

ON THE POPULATION OF CHINA

BY

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Memorial presented by the officials of the Board of Revenue regarding the Population and Storage of Rice for the 12th year of Kwanghsü (1886): —

Your Servants find that during the 5th year of Kienlung (1741) an Imperial Edict was issued to all Governors-General and Governors of the different provinces, ordering them to send records of the population and the quantity of rice kept in the granaries of all the prefectures and districts, each winter, to your Servants' Board, in order to know whether the population and the storage of rice have increased or diminished, and that your Servants should put these statistics on one record for presentation to your Majesty at the end of the following year. This practice has now been so carried out for a long time. During the fourth month of the fortieth year of Kienlung (1776) an Imperial Edict was again promulgated calling upon all the Governors-General and Governors to inform their auditors to hand in the exact number of the population and the quantity of rice, because the auditors of the province of Chibli always made up their record by assuming, without going to the trouble of auditing them. And in the first

month of the fifty ninth year of Kienlung (1795), an Imperial Edict required that the affairs of the different provinces to be reported upon must be finished by the tenth month. The time has now arrived to send in the enumeration of the population and the quantity of rice in storage for the twelfth year of Kwanghsü (1886). Your Servants find that the numbers of the population and the quantity of rice in store of the provinces of Anhwei, Yünnan, Kwangsi, Kansuh, Sinchiang, Fühkien and T'aiwan (6 provinces) and the districts that belong to the prefecture of Panting (保定) in Chihli, and Chilin (吉林) (Kirin) Pa lu kwen (巴魯坤) and Wu lu mu chi (烏魯木齊) and the quantity of rice of Honan, Hupeh, Szechwen, Kwangtung, Kiangsu, and Kweichow (6 provinces) have not been put on record and sent to your Servants' Board. It is therefore necessary to inform the Governors-General of Chihli, Szechwen and Shenkan (Shensi and Kansuh) and the Governors of Anhwei, Yünnan, Kweichow, Hunan, Hupeh, Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Kansuh, Sinchiang, Fuhkien and T'aiwan and the General of Kirin to make out their records quickly and have them transmitted to your Servants' Board, and your Servants will present them to your Majesty at the next term.

The Governors-General and Governors, Fu yin (府尹) and Tu tung (都統) (civil and military Governors respectively whose jurisdiction is independent of the provincial Governor) and Generals of Fengt'ien, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Chehkiang, Hupei, Hunan, Shensi, Szechwen, Kwangtung and Kweichow 13 provinces, with Cheng teh fu (承德府) in Jeho (熱河) (Jehol), have put on record the required statistics and forwarded them to your Servants' Board and your Servants find the exact population for the twelfth year of Kwanghsü to be 302,088,114, which compared with that of the 11th year

(295,880,706) gives an increase of 6,207,408 people, and it is explained in the records of the above high officers that this account is scrupulously exact and that no one is left out. And they have also sent the quantity of rice of Feng'tien, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Chehkiang, Shensi (6 provinces) and the places which are included in the prefecture of *Cheng teh* in Jeho and your Servants find that the real quantity of rice remaining in the granaries for the 12th year is 2,232,173 piculs, 6 *tow* 55 *sheng*, 1 *ho* and 8 *shao* which compared with that of the previous year (2,229,873 piculs-2579) gives an increase of 2,300 piculs-3939. The quantity of rice of Kiangsi has not been put on record by your Servants for many years, because the quantities are not exact. On this occasion they also fail to be quite exact and are therefore omitted from the record. The record of the population of the province of Fuhkien for the 9th and the 11th years of Kwang hsü has been transmitted and ought to be written after the page on which the population of Fuhkien is stated. Your Servants have herein carefully prepared a yellow record on which the population and the quantity of rice stored in the granaries for the 12th year of Kwanghsü are put on record according to the records that are presented from the different provinces.

