynasty in 2205 B.C. Its present name  
dates from the time of the great Ming Emperor  
Yung Lo, who moved the capital from Nanking to  
Peking in 1421 and made Tientsin a garrison town  
for the safeguarding of the capital. The full name  
was Tien Chin Wei, meaning "a Ford leading to  
the City of the Son of Heaven." In his work on



*The Drum  
Tower,  
Chinese  
City.*

the "History of Tientsin," Mr. Rasmussen points out that the poetical inference of the name arises from the fact that embassies from many tributary States were obliged to ford their way across this confluence of waterways on their journey to visit the Emperor.

Even under the previous Dynasty (the Yuan, established by the Mongol conquerors) Tientsin had assumed a certain importance, because of its situation on the Grand Canal, the northern section of which had then been completed. Marco Polo refers to the place as the "Citta Celeste."

The first European Embassy, sent by the Dutch, which passed through Tientsin in 1655, proclaimed this the "most famous Sea Town of all China," near the sea and at a point where three rivers met, built with strong walls, full of watch-towers and bulwarks, "and the place much set forth with temples; very populous and so full of Trade, that hardly the like Commerce is to be found in any other city in all China; for whatever vessels are bound for Peking from any other part of China, must touch here."

Hither came the first British Embassy to the Court of Peking, headed by Lord Macartney in 1793, and the second Embassy 23 years later, under



*The Creek  
from the  
Pa Li Tai  
Canal.*

*At the Boundary  
of the French  
and British  
Concessions.*



Lord Amherst. Both wrote of Tientsin as a city of substance, with well-dressed people of decent appearance who crowded the banks of the river and "uttered no abuse, nor testified any signs of dissatisfaction—but all their countenances were expressive of good humoured surprise and curiosity."

Both these Ambassadors traversed the Tientsin river (known to-day as the Haiho) in Chinese junks, their ships remaining outside the bar off Taku, which is distant some 30 miles from Tientsin.

The modern history of the port and city dates from the Treaties of Tientsin in 1858. Following troubles in the South of China and the continued indifference of the young Emperor Hienfung, to the demands of foreigners for trading rights, the Powers turned their attention to the North. To wake the Emperor from "his dream of supremacy," four Powers knocked at the outer gates of the Capital, two of them "with the gentle tap of friendship, the other two with the heavy blows of belligerents." The Taku forts were taken and foreign gunboats went up the river to Tientsin. As an instance of the indifference of the common people to the quarrels between their own and other Governments, and doubtless of the alacrity with which the Chinese seize any chance to earn what was to them an honest enough penny, when one of the foreign gunboats ran aground in the silt, 400 peasants were hired to keep her afloat, and "they tugged as lustily as if they had not been helping the enemies of their sovereign." Owing to the



*Victoria Road  
British Conc.*



*Race Course Road,  
Empire Theatre.*

lavish hospitality of the Chinese "and the reckless enterprise with which the more juvenile portion of the British Naval officers attacked every species of unwholesome dish that was placed in their way," Lord Elgin found it expedient to hasten the signature of the Treaties, which unfortunately overlooked Tientsin.

Thereafter the Powers were permitted to establish Legations in Peking, and their nationals to travel and do business. But as a result of the unaccountable omission of Tientsin from the list of new Treaty Ports further trouble arose, the Manchu Dynasty evaded ratification and the rebarred door had to be forced open again two years later by an Expedition which occupied Peking. The Chinese rulers had failed to keep the foreigner out altogether but they were determined not to have them in the heart of their cities. In this they were undoubtedly well-advised on practical grounds, for the possibilities of misunderstanding and collision were many and might have involved constant friction. Consequently places outside the city were set apart for them. The British and French were conceded low-lying swamps adjacent to the river, and a similar Concession was given to the Americans, which ultimately amalgamated with the British area. It was a very narrow strip of land, in later years extended with the consent of the Chinese Authorities. The famous soldier General Gordon, then a Captain in the Royal Engineers, mapped out the original British area.



*War Memorial,  
Italian  
Concession.*



*Italian  
Concession.*

Describing the site set apart for the Concessions Mr. Alexander Michie, first of a long line of British editors in Tientsin, writes that Captain Gordon and his French colleague

"placed the boundary stones in the dreary grounds which contained within their areas junk docks, small vegetable gardens, mud heaps, hovels of fishermen, sailors and others, whose wretched groups of squalid huts were divided from each other by narrow tidal ditches which were bordered by meagre and settlements were foul and noxious swamps, and around them on the dryer ground were the numerous graves of many generations of the people."

Tientsin was still the mart of the North at that time, and the shrewdness of the local Chinese traders was noted in a proverb saying that "Ten oily-mouthed Pekinese cannot get around one tonguey Tientsinner." The guilds in the city were splendid and powerful, "and scarce any city in the Empire contained more numerous and better endowed charitable institutions, such as orphanages, schools of the poor, refuges, food distributaries, etc."

