DISCUSSES CHINA TRADE FOR FLOUR

Vice-Consul-General Stuart J. Fuller Reports on Hongkong Market Conditions

IMPORTATIONS FALLING OFF

High Price of American Wheat Enable Shanghai Mills to Capture Industry

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Vice Consul General Stuart J. Fuller, in the annual report from Hongkong, discusses the southern China trade in flour, with special relation to the distributing market there:

To all appearances the high-water mark in the flour trade was attained in 1907, if the figures for the two following years can be accepted whereby to judge the ebb and flow of this trade with Hongkong as the distributing center. With a falling off in importations in 1909 amounting to 916,000 bags as compared with 1908, and 1,227,000 as compared with 1907, Hongkong is apparently losing much ground in the flour trade. The receipts of 50-pound bags in 1907 amounted to 4,940,000; in 1908, 4,086,000, and in 1909, 3,170,000. It is probable that the decline was due in no small degree to the invasion of Chinese territory tributary to Hongkong by the products of the Shanghai mills. It is the territory south of Shanghai, namely, Canton, Swaton, Amoy and Foochow, that is wholly concerned.

In former years all these ports were commercially tributary to Hongkong, drawing their supplies of flour from the warehouses in the colony. But the low price of silver and the high price of American wheat and flour have enabled the Shanghai mills to virtually captpre the market comprised in the zone within Shanghai in the north and Hongkong in the south. Shipments to Canton alone from Shanghai for the year account for about 300,000 bags. The absorption by the southern capital of Shanghai-milled flour, together with the new outlets provided by the coast ports mentioned, practically made up for the loss in the flour trade between the United States and Hongkong.

CURRENCY FLUCTUATES

Whether the future will see the new condition of things changed back to the old order depends on the European and American wheat markets and the low or high price of silver, always a determining factor in guiding the course of the import trade wherein gold-using countries are concerned. Low silver and high wheat combined mean dear flour, rendering prohibitive entrance into countries whose inhabitants reckon their prices in silver. The same conditions, however, do not affect the flour business in North China, where its pay sheet and cost of raw material are calculated on the basis of silver values, since the Chinese operatives are paid in the local currency of the country and the wheat growers of Soochow and neighboring territory part with their grain in consideration of so many taels and candareens per bushel.

Indirectly, American flour in small quantity is imported into the Shanghai and the southern territory from the necessity which the consumers have to meet for mixing their flour with the American staple. Flour made in Shanghai is, according to expert opinion, a trifle damp and dark in color, and therefore requires a drier and superior flour to mix with it in order to reach the grade requisite for kneading into good bread. The southern Chinamen, having been once used to breadstuff of a superior quality, mill owners have to consider their idiosyncrasies if they would retain the valuable clientele provided by the treaty ports of South China, whose good graces Shanghai has succeeded in winning during the year.

Much to the credit of the northern mills, they have to fight against the odds of climatic conditions which militate against operations and also against the lack of knowledge on the part of native harvesters in handling wheat, which they do in the same way as garnering their staple grain—rice. It is the opinion of observers competent to express judgment that the Chinese method of thrashing wheat after cutting does not tend to improve the grain, which does not keep well unless it is put out long in the sun to dry. Besides, Chinese farmers harvest the wheat in a damp condition and naturally it remains damp, much to the disadvantage of the millers. The resulting flour does not keep so well as that from America.

AUSTRALIA COMPETES

The imports of flour into Hongkong last year have been practically all from America. Australia, which made such a successful bid for the trade in 1907, following the anti-American boycott by the Chinese, the past year did not enter into competition in this market at all, for the good reason that on account of the low rate of exchange ruling Australia was not able to do as much as name their prices, althouugh crops in the Commonwealth have been reported to be uniformly good. They have, no doubt, found the European market much more profitable for their products, while American millers sacrificed their profits across the Pacific in order to yield to the dictates of business perspicacity by not losing their hold—if even for a time—on the oriental market.