Those places that belong to the Pauting prefecture in the province of Chihli have not forwarded their population statistics and the quantity of rice from the 8th year of Hienfeng (1859.) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü and eleven *chou* (州) and *hsien* (縣) viz Hsien hsien 獻縣 etc. have not sent the quantity of rice of the 4th and 5th years of Hienfeng (1855 and 1856). The province of Kiangsu has not sent the quantity of rice from the 27th year of Taokwang (1848) to the 1st year of Hienfeng (1851); and the population and the quantity of rice from the 3^d year of Hienfeng

(1854) to the 12th year of T'ungchih (1874), and the quantity of rice from the 13th year of T'ungchih (1875) to the 9th year of Kwanghsü (1883) and of the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1885). The province of Anhwei has not sent the population and the quantity of rice from the 3^d year of Hienfeng (1854) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1885). The province of Kiangsi has not sent the population statistics and the quantity of rice stored of the 10th year of Hienfeng (1861) and the 7th year of Kwanghsü (1881) and the quantity of rice of these 42 *t'ing* (廳) *chow* and *hsien* viz. Ch'ing kiang (清江) etc. of the 9th year of Hienfeng (1860) and the quantity of rice of these 50 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* viz. Kau an (高安) etc., of the 8th year of Hienfeng (1859) and the quantity of rice of these 19 *chow* and *hsien* viz. I ning (義甯) etc., of the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) and the population and the quantity of rice of these 50 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* viz. Hsing tse (星子) etc., of the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) and the population of these 40 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* viz. Fengsin (奉新) etc., of the 6th year of Hienfeng (1857). The province of Szechwen has not sent the quantity of rice of the 9th year of T'ungchih (1871) and the 7th to 11th year of Kwanghsü (1881-1885). The province of Fukkien has not sent the quantity of rice from the 6th year of T'ungchih (1868) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1885), and the population from the 7th year of Taokwang (1828) to the 3^d year of Hienfeng (1854), and the quantity of rice from the 4th to the 7th (1855-1858) and the population and the quantity of rice of the 9th (1860) and the quantity of rice from the 10th to the 3^d year of T'ungchih (1861-1865) and the population of the places belonging to the prefecture of T'aiwan from the 17th year of Kiaching (1713) to the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) and the quantity of rice from the 19th year of Kiaching (1715) to the 3^d of Hienfeng (1854).

The province of Hupei has not sent the quantity of rice from the 2nd year of Hienfeng (1853) to the 11th of Kwanghsü (1885). The province of Hunan has not sent the population returns and the quantity of rice of the 2nd year of Hienfeng (1853) and the quantity of rice from the 3^d year of Hienfeng to the 11th year of Kwanghsü; and the quantity of rice of She tsang (社倉) from the 5th year to the 21st year of Taokwang (1826-1842). The province of Shensi, and *Pa li kwen Wu lu muchi* and some others, have not sent the population numbers and the quantity of rice in store from the 8th year of Hienfeng (1859) to the 9th year of Kwanghsü (1883). The province of Kwangtung has not sent the quantity of rice from the 4th year of Hienfeng (1855) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü, except the 6th year of Kwanghsü (1880). The province of Kwangsi has not sent the population figures and the amount of rice stored from the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü; and the population and the quantity of rice of Yung an chow (永安州), of the 1st year of Hienfeng (1851) and Chuen chow (全州) and Yung an chow, of the 2nd, 3^d and 4th years, and 4 *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Chuen chow of the 5th year, and the quantity of rice of three districts viz. Hsing an (興安) etc. of the 5th year, and the population of the 20 *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Chuenchow, and the quantity of rice of the 30 *ting chow* and *hsien* belonging to Yung an of the 6th year (all of Hienfeng 1851-62). The province of Yünnan has not sent the population statistics and the quantity of rice from the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) to the 11th of Kwanghsü (1885). The province of Kweichow has not sent the population of the three prefectures Hsing i (興義), Tu yün 都勻 and Chen yuen 鎮遠 and 22 *ting chow* and *hsien* belonging to P'u an (普安) and 10 *Wei* (衛) belonging to Ku chow (古州) of the 1st year of