The contact thus established between two of the foremost trading peoples of the world led in the course of time to a tremendous growth in the wealth, importance, and size of Tientsin. Most of the pioneer foreign traders were British. They found and fostered markets abroad for Chinese products



*The Boundary  
of the French  
and Japanese  
Concessions.*



*French and  
British Bunds.*

while finding in Tientsin and its vast hinterland a market for the manufactures of the West. Many a romantic tale could be told of the early development of this trade did space allow. It is sufficient to state that in spite of manifold difficulties and periods of crisis the growth of the commerce and importance of Tientsin has been practically continuous, and it is now the second port of China, taking precedence of all save Shanghai. Twice the little foreign trading colonies were threatened with extinction: during the Tientsin riots of 1870 and again in 1900, when the Boxers besieged the foreign areas. Now, however, Chinese and foreigner are bound with strong ties, the sentiment of the native population has undergone considerable change, and for a generation—despite the periodical agitations of petty politicians—harmony has reigned.

The face of Tientsin, too, has vastly changed in the past two decades. The swamps on which the foreign areas began have been raised far above their former level by scientific methods, silt being pumped up from the river and distributed over the lowlying land in sections. Macadam, asphalt, and concrete roads—as good as any to be found in the most modern cities of the West—have long since replaced the mud-roads of former times. The example of the foreign areas in this respect is now being emulated by the Chinese Authorities in the native city. Owing to the civil wars and the in-

*Liddell's Building  
and Godowns,  
Taku Road.*



*The  
International  
Bridge.*



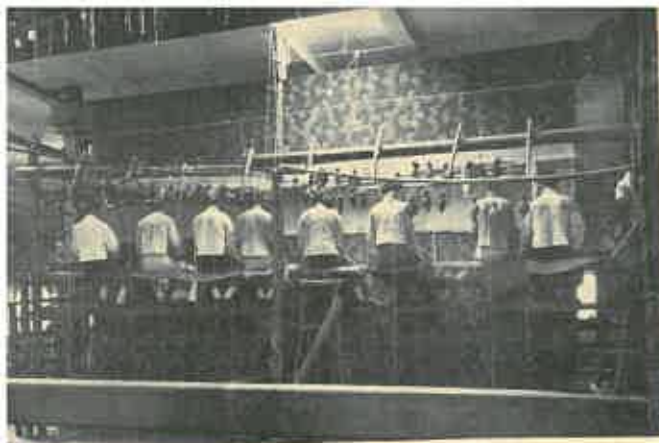
security of life and property in the city, the trend of development has moved towards the foreign areas where all the larger department stores, hotels, banks, business institutions, theatres and cinemas, both Chinese and foreign, are centred. Chinese are flocking into these areas, too, for ordinary residential purposes. Most of the Concessions are now built up to capacity.

The foreign areas represent in brick and stone that transition of the oldest civilisation on earth to more modern concepts of life. People returning to Tientsin after a prolonged absence marvel at its rapid growth and the relative magnificence of many of its great banking and business premises. It is estimated that the total population, Chinese and foreign, now exceeds 1,500,000.

It is of interest to note that for several years now the British Area has been administered by a Municipal Council, of leading business men and ratepayers, consisting of five Chinese and five Britons, with a British Chairman. The experiment has proved a most valuable one, and has confounded the sceptics and even surprised the optimists who dared to hope it would be successful. The most amicable relations exist between the two nationalities represented on the Council, and though the inception of the experiment occasioned a setback in the progress of the area, this has been completely overcome.



*The  
International  
Bridge.*



*Carpet Weaving. Nichols Supercarpet Co.*

**TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.**

The following figures will show the immense growth of the trade of Tientsin:—

	Tael
1861 .....	5,500,000
1881 .....	21,600,000
1901 .....	49,500,000
1921 .....	225,000,000
1929 .....	342,500,000
1930 .....	318,000,000
1931 .....	354,000,000
1932 .....	283,000,000
1933 .....	249,418,485

The tael is approximately one and a half Mexican dollars. The latter has undergone extraordinary fluctuations since the war. The dollar, when silver reached its peak in 1920, was worth over 6/- and is now at the low value of 1/3½.

It will be noted that despite the disorders in China, of which the North-West, which Tientsin serves as its only port, has had more than its fair share, trade has grown with tremendous strides. The figures for recent years are still more remarkable in view of the fact that since Outer Mongolia broke off relations with China and virtually entered the economic regime of the Soviet Union, the vast amounts of

*An Enormous Carpet on the loom.*



*Above the International Bridge.*

camel's wool and sheep's wool, which used to come down to Tientsin for export to the United States and other foreign markets, have been diverted to the Soviet. The magnitude of this trade may be seen from the fact that in 1928 the two Soviet concerns operating in Urga, called Montzenkop and Stormong, exported nearly 600,000 Russian poods (a pood is about 36 lbs.) of sheep's wool and nearly 80,000 poods of camel's wool, from Outer Mongolia to Soviet Russia, while virtually the whole of the sheep skins and hides, marmot skins and other furs went the same way. Some of this trade is already coming back and political changes in the future may accelerate this movement.