The colony's flour trade for the year would inevitably have suffered greater contraction in its small volume but for the fact that the Straits settlements provided the compensating outlet to partially make up for the loss of the market nearer home in Canton and the Fukhien province. Singapore and its hinterland have been large buyers of the staple commodity and have absorbed a large percentage of the imports from the Pacific coast arriving in Hongkong.

During 1909 the price of flour did not vary much in Hongkong except in July and August when, owing to the Patten wheat "corner," Chinese dealers were unable to import and had to be satisfied with the heavy stocks they held in the warehouses on the island. It was a fortunate circumstance that they could fall back upon their earlier purchases, since by drawing upon local supplies merchants were able to meet dealers' demands without having to resort to an increase in price to any material extent. Even though Hongkong is an admittedly big flour market, it is a curious fact that it is not always swayed by or does it follow the ups and downs of the American market. Dealers in the colony often buy in the United States market and stock a considerable time ahead, and by purchasing at the most favorable times are able to supply the wants in the east without being materially influenced by the operations of "bears" and "bulls" in the great center of the wheat industry on the Pacific coast. In fact, for the whole of the past year hardly a single period has been known when the Hongkong market has been on an even basis. Before the American harvest of this year dealers had contracted with the mills for six months' forward supply, and even now (June, 1910) there is a difference of 20 cents Mexican per bag between the Hongkong price, in its favor, and the cost of importing the flour, assuming that it had to be purchased at the prevailing rate in the existing market on the Pacific coast.

The average price of flour in Hongkong for 1909 was $2.60 Mexican, ($1 of which averaged 40 3-8 cents American currency in value in China during 1909) per bag; the highest point was reached in August when the quotation was $2.72 per bag Hongkong currency, ($1 of which equaled 42 to 44 cents American during 1909) having, risen from the minimum quotation of $2.10 per bag early in the year. Figuring the year's importations of 3,170,000 bags at the average price of $2.60 per bag, the gross value of Hongkong's flour trade in 1909 was $8,242,000 Hongkong currency.

IMPORTS DECREASE

Vice Consul General W. Roderick Dorsey of Shanghai, writes that the flour that finds the largest sale in China is that which meets with the approval of the Chinese consumer in both grade and price.

The highly processed variety is too expensive for the native market and is used by only the small number of foreigners resident in the Empire. The native demands a flour at minimum cost with maximum bread giving qualities. Canadian and other hard wheat lack an abundance of these qualities, and so find only a very limited sale.

The Chinese market at present is unfavorable to flour imports, which have declined during the past two years. Several causes have contributed to this. Heavy overstocking in 1907 imposed upon 1908 and 1909 the necessity of absorbing a surplus of about 3,000,000 sacks before the market could even reach a normal basis. In addition, the high price of wheat in America and the low price of silver in China were so unfavorable to importation as to have affected the market even though the glut had not existed.

Another reason, which is a continuing one, is the part that China is beginning to play in the production of flour. The foreign equipped mills in Shanghai alone sold flour to other parts of the empire in 1908 to the value of $1,766,000, or 38 per cent more than 1907. The approximate daily output of the foreign equipped mills at Shanghai is 16,100 bags of fifty pounds each, or 805,000 pounds. In the near by outports are mills with outputs as follows: Wusich, 1200 bags; Haichow, 2000; Su Chen, 1000; Chinkiang, 1000; Kai Chou, 2000, and Chinkiangapu, 1200, making a daily output of 8400 bags of fifty pounds each, or 420,000 pounds. Another mill, of 1600 bags capacity, is in course of erection at Wusich, and another is projected at Wuhu to replace one destroyed by fire, which, when completed, will give a total daily output of 585,000 pounds in the provinces adjacent to Shanghai. This, added to the product of the Shanghai mills, amounts to 27,800 sacks, or 1,390,000 pounds per day.

In the printed market list native flour is quoted at retail 33 1-3 per cent cheaper than American. The native consumer therefore purchases and will continue to purchase the native product as long as it is offered at such favorable figures, and the readiness with which it is bought will encourage the farmers to increase their acreage and the millers to enlarge their plants in order to supply an ever-increasing demand. Unless price and other conditions change for the better the United States will doubtless lose the great bulk of a trade it has enjoyed for many years almost without serious competition. (List of flour importers at Shanghai is on file in the bureau of manufactures.)

