

**GENERAL REPORT OF THE
DEPUTATION SENT
BY THE AMERICAN
BOARD TO CHINA IN 1907**

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General Report of the Deputation Sent by the American Board to China in 1907 by Various

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VARIOUS

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American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

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D. C. [unclear]

INTRODUCTION

THE Prudential Committee of the American Board appointed in July, 1906, a Deputation to visit the missions of the Board in China so soon as plans for such a visit could be consummated. As finally constituted the Deputation which was able to carry out the plan was composed of Prof. Edward C. Moore, Chairman of the Prudential Committee, made also Chairman of the Deputation, and Secretary James L. Barton. Dr. Lucien C. Warner of New York was appointed, but was compelled, on account of the severe illness of Mrs. Warner, to turn back from Port Said. Secretary Barton reached China the last of January and Professor Moore the last of March, and from the latter date the two traveled and investigated together the Christian work and general conditions in the Chinese Empire. They completed their work at Hong Kong on the fourth day of July, after traveling within the borders of China over 9000 miles.

They have prepared, under the instructions of the Prudential Committee, a detailed report concerning matters touching the administration of the missions and the relations of the missionaries to the Board. The details of this report would be of little interest to the public. Such parts of that report as would be of interest are embodied in substance in this report, prepared for the purpose of general information and to increase the interest in the work of the Board in China.

GENERAL REPORT

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

THE great Empire of China lies almost wholly within the temperate zone, between the parallels of 18° and 54° north latitude and longitude 75° and 135° east from Greenwich. It has an area, including Mongolia, Manchuria, Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, of not less than 4,277,000 square miles, and a population variously estimated from 280,000,000 to 450,000,000. The majority of statisticians, however, seem to agree that 400,000,000 fairly represents the population of the Empire. When we bear in mind that the area of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is only 121,000 square miles and has a population of less than 39,000,000, that the area of the German Empire is 210,000 square miles with a population of 52,000,000, and the area of the United States is 3,623,000 square miles with a population of 80,000,000, we get some idea, although inadequate, of what these figures mean. The population is by no means evenly distributed over this vast area. Northern Manchuria and Mongolia are sparsely populated while extensive mountain regions in the interior are very thinly settled. On the other hand the province of Kiang-su has an average population of 544 to the square mile throughout its whole extent, and in Shantung the average population per square mile is 445, while in the most fertile parts of this Province it has been carefully estimated that the population rises to 2,000 per square mile.

There are in China over 1,000 walled cities, each one of which has more or less political and commercial importance. Every capital city in a province or district is walled and there are also many walled villages. In contrast with India, which has a population of about the same average density with that of China, though but few cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants, China has many cities which together with their immediate

Deputation to China



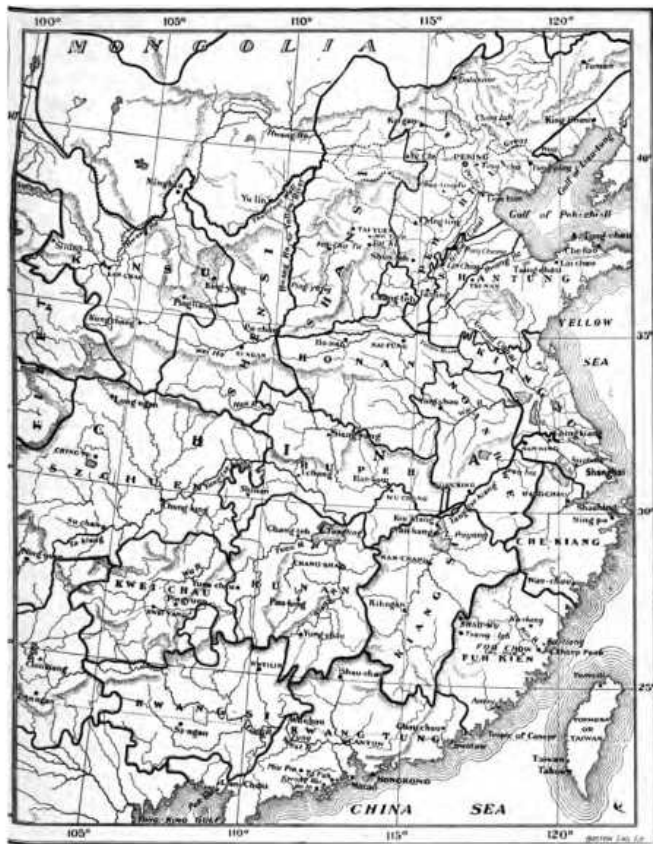
THE CITY OF CANTON, SHOWING THE NEW BUND ALONG THE RIVER.

suburbs exceed 1,000,000 in population, while Canton has a resident population of 2,500,000. Cities with a population of 100,000 or more are too numerous to mention. Outside of these great cities the Chinese live in villages, even in the farming districts.

RESOURCES.

The resources of China are enormous. When it is remembered that until within a little more than a generation this country was practically sealed against all the rest of the world, it will be seen that from time immemorial the land has produced the food of its vast population and has supplied material for their clothing. Even now the importation of food stuffs and raw materials is but slight. The methods of agriculture are still of the most primitive sort. Yet its great plains are highly productive and in the south two crops of rice and sometimes a third crop of some other product are produced each year. With improved methods of agriculture undoubtedly the products of the soil might be enormously increased.

The resources of the country beneath the soil have hardly been touched. Recent investigations by western engineers and promoters have shown



THE EMPIRE OF CHINA