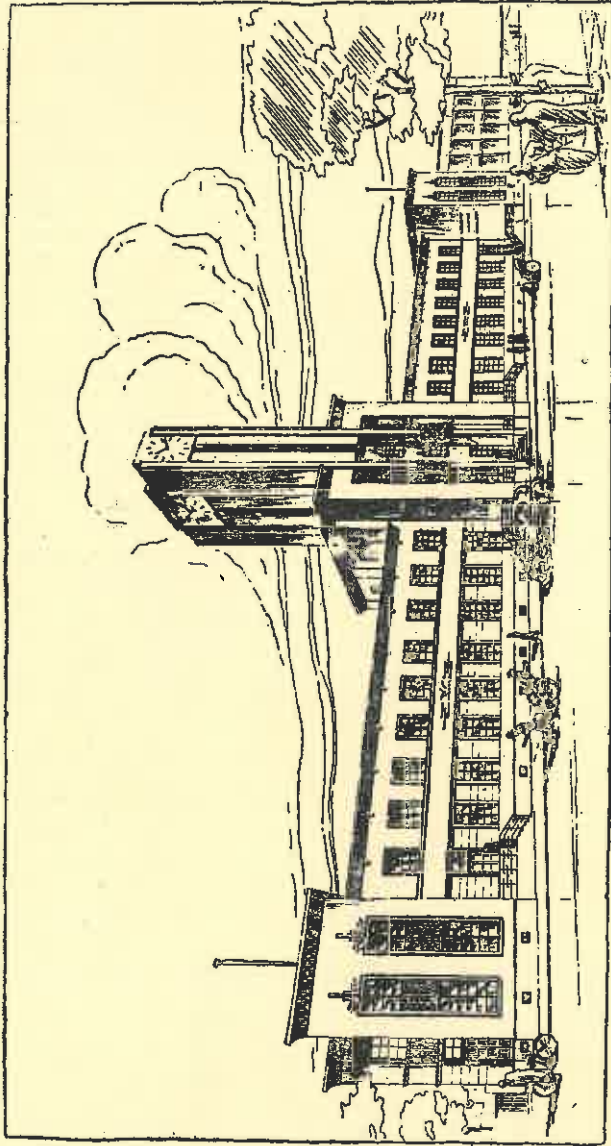
Tientsin is one of the greatest centres in Asia for the export of raw products. The main items of this trade are Fibres, Groundnuts, Hides and Skins, Furs, Strawbraid, Camel's and Sheep's Wool, Raw Cotton, Bristles, Egg and Vegetable Products. On the manufacturing side a large export trade is done in Tientsin Carpets.

Its import trade includes Piece Goods, Metals and Machinery, Tobacco and Cigarettes, Kerosene and Gasolene, Printing Paper, Sugar, Rice, Wheat and Flour, Railway Sleepers and Materials, Timber, Motor-cars, and Aniline Dyes.

**Industries.**—While Tientsin grew in importance on Trade, and owes its modern foundations to



*Transporting Flour from Steamer to Godown.*



*Architects' Drawing of the Head Post Office as it will appear when completed*

*On one of  
Tientsin's  
Canals.*



this, Industry has steadily become an increasingly important factor. While it lacks any of the great basic, heavy industries of the highly-developed countries of the West, there has been a proliforous growth of smaller industries and handicrafts. Indeed it is a perpetual source of surprise even to the residents how many things formerly imported can now be made here. There is no doubt that Tientsin is destined to become one of the greatest industrial centres of the Far East, while the almost virgin North-West is destined for a development similar to the North-East (Manchuria) in the past generation, and will thus immensely stimulate trade as well as industry.

Tientsin Carpets are known all over the world, and this industry, which has grown tremendously since the Great War, is one of the most important in Tientsin. In spite of the depression, a million square feet were shipped to the United States alone last year. The industry has branched out in a new and most notable direction in the past year, owing to the heavy tariff imposed on imported woollen goods. Woollen spinning mills have developed with great rapidity. It is confidently predicted that Tientsin will become the Bradford of China in the manufacture of woollen goods.