TRADE CHANGES

Writing of the flour trade of Antung in his annual review of the trade of that port, Consul E. Carleton Baker says that the extent to which native flour displaced the American product in 1909 is deserving of special notice:

The value of the imports of foreign flour, which in 1908 amounted to $305,127, dropped to $73,000 in 1909, while the imports of native flour, which amounted to only $45,809 in 1908, rose to $199,956 in 1909. As the foreign flour was almost entirely of American manufacture, the loss to American trade was considerable. This was caused chiefly by the rise in price of the American product, due to the higher price of wheat at home, caused partly by the "corner" in wheat. Unfavorable exchange was another cause for the decreased consumption of American flour. As the Chinese are now accustomed to using native flour and its low price appeals to them, the place once held in this market by American flour will be most difficult to regain. With the decline in the importation of American flour at Antung has come an increase in the consumption of Russian flour.

There was a striking increase in the imports of rice, from 2585 to 42,261 hundredweight, due partly to the shortage in the local corn crop and partly to the high price of American flour.

Miss Emeline Petersen, of Santa Ana, Queen of the 1910 Carnival

MISS EMELINE PETERSEN TO BE CARNIVAL QUEEN

Talented Young Society Woman Widely Known in Orange County

SANTA ANA, Aug. 18.—Miss Emeline Petersen of Santa Ana is to be queen of the 1910 Carnival of Products. She is widely known in Orange county and is one of Santa Ana's talented young women. Miss Petersen has shown histrionic ability in several amateur productions in which she has appeared. She is an excellent musician and popular in social circles.

The Carnival of Products will be held here October 6, 7 and 8. Those in charge of preparations for the celebration expect to outdo the managers of earlier festivals. Arrangements will be made for the entertainment of large crowds, as the attendance each year has shown a steady increase.

CLAIM GERMAN WOMAN IS OLDEST IN THE WORLD

Mme. Vasilka Avers She Was Born in 1784

BERLIN, Aug. 18.—The claim of Frau Putkiewitz of Posen, born on February 21, 1785, to be the oldest woman in the world, is now contested by Mme. Baba Vasilka, who was born in May, 1784, in the little Bulgarian village of Bavelsko, where she has lived ever since. The record of her birth is preserved in a neighboring monastery of the Orthodox Greek faith.

She is the daughter of a peasant and has worked herself as a peasant up till a comparatively recent date. For more than 100 years she regularly worked in the fields, according to the custom of her country, where women are employed in all sorts of manual labor.

The events of her life up to the time when she attained the age of 80 are far more distinctly impressed on her mind than the happenings of the last forty-six years.

Her son Todor, following the family tradition, has also worked in the fields as a peasant nearly all his life, but he has also taken part in various wars and rebellions in the Balkan peninsula. He is not quite so fresh and vigorous as his mother, although he is still capable of doing a good day's work and enjoying such small luxuries of life as a pipe and the strong spirits drunk by the Bulgarian populace.

The oldest woman in the world is said to enjoy fairly good eyesight and good hearing, and she is able to walk without support. She lives on a pension paid to her by many of her descendants, who number more than 100.

ITALIANS SHOW INTEREST IN ALL KINDS OF SPORTS

Consider Outdoor Life Prepares Boys for Army

ROME, Aug. 18.—One of the most encouraging signs of modern Italian life is the increasing interest shown in sport of all kinds, and especially in physical education. In the current number of the Nuova Ahtologia, General Bompiani considers its desirability from a military standpoint. For boys up to the age of 16 he asks a diminuition of brain work and a larger number of hours out of doors; for young men on the eve of being summoned to do their military service he prefers boarding establishments, organized on military lines, to regular military colleges, and for men who have done their service but are still liable to occasional recall he would establish a system of exemptions from that onerous obligation, provided that they keep themselves physically fit and frequent rifle clubs. General Bompiani hopes by these means to benefit the physical condition of the citizen-soldier, while at the same time interfering as little as possible with his ordinary bread-winning avocation.