Hienfeng, and the population of the 2 prefectures of Tu yün and Chen yuen and 17 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai (八寨) and the quantity of rice of the whole province of the 11th year of Hienfeng (1862), and the quantity of rice of the whole province and the population of the 18 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 10th year; and the population and the quantity of rice of the 9th year and the quantity of rice from the 5th to the 8th year, and the population of the 21 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa-chai, of the 5th 6th and 8th years, and the population of the 18 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 7th year; and the population and the quantity of rice of the whole province of the 3^d year of T'ungchih (1865); and the quantity of rice of the whole province and the population of those *t'ing chow* and *hsien* that belong to the prefecture of Ta ting (大定) of the 4th year; and the population and the quantity of rice of the whole province from the 5th to the 8th and the quantity of rice of the whole province and the population of these three prefectures viz. Hsing i, Tu yün and Chen yuen and 27 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai from the 9th to the 13th and the quantity of rice of the whole province from the 1st to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1874-1885), and the population of the two prefectures of Tu yün and Chen yuen, and 16 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 1st year of Kwanghsü and that of the two prefectures of Tu yün and Chen yuen and 14 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 2nd and that of the two prefectures Tu yün, Chen yuen and 7 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai, of the 3^d and 4th and that of the prefecture of Tu yün and 13 *t'ing chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 5th year of Kwanghsü.

No records have as yet been received from the above by your Servants' Board and your Servants' Board has been sending

despatches every year to the Governors-General and Governors urging them to forward speedily the required figures. Some have explained that they have not received the records from the auditors; others say that it is extremely difficult to get the exact accounts because of the rebels. They all, however, promise to send forward the records as soon as they have received the exact accounts. It is advisable, therefore, to order them to secure the true accounts and send them in different years and when they arrive at your Servants' Board, your Servants will put them on record at the next term and your Servants ask your Majesty whether the Governors-General and Governors should not send the names of the officers who are delaying to get the accounts forwarded to your Servants' Board so that we may consult and decide.

The Province of Fengt'ien (Shengking or Kwantung).

It is stated on the record by the *Fu yin* that Fengt'ien contains 2 *fu*, 5 *chow* 14 *hsien* and 4 *t'ing*. Its real population, including old and young, men and women, altogether amounts to 4,409,271 which, compared with that of the 11th year (4,368,872) shows an increase of 40,399 people. Its real rice storage is 415,980 piculs 3899, which compared with that of the previous year 389818 piculs 7069 gives an increase of 26161-683.

The Province of Chihli.

The population and the quantity of rice of the places included in the Pauting prefecture for the 12th year have not been sent to your Servants' Board, and the Governor-General should be ordered to obtain them quickly and send them without delay to your Servants' Board, and your Servants will put them on record at the next term. The population and the quantity of rice of the places

belonging to the *Cheng teh* prefecture of the 12th year have been forwarded by the General of Jeho. The real population of the 12th year is 725,625 which compared with that of the 11th year (725,375) shows an increase of 250 souls. The real quantity of rice of the 12th year is 9580 piculs 8189 which is identical with that of the previous year. The population and the quantity of rice of the places belonging to Pau ting fu have not been presented from the 8th year of Hienfeng (1859) to the 11th year of Kwanghsü, and the quantity of rice of the 11 *chow* and *hsien* that belong to *Hsien hsien*, of the 4th and 5th year of Hienfeng (1855-56) have also not been forwarded, and it has been stated by the Governor-General that these places had been destroyed by the rebels and that he will send a record to say whether or not there is any rice in the granary so soon as he is informed by the auditors, but as it has not yet come to hand he must be told to hurry up with the record as quickly as possible and when it arrives at your Servants' Board, your Servants will place what he says on the record of the next term submitted to your Majesty.

The Province of Shantung.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that this province contains 10 *fu*, 11 *chow*, 96 *hsien*, 4 *wei* and 1 *so* (所). Its real population is 36,631,308 which compared with that of the 11th year (36,545,704) gives an increase of 85,604. Its real rice storage is 319327 piculs 8797, shewing an increase of 572 piculs 3, over the previous year (318755-5797).

The Province of Shansi.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Shansi contains 9 *fu*, 10 *chow*, 85 *hsien* and 4 *t'wan ts'ao* (團操). Its real population is 10,847,147 which, compared with that of the 11th

year (10,791,341) gives an augmentation of 55,806. Its real rice amount is 963,509-1682, shewing a decrease of 4021-0549 compared with the 1.th year (967,530-3231).