There are numerous cotton mills, which have had a difficult time owing to excessive taxation,



*Skating  
at the  
Country  
Club.*



*The Gordon  
Hall, the British  
Municipal  
Council Offices.*

labour troubles, and lack of practical Government aid, but have a bright future before them when their weaknesses are removed. Flour mills and tobacco factories, Machine-shops and Boiler Making enterprises, Engraving and Printing businesses, Furniture, Marble, Match, Press Packing, Salt and other Industries, are centred here. Many small Chinese industries have developed in recent years. Footwear of all kinds, and practically all athletic and games equipment and accessories are now made in local factories. In addition to these, many of the older industries such as silver ware, cloisonne, etc., are flourishing.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

Tientsin is both the leading port North of Shanghai and one of the chief centres of Railway and internal river navigation in the country. The two great trunk railways North of the Yangtze, the Tientsin-Pukow and the Peking-Mukden lines, both pass through the city, while the other main trunk line the Peking-Hankow Railway, is easily accessible. There is also considerable junk and boat traffic on the Grand Canal and the many other small canals, and the rivers in this vicinity. In recent times a network of roadways has grown up all over the province, radiating from Tientsin, and though unmetalled and in poor condition, nevertheless they sustain a growing traffic of motor-buses and other forms of transport.



*The French  
Municipal  
Council Offices.*



*Italian  
Municipal  
Council Offices.*

In regard to shipping, for many years the port of Tientsin has had to battle against a formidable enemy in the shape of the Yungting river, which with several other rivers flows into the Tientsin navigable river known as the Haiho. The Yungtingho (**Ho** means river), during the spring and summer freshets brings down vast quantities of silt, and periodically blocks the river and obstructs navigation. During these periods only lighters and small craft can come up to the Tientsin Bund, and while the ocean-going steamers lie off Taku Bar, the coastal services use Tangku (some 27 miles from Tientsin, down river) as the port, the cargo being brought up by lighters or the railway. The Haiho was in a very badly silted condition at the time of the Boxer troubles in 1900. During the temporary foreign control exercised at that time the Haiho Conservancy Commission was instituted, and this body has fought a ceaseless battle against the silt menace. The Bar channel has been improved, many cuttings have been made in the river to straighten its course and facilitate tidal movement, and dredging has been ceaselessly undertaken, together with ice-breaking operations which have enabled ships to use the port even in the deepest winter.

The real source of evil lies beyond the jurisdiction of this Commission, however, and while the Chinese Authorities have in recent years realised the importance of the Haiho both for navigation and as an adequate outlet for the river system and a safeguard against floods, only palliative schemes have hitherto been possible.



*The National  
City Bank of  
New York.*



*The Hongkong  
and Shanghai  
Banking  
Corporation.*

The large-scale measures to conquer the Yungtingho menace must await the time when peace and order are restored and China enters her great reconstruction period. The time may come when a great Ship Canal will have to be built from Tientsin to the sea, with great double-tiered concrete roads as embankments for protection against floods and additional facilities for motor and other road transport, the lower tier to be used for slower traffic and the upper for motor freight and passenger traffic, to supplement the river facilities. But that time is not yet.

Statistics of the Port of Tientsin show the growth of the port. The tonnage registered in 1861 totalled 27,000; in 1881 it had risen to 260,000 tons; in 1901 the tonnage was 658,000; in 1921 1,649,000; and in 1929, 2,825,927.

#### DESCRIPTION.

Tientsin lies at the confluence of several large rivers and the Grand Canal, and is near the sea edge of the great Northern plain. In winter the plain is hardly calculated to inspire poetic fancy. The bare brown earth does not possess that lush dark hue to be found in parts of Manchuria. It is a dirty, light brown, and looks so poor that one wonders whether anything could be grown upon it. But when the kaoliang and other crops are high in the late summer one marvels at the immense expanses of



*The Chartered  
Bank of India,  
Australia and  
China.*



*The Kailan  
Mining  
Administration.*

green and the productivity of the soil. The climate is very dry except for brief periods of humidity in summer. Temperatures run to extremes, and when the North-Easterly winds blow it is very cold. In the Spring, too, the winds are laden with a great deal of dust. But the rainfall is relatively small, and blue skies and sunshine are almost monotonous in their consistency and frequency. The summer is trying only during the three Chinese "Fu's" of ten days each, from the last week of July to the last week of August.

The original old walled city grew in the course of the last century well beyond its limits, but with the coming of the Revolution and the disturbances and stimulus to modernity it brought, development has centred in the foreign areas adjacent to the Chinese city and further down river. The French, Japanese and Italian Concessions, which some 20 years or so ago had only a few streets, have been built up completely. The much larger British Area, which adjoins the French Concession, is now the chief centre of new building, and so greatly has the rate of development been accelerated in the last year or two, after a brief slump, that its continuance at the present rate will mean that three years hence no further space for building will be available. The former German and Austrian Concessions, which have reverted to China, have long since been built up, while the ex-



*All Saints'  
Church.*



Russian Concession has grown appreciably in the post-War years. The time is coming when the problem of expansion will become almost as acute as in Shanghai, especially as development beyond these areas must be preceded by filling in the lowlying land outside.