There is no doubt that the physique of the Italian youth has greatly improved during recent years, and some of the best athletes—Dorando Pietri, for example—have owed their excellent condition to their compulsory military service, just as the same cause is contributing every year to the diminution of illiteracy.

LARGEST DEPARTMENT STORE WEST OF CHICAGO

Hamburger's

BROADWAY, EIGHTH & HILL STREETS

Our Windows— are well worth walking down to see; and none are more genuinely interesting than the Hill street windows, filled with Basement Store Specials at all times.

The Roof Garden and the Rest Room on the Second Floor are pleasant places to meet your friends. The view from the roof is really superb.

Our Cafe and Cafeteria on the Fourth Floor please everyone who appreciates skillful cookery, perfect service and pleasant environment.

See Table 12— It contains something you don't often find at even double the price! It's a small price but a big value. An extra special 25c

Friday of the ANNIVERSARY SALE Means Big Savings

Friday Is Always a Banner Day at The Big White Store, But Friday of This Anniversary Week Will Be, in Addition, a Day of Bugle Notes and Broken Records. Multiply These Items by Scores of Others and You Will Have the Reason.

$3.50 Napkins $2.69 Woven of fine Irish bleached damask, size 22x22, in a beautiful assortment of patterns. See these before you select your new supply of handsome napkins.

Fancy Ribbon 10c Beautiful Pompadour and Dresden designs, all silk; excellent quality for making bows; popular colorings; 3½ inches wide, and are worth at least twice this price.

Undermuslins 50c All kinds—corset covers, drawers, combination suits and gowns, the latter in either high neck or slipover styles; well made garments, lace and embroidery trimmed.

Corsets at Only 79c Made of extra quality with both front and hip supporters. Medium and low bust with long hip effect. Splendid models in broken lines from regular stocks.

Slightly Mussed Waists to Go at Half Price and Less

$1.50 Values Very Dainty Styles 69c | **$2.00 Values at Attractive Models $1**

Soft, sheer lingerie waists, beautifully trimmed both front and back with fine laces and delicate embroideries; also many charming tailored models in the lot, slightly mussed from being on display—nothing that the first trip to the laundry will not obliterate, leaving them exquisitely fresh and new.

SAVE ONE DOLLAR ON THESE GIRLS' DRESSES AT $1.50

They are regular $2.50 values. Smart little frocks made of fine chambrays and ginghams, in a variety of light, dark and medium shades. Come in plain, striped or checked effects. Every one well made and neatly finished; 6 to 14 yrs.

Extra! Women's Vests

Women's swiss ribbed vests, made of fine bleached cotton in low neck and sleeveless style, with fancy lace yokes. Mercerized vests, low neck, sleeveless, plain tops; also pink swiss ribbed vests, low neck, sleeveless, taped **29c**

Big Friday SKIRT SALE

$10 Special Friday Prices on Late Style Skirts. Come Early! It'll Pay

$5 Skirts for Late Summer and Early Fall Wear. Big Values Here!

New $15 Skirts Reduced to..... $10 A direct saving of $5 right here! Friday shoppers will swarm to this department early in the day! No wonder! Such bargains are not found every day. Want one? Then come!

$5.00 For $7.50 and $10 Values Your fault if you are too late to share in these bargains! They'll go like hot cakes once the door is open! Save from $2.50 to $5 by getting your skirt today!

Lace Curtains—A Big Array of Them $1.00

Prettiest Patterns Very Best Values

We have just received a new lot of curtains to sell at this price, and they are some of the prettiest patterns and best values we ever had! Dozens of styles, either white or Arabian. 50 and 54 inches wide, 2½ to 3 yards long!

Sale of Boys' Wash Suits

Continues Today—Come!

Examine these suits carefully—critically! Notice the quality of the materials, the up-to-date styles, the skill and accuracy of the making, the regular prices. You will call them unusual values!