The Province of Honan.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Honan contains 9 *fu*, 10 *chow*, 96 *hsien* and 1 *t'ing*. Its real population is 22,117,439 giving an increase of 403 mouths over the previous year (22,117-036). Its real rice storage amounts to 436123 piculs 6008 which is the same as the previous year.

The Province of Kiangsu.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Kiangsu contains 4 *fu*, 5 *chow*, 30 *hsien* and 1 *t'ing*. Its real population is 21,346,809, which, compared with that of the 11th year (21,259,989) shows an increase of 86,910 people. Its rice account for this year is not recorded, and the same is true of the 27th year of Taokwang (1848) to the 1st year of Hien feng and its population and quantity of rice from the 3^d year of Hienfeng to the 12th year of T'ungchih (1874) and its rice from the 13th year of Hienfeng to the 9th year of Kwanghsü and the 11th year of Kwanghsü are all omitted and the Governor should be ordered to obtain the figures quickly and send them to your Servants' Board, and when they arrive at your Servants' Board, they will be put on record at the next term for your Majesty.

The Province of Kiangsi

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Kiangsi contains 14 *fu* 2 *chow* 76 *hsien* 2 *t'ing* 4 *wei* and 13 *so*. Its real population is 24,554,085 which compared with that of the 11th year (24,541,406) gives an increase of 12679 people. Its real rice amount is 430,721-0678, but it is explained on the record that

there are some places where the rice has been destroyed by rebels, and other places where a great quantity of rice has been given to soldiers for their food, and others again where the rice amount has not been audited. The Governor must be informed that the quantity of rice must be forthwith learnt and sent to your Servants' Board. Its population and rice amount for the 10th year of Hienfeng (1861) and the 7th year of Kwanghsü; the quantity of rice of these 42 *ling*, *chow*, *hsien* which belong to Ching kiang, of the 8th year of Kwanghsü and that of these 19 *chow*, *hsien* belonging to I ning of the 7th year, and the population and the quantity of rice of these 50 *ling*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Hsing tse of the 7th year, and the population of these 40 *ling*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Feng sin of the 6th year, are all yet unknown, the Governor must be ordered to ascertain speedily what is wanting and send the figures to your Servants' Board and when they arrive at your Servants' Board, they will be put on the record at the next term and submitted to your Majesty.

The Province of Chehkiang.

It is stated in the record by the Governor that this province contains 11 *fu* 1 *chow*, 75 *hsien* and 2 *ling*. Its real population is 11,691,255 which, compared with that of the 11th year (11,685,348) gives an increase of 5907 souls. Its real rice amount is 31823-1408 which shows an increase over the previous year (31755-2102) of 67-9306.

The Province of Hupei.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Hupei contains 10 *fu*, 8 *chow*, 60 *hsien* and 10 *wei*. Its population is 33,682,193, which compared with that of the 11th year (33,600,490) gives an increase of 81,703. Its rice for this year and from the 2nd year of

Hienfeng (1853) to the 11th of Kwanghsü (1885) has not been put on record. It is necessary, therefore, to inform the Governor to quickly find out the amounts and transmit them to your Servants' Board, and when they arrive at your Servants' Board, they will be placed on the record of the next term for your Majesty.

The Province of Hunan.

It is stated on the record by the Governor that Hunan contains 9 *fu*, 7 *chow*, 64 *hsien*, 4 *ting* and 1 *wei*. Its real population is 21,005,952 which compared with that of the 11th year (21,005,171) shows an increase of 781. Its rice account for this year and its population and rice account of the 2nd year of Hienfeng (1853) and its rice of the 3^d year of Hienfeng to the 11th of Kwanghsü are wanting and the quantity of rice of the *Shetsang* of the 5th year to the 21st of Taokwang (1842) are also deficient. (Then follows the usual remark in the case of omission of statistics on the record).

The Province of Shensi.

This province is said by the Governor to contain 7 *fu*, 5 *chili chow* (直隸州) and 76 *hsien*. Its real population is 8,395,954, giving an increase of 118,937 people over the previous year (8,276,967). The rice account stands 55828-5535 being an increase of 483-6264 above that of the 11th year viz. 55344-9271. Its population and rice account of the 9th year of Kwanghsü (1883) are not given, with the usual remark added.