In these foreign areas model Municipalities, with the usual municipal facilities of electric power, Public Works Departments, parks and athletic fields,

modern concrete streets, lighting and traffic systems, have grown up. They have begun to exert great influence on the Chinese city, though Tientsin native city cannot yet compare with the vast strides in modern reforms instituted in such progressive cities as Canton.

The foreign Areas look for all the world like modern Western cities, with great modern Temples of Finance, massive business premises, and well-built residences. Even in the native city itself the transition from mud hovels and one-storey grey brick, walled houses, to more modern forms of construction is becoming more marked year by year, and expresses in brick and stone the great transition of ancient China.

The elected Councillors in the British Area are men of substance in the community, professional men or business leaders, elected on a ratepaying franchise. The present generation owes much to a long succession of public-spirited citizens, who have ever looked to the future rather

*German Chapel.*



*The Tientsin Club.*

than subordinated it to present advantage. The influence of their example is far-reaching. A well-known Indian Nationalist leader, Dr. S. K. Datta, at one time associated with Mahatma Gandhi, in a letter he wrote from Hongkong in 1930 after touring the Far East, paid a notable tribute to the work of these pioneers.

"My mind has been concerned quite recently with the influences at work in Asiatic countries which have had such a profound influence on our outlook as Asiatics—and particularly in the political realm. The time is not yet, but some day an Asiatic historian will arise who will point out that the most powerful influences have not been political dicta whether from the pages of Burke or Macaulay—or even the University of Columbia (U.S.A.)—but those institutions which the Anglo-Saxon trader considered necessary for his well-being and protection. My mind will dwell on these old settlements which girt the south-eastern and eastern coasts of the Asiatic Continent, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Malacca, the infection turned the coast and Canton-cum-Hongkong were created, Shanghai, Tientsin, Kobe and Yokohama. Every one of the Chinese and Japanese settlements had a Bund, an Indian word which means the water-bank. These settlements needed a few clean streets, a watchman or two, and thus were founded the first municipalities which did not emanate



*The Tientsin Country Club.*



*Race  
Course  
Road.*

from above, but were the expression of the wishes of the small group of foreigners, who had certain common concerns such as sanitation, pure water, lighting and protection against thieves."

He describes how from these primitive beginnings the usual forms of Western civilisation developed, such as law courts, newspapers, popular elections, local bodies, and the effects already long since produced in India, where there are over 2,000 self-governing bodies, comprising 800 municipalities and 1,200 district boards. At a time when the activities of foreigners in these scattered coastal centres in Asia have been subjected to much ill-considered criticism, and their constructive contribution to a New Order in Asia enveloped in a fog of "anti-imperialist" propaganda, it is of value to have a thoughtful and realistic tribute like this.

Sooner or later the role of the foreigner in this respect will undergo considerable modification, as the Chinese themselves, having proved apt pupils in modern conceptions of local government, take up the burden. Meanwhile there has been in recent years an improvement of relationships and a reduction of suspicion, on both sides. Already one

*Tientsin  
Grammar  
School.*



can descry on the horizon the fulfilment of a remarkable prophecy made 100 years ago at Canton. Lord Napier had come out to Canton to try and secure a commercial treaty and trading rights. He was called by the Viceroy "a presumptuous savage" for venturing to claim the equality of Great Britain with the Chinese Empire. Napier knocked at the door in vain. A month after his failure a group of British merchants met together in Canton, and formed a "Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge." The minutes of their meeting declare:

"We are now to make the trial, whether the Celestial Empire, after it has defeated all efforts to bring it into alliance with the nations of the world, will not yield to intellectual artillery.....The end of our course is far distant; the barriers high.....our advance therefore may be slow. Yet.....we are glad to engage in a warfare where we are sure the **victors and the vanquished will meet only to exult and rejoice together.**"

In the fulfilment of that prophecy those leading elements of our cosmopolitan community here who are represented in the Rotary Club—the Chinese banker, lawyer, industrialist and merchant who has been educated abroad, and the enlightened American and European of the same type—are playing no mean part.

*The  
Russian  
Church.*



*The  
French  
Cathedral.*

## ROTARY CLUB'S ACTIVITIES.

The Tientsin Rotary Club is a member Club of Rotary International, No. 1444, and in point of seniority comes next to the Shanghai Rotary Club. Informally founded late in 1922, it was officially elected a member of Rotary International on May 10, 1923. Its origin was quite spontaneous. Two leading Americans, a doctor and a lawyer, first talked the matter over and later eight Americans, one Briton, and one Chinese met and agreed to organise a Rotary Club. Of this original group three, Dr. J. W. Colbert, Mr. E. H. Grooms, and Mr. J. K. Davison, are still members. As the years passed the Club became more and more cosmopolitan, and now it has one nation represented for every four members. Its Headquarters are at the Astor House Hotel, in the British Concession, where the Club meets every Thursday at 12.30 p.m.