Fine $5, $6 and $7.50 Wash Suits $3.50 You'll never have a better opportunity than this to get a handsome wash suit for your boy at a small part of its actual worth. Buster Browns, sailor or military collars; materials, imported, linens, piques and madras, white or colors; 2 to 7 years.

$1.50 to $2.50 BLOUSE WASH SUITS at $1.00 Buster Brown models also. Made of ginghams, percales and woven madras. Snappy suits that are excellent values at their original prices. Values are really remarkable. Sizes for boys, 2 to 10.

$3.50, 4 and $4.50 RUSSIAN SUITS Now $2.50 Suits that will please you and delight the boy who wears them. Of good materials smartly cut and perfectly made, they are exceptionally desirable—and you save nearly half.

Corsets 39c---Lingerie Dresses---$1.50 Seamless Sheets 59c

And Many Equally Strong Specials in the Basement Store

CAT KILLS SNAKE IN 4-DAY FIGHT

Fearless Maltese Makes Regular Trips to Battle and Secures Its Victim

CLAWS REPTILE IN WOODS

Owners Fear for Feline, but It Shows No Signs of Being Poisoned

LAQUIN, Pa., Aug. 18.—Many things come out of Barclay mountains from their almost impenetrable fastnesses—coal, gold, bears, deer and snakes, wonderful berry crops and tales grotesque and fanciful—and occasionally from the streams, which pound and thunder over cataracts, through deep hiding places and down swift rapids in high water, comes grewsome evidence of battle, of murder and sudden or premeditated death.

Occasionally, mixed with some driftwood cast upon a gravel bar, is found a body of some unfortunate hunter or fisherman who by misstep met his end; some "hick," on whom a giant pine or hemlock wreaked vengeance by knocking him into the stream, or some unfortunate, weary of the uphill struggle for existence, who has sought rest in the waters.

The latest remarkable tale, which is said to be vouched for by a responsible party, is the story of how a cat killed a rattlesnake after several days' fight. At least circumstantial evidence points to a battle of that duration, and in the absence to the contrary we are bound to believe it.

The cat, a large maltese, was in the habit of making daily trips to the woods, seeking what it could devour. Every day at about the same hour tabby hiked to the tall timber, and members of the family, where the pet was domiciled, began to sit up and take notice.

It was followed, and in a little clearing in the dark forest where the afternoon sun glinted like waves of gold through the tree tops the cat came to a dead stop, head erect, ears up and looked straight ahead. Tiger-like, it lashed its tail and crouched as if ready to spring at some object in the underbrush, at something coming toward it. It proved to be a rattlesnake gliding noiselessly along over the ground.

As the snake drew near the cat bristled up and made itself known, and the snake hesitated, coiled and gave its customary rattle. This seemed to get on the cat's nerves. It sprang on the snake, giving it a claw and bite, and went on over, the snake missing as it struck. The cat crept around in front and then seemed to fall under some spell of hypnotism exerted by the serpent.

Slowly the snake moved toward the sat, its little beady eyes glimmering, cunningly confident of its power to land the prize when the observer of the unequal strife, which seemed about ended, threw a stone which frightened the cat and the snake, both of which disappeared in the brush.

Every day the cat make a trip to the woods, but evaded any attempt to trace her, so what was taking place in the forest wilds no one knows. On the fourth day after the cat had been disappearing it returned dragging a rattlesnake bearing twelve rattles. The snake was of good size, and judging from its condition it had been in a terrible battle in which the cat had come out victorious. The reptile's body was bitten by the snake, and its death was hourly expected, but at last report there were no signs of fatal inoculation.

CLOSE BUSINESS HOUSES DURING WOMAN'S FUNERAL

MONROVIA, Aug. 18.—All the business houses in Monrovia were closed from 2 to 4 this afternoon, during the funeral of Mrs. W. B. Scarborough, wife of the president of the board of trustees of Monrovia. Her death, which occurred Tuesday morning, was caused by heart failure, following a long illness. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. Dr. R. H. Grieves was in charge of the service at the family residence.