Unlike most Clubs in the cities of the West, its membership is transient. The foreign Consular and Military representatives, many of whom joined the Club, are stationed here only for a limited period. Even the ordinary banking and commercial community is subject to great changes, owing to the fact that the larger institutions have branches throughout the Far East, transfers of personnel thus being frequent. Nevertheless there is a con-



*Race Course  
Road and  
1st Sp. Area.*

*Interport  
Polo.  
Tientsin  
v.  
Peking.*



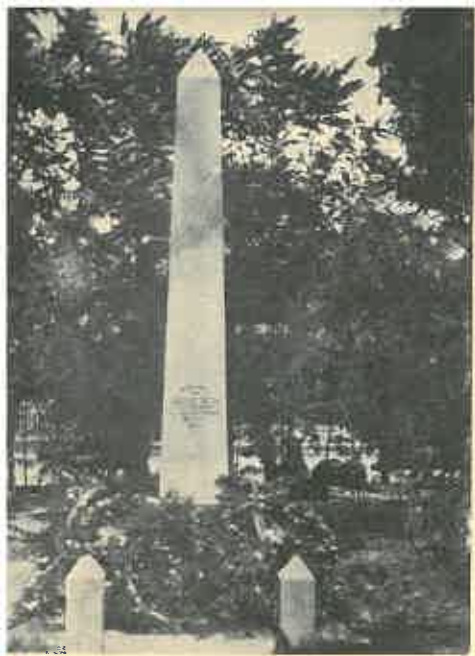
siderable stable membership among the professional and business classes whose enterprises are centred here. In recent years the leading Chinese have taken an increasing interest in the movement, and this is reflected in the much larger Chinese representation in the Club.

English is the **lingua franca** of the East, and this being a very international Club, its proceedings are conducted in that tongue. While no definite principle is laid down, account is generally taken, in the election of Directors and successive Presidents, of the various national representations in the Club membership. Thus the Chair has so far been occupied by four Americans, four Britons, two Chinese, and one German. The Directors and office-bearers other than Committee Chairmen, this year (1933) comprise three Americans, three Britons (including one from New Zealand), two Chinese, and two Germans.

While the Club possesses all the usual Rotary Committees, its activities have concentrated hitherto on two main lines: Boys' work and community service. These have, however, involved many varied forms of service. In its early days the Club took a very special interest in work for the blind in Tientsin, largely because of the need for some serious attention to this very great problem in China and because one of the most able and enthusiastic Rotarians in the Club, the late Dr. Pond M.



*In the  
Russian  
Park.*



*Liscam  
Memorial,  
Japanese  
Park.*

Jee, an American-Chinese, was a specialist in this work. The modest beginnings in this form of activity led ultimately to the establishment of a special School for Blind Boys in the native city, where they were taught weaving and basketwork as a means to earn their own livelihood. Club members assisted in finding a market for their wares.

Later the Club became a partner with the International League for the Prevention of Blindness, which opened numerous clinics for the treatment of eye diseases, broadcast propaganda all over North China and distributed medicine and vaccination sets through the co-operation of scores of missionaries in widely-scattered areas. Small-pox is very prevalent and one of the chief causes of eye disease. Work was also carried on at the various mills and factories, there being at the time no Government agency to fulfil these functions.

Boys' Work has taken many different forms. The Club has actively co-operated with the Scout Movement here, and awarded a special replica of the Rotary Wheel as an annual trophy for the best all-round Scout. In addition to this it has helped to forward Scout activities in other ways.

The Club has sponsored a number of Boys' Camps either at the seaside or in the beautiful



*Rowing  
on the  
Hai Ho.*



*International  
Sports on  
the Min Yuan.*

Western Hills north-west of Peking, during the summer time.

Boys' Week activities include an annual Boys' Hobby Exhibition—one of the most successful functions of its sort here—and an International tiffin, (the local name for luncheon), to which the boys and their fathers are invited, Scouts and Cubs attending with their Scoutmasters in uniform.

In the way of Community Service the activities have covered a very wide range of subjects, mostly of an urgent and topical nature. Road building, menace of rabies, the silting of the Tientsin river and problems ensuing therefrom, provision of athletic fields and similar facilities, welfare of factory apprentices, and many other questions have received attention. Round-the-world tourists have been met by Rotarians and escorted round the city in their cars pending the resumption of the tourists' journey to Peking.

In various forms of welfare work conducted by the Salvation Army officers the Club have co-operated and in turn received the help of these officers in the functioning of certain activities originated by the Club, such as the special Christmas dinner for the hundreds of Chinese workmen who labour along the Bund, discharging and loading cargo on ships or lighters. I am writing largely



*Ladies'  
Event,  
International  
Sports.*



*Curling  
at the  
Tientsin  
Race Club.*

from memory, and many other phases of activities are doubtless omitted, but the above is sufficient to give other Clubs an inkling of the nature of our activities here and the character of the scope afforded us in this field.