THE IOWAN'S DISGUST

On the line of the Missouri Pacific railway, just over in Oklahoma from Coffeyville, Kan., is a small place called Nowatta. A Kansas law prohibits the carrying, by the railroads, of public drinking cups on trains. Not long ago a farmer from Iowa, on a Missouri Pacific train in Kansas near Coffeyville, wanted a drink of water. He did not know about the law. Going to the water cooler, he began looking for the cup. When he failed to find it he sought the chair car porter, a negro, and asked for it.

"Law doan' 'low no public cups on dese heah trains," said the porter.

The Iowans was deeply disgusted. He returned to his seat and grumbled until the train crossed the Oklahoma-Kansas line. Shortly after that the negro porter stuck his head in the door.

"Nowatta!" he called.

That increased the Iowan's disgust. "In Kansas they don't have no drinkin' cups," he said to to the man in the next seat, "an' in Oklahoma no water on trains. Danged if I don't stay in Ioway for the rest of my life, if I ever git back there without dryin' up of thirst."

FORCE YOUTH TO AID IN BURGLARY

Lad Claims He Was Bullied by Gang Into Being a Party to a Crime

BEATEN WHEN HE PROTESTS

Gang of Youngsters Tease Boy Until He Joins Their Organization

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—A boy of 14 told so remarkable a story of being forced to become a burglar that Justice McInerney, who heard it yesterday in the children's court, Brooklyn, ordered detectives to investigate the story thoroughly. John Anderson of 24 Hope street was the boy.

"Until a few weeks ago," young Anderson began, "I didn't go out with other boys. I wasn't as strong as the fellows living in the neighborhood, and they used to guy me and lick me whenever I joined them.

"One day I met a boy two or three years older than I am. He told me if I joined his gang he'd protect me. I was glad to get help, and he said the next time any of the fellows got fresh with me to let him know. I used to meet the gang every night on the corner. They taught me to smoke.

PLAN A ROBBERY

"Last Sunday the fellows decided to rob a shirt factory. It was Samuel Menacous' place. I said I wouldn't go along, but they teased and teased, and then I followed. We went into a vacant building, climbed to the top and then went over the roof until we reached Menacous' place. His factory is on the third floor of a four-story building.

"As we got ready to go down the fire-escape to get in I thought of what I was doing and asked the fellows to go back. They wouldn't, and so I said I was going home. The boss of the gang punched me in the face and I fell. He and two others jumped on me and hit me a lot of times. 'Now, I guess you'll stick,' said the leader when they let me up. But I said I wouldn't, and started to get back over the roofs. They came at me again, and beat and kicked me a long time. They wouldn't stop until I'd promised to climb down.

"I was the last one down the fire-escape. They said I could stay outside until they'd got everything they wanted. There was a big box on the fire-escape, and so I hid behind it. I saw the leader jimmy a window and enter. The next thing I knew was when the police climbed up and told us all we were under arrest."

Detectives Busby and Weyman of police headquarters were passing when the boys started down from the roof to the factory window. The detectives waited a few minutes and then went up. Besides Anderson they arrested Joseph Huggard, 19; Michael Meda, 16, and Joseph Jaafe, 16, all of whom live in the immediate neighborhood. They will be tried next week in the Adams street court.

A Glass of Claret

or a Claret Punch makes an ideal hot weather drink. It quenches without cloying, refreshes without duly exhilarating. Our claret is pure as purity. Try a gallon and compare its flavor and bouquet with many another higher priced vintage. Ours won't suffer by the comparison.

WEEK-END SPECIALS

40c, a good table Claret. Gallon	30c
50c Sonoma and Napa Clarets. Gallon	40c
75c Napa Zinfandel and Riesling. Gallon	60c
$1.00 Hock. Best quality. Gallon	75c
$1.50 Haut Sauterine; the great banquet wine. Gallon	$1.00
$1.50 Tokay, Madeira, Malaga, Old Port. Gallon	$1.00
$1.25 "Rich Grain" Whisky, bonded as strict Kentucky sour mash, made in 1903. Bottle	85c
$1.50 Monogram Rye, our own bottling. Full quart	$1.00

Grumbach Wine Company

649 CENTRAL AVE.

Phones Main 2295; Home F8266.