Local education and essay contests at the schools have also figured in the Club's activities. It is specially interesting to note that it was the Tientsin Rotary Club which undertook pioneer work in elaborating a most careful translation of the Six Objects and Code of Ethics of Rotary. A competition was organised, open to all Chinese, including University and Middle School students. These were examined by a competent Committee, and the best sent to a noted Chinese scholar and Rotarian, formerly a prominent figure in the Peking Governments and first President of the Peking Rotary Club, for final drafting and decision. The Rotary International leaders, at the last Convention in Boston, were astonished that nothing had been done to establish purely Chinese Rotary Clubs in the interior cities. As a result of this, efforts are to be made to develop the movement in this direction, but it is first of all necessary to translate all Rotary literature, and that is a task of no small magnitude. It is hoped that the authoritative



*Curling  
at the  
Tientsin  
Race Club.*

*Press and  
Judges'  
Stand,  
Tientsin  
Race Club.*



translation of the Objects and Code effected by the Tientsin Rotary Club will be accepted as the standard for all the Clubs in China.

In view of the highly international character of its membership and of the Community among which it is situated, the Tientsin Rotary Club has naturally given peculiar emphasis to the Sixth Object of Rotary. If it had done nothing else whatever, its activities in this direction alone would have been well worth while. In spite of many international controversies and even local difficulties, the utmost harmony has reigned within the Club among all nationalities, close friendships have been fostered among leading men of different nationalities, and cordial relations maintained with the local Chinese authorities. In this Club Chinese and Japanese, Europeans and Americans, French and Germans, Britons and other nationals meet on terms of warm friendship, and as a little League of Nations in itself the Club is an object lesson of the fact that there is more to unite than to divide us. The nations represented in the Club comprise: China, United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Latvia, Sweden, and Austria. There are also members from Canada and New Zealand, but they are included under Great Britain.



*Guard  
of Honour  
at Chinese  
Funeral.*

The classifications of the members of the Board as constituted this year will give some idea of the personnel of the Club:—

President: V. W. Stapleton-Cotton, Commissioner of Posts, "Postal Service".

Vice-President: C. N. Joyner, Engineer in the British Municipal Area, "Municipal Administration."

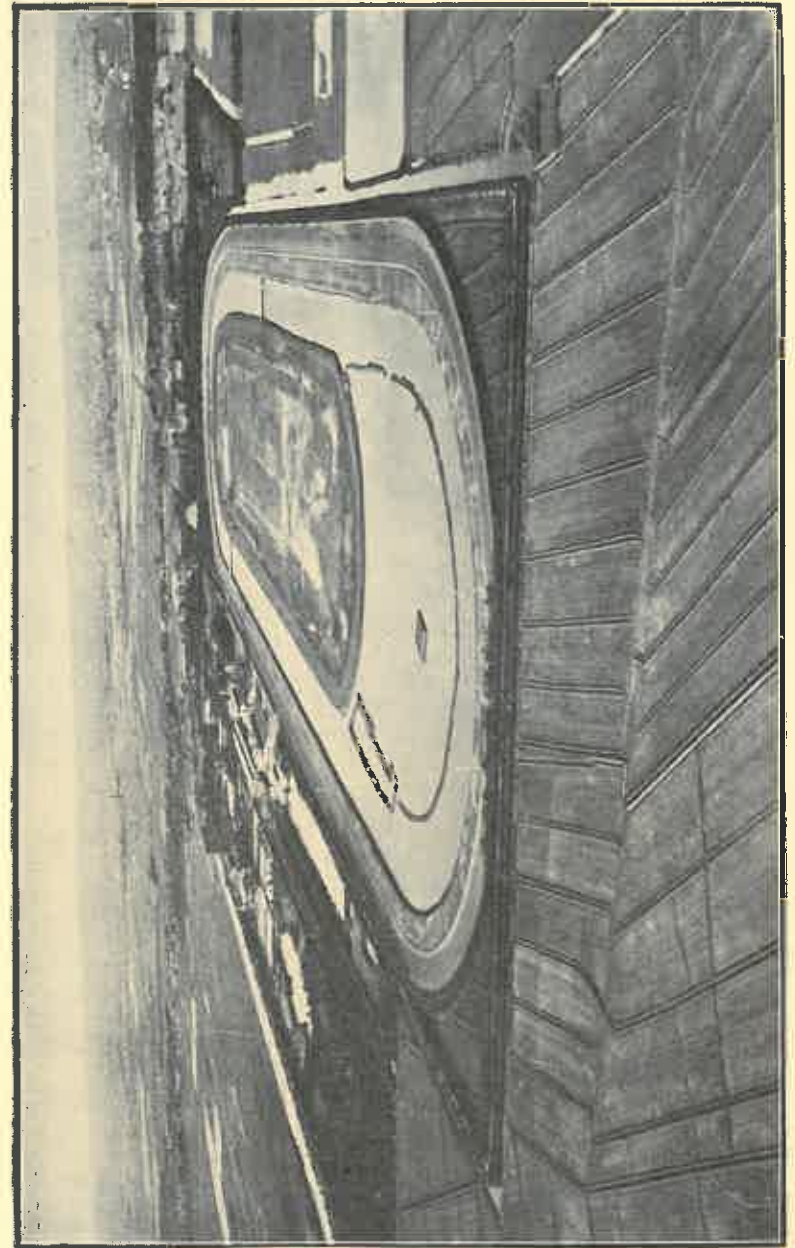
Treasurer: D. P. Gill, Manager of American-Oriental Bank, "Exchange Banking."

Secretary: L.A.L. Moore, Proprietor, the Court Hotel, "Hotels."

Directors: W. V. Pennell, Editor of P. & T. Times, "Newspaper Publishing;" Z. S. Bien, Manager of Bank of China, "Commercial Banking;" Paul Young, commercial chemist and merchant, "Paint Manufacturing;" Otto Sixt, Merchant, "Railroad Equipment Distributing;" G. O. Richardson, of National Aniline and Chemical Co., "Dyes Distributing;" E. H. Grooms, Timber Merchant, "Lumber Retailing."

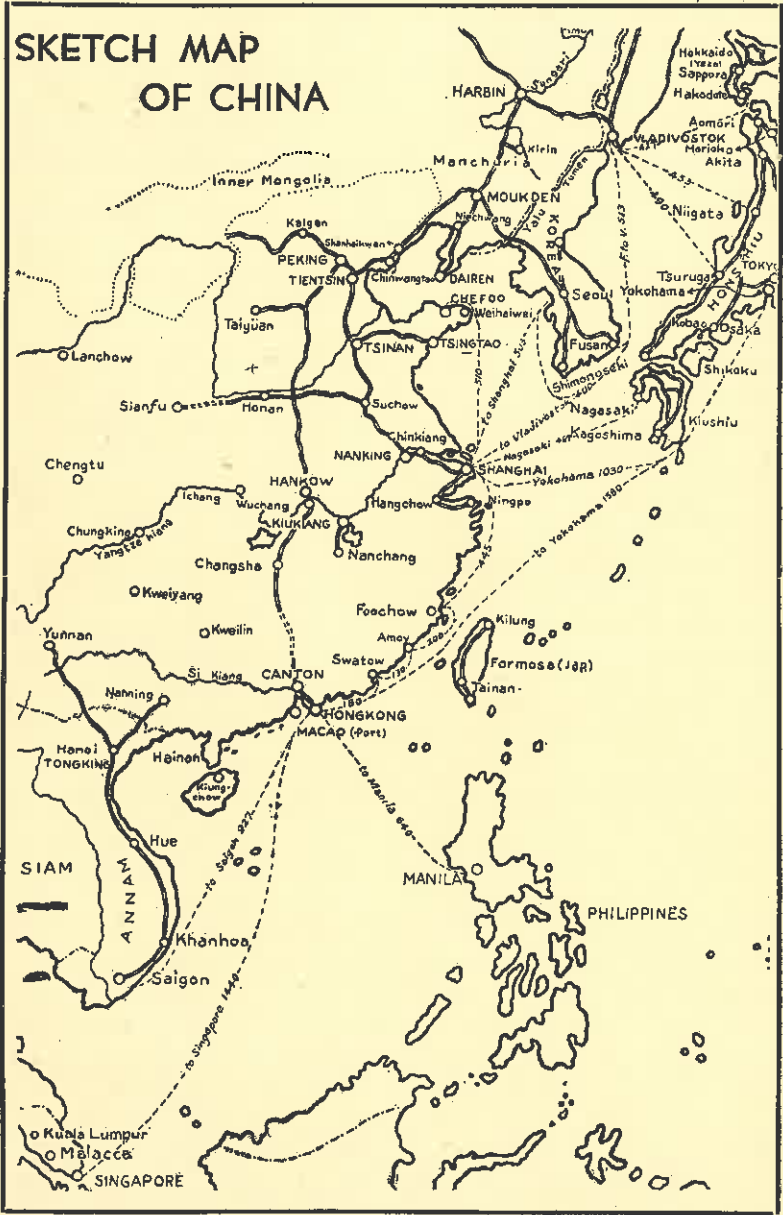


*Bank  
of  
China*



*Tientsin from the Air, showing the Tientsin Race Course in the foreground, and the Chinese City in the background.*

# SKETCH MAP OF CHINA



Tientsin Press, Ltd.  
Tientsin, China.