The Province of Szechwen.

The Governor-General of this province states that it contains 12 *fu*, 19 *chow* 112 *hsien* 10 *ting* and 1 *so*, with a population of 72,126,148 which, when compared with that of the 11th year (71,073,730) shows an increase of 1,052,418. The quantity of rice for this year as well as that of the 9th year of T'ungchih

(1871) and the 7th to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1881-85) have failed to be forwarded to your Servants' Board, therefore etc.

The Province of Kwangtung (Canton).

The Governor of this province which contains 10 *fu*, 13 *chow*, 77 *hsien* and 5 *t'ing*, reports the real population to be 29,751,178, compared with that of the previous year (29,740,055) indicating an increase of 11,123. Its rice storage of this year and the 4th year of Hienfeng to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1855-1885) except the 6th (1880) are omitted etc.

The Province of Kweichow.

It is stated on the record by the Governor-General that this province contains 12 *fu*, 12 *t'ing*, 13 *chow*, 2 *chow p'an* (州判) 32 *hsien* and 10 *wei*. Its exact population is 4,803,658. As the population for the 11th year has not been put on record, no comparison is possible. The quantity of rice for this year is also not given as well as the population of 3 *fu*, viz: Hsing i, Tu yün and Chen yuen and 22 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to P'u an and 10 *wei* belonging to Kuchow of the 1st year of Hienfeng and 2 *fu* viz: Tu yün and Chen yuen and 17 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai and the rice of the whole province of the 11th year and the rice of the whole province and the population of 18 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 10th year, and the population and rice of the whole province of the 9th year, and the rice of the whole province of the 5th to the 8th year and the population of 21 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* of the 5th 6th and 8th years and the population of 18 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 7th year, and also the population and rice of the whole province of the 3^d year and the 5th to the 8th year of T'ungchih, and the rice of the whole province and the

population of the *fu*, *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* which belong to *Tu ting* of the 4th year; and the rice of the whole province and the population of 3 *fu*, viz: Hsing i, Tu yun and Chen yuen and 27 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 9th to the 13th year, as will as the rice of the whole province of the 1st to the 11th year of Kwanghsü and the population of 2 *fu*, viz: Tu yün and Chen yuen and 16 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 1st year and that of 2 *fu*, viz: Tu yün and Chen yuen and 14 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 2nd year, and that of Tu yün and Chen yuen and 7 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai and that of *Tu yün fu* and 13 *t'ing*, *chow* and *hsien* belonging to Pa chai of the 5th year. [Then follows the usual order for the statistics to be forwarded etc.]

The Province of Fuhkien.

The Governor of this province states that there are 9 *fu*, 2 *chow* and 58 *hsien* with 1 *t'ing* within his jurisdiction, with a population in the 9th year of Kwanghsü (1883) of 23,113,439. That of the 11th year is 23,894,533. The population and rice for the present year are not given as well as the rice of the 6th year of T'ungchih to the 11th year of Kwanghsü (1868-1895) and also the population of the 7th year of Taokwang to the 3^d year of Hienfeng (1828-1854) and the rice of the 4th to the 7th year of Hienfeng (1854-58) and the population and rice of the 9th year and the population of the 10th year of Hienfeng to the 3^d of T'ungchih (1861-1865), and the population of the places which belong to the prefecture of T'aiwan of the 17th year of Kiaching (1813) to the 7th year of Hienfeng (1858) and the rice of these places of the 19th year of Kiaching (1815) to the 3^d of Hienfeng (1854.) [Then follows the usual form.]

Conclusion.

The population of the above 13 provinces, viz. Feng'tien, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Kiangsu, Kiangsi, Chehkiang, Hupei, Hunan, Shensi, Szechwen, Kwangtung and Kweichow and the places which belong to the prefecture of *Cheng teh* of Jeho, of the 12th year of Kwanghsü (1886) altogether, as stated on the records is 302,088,114, which compared with that of the 11th year (295,880,706) gives an increase of 6,207,408 inhabitants.

The rice of 6 provinces viz. Feng'tien, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Chehkiang and Shensi and the places belonging to *Cheng teh fu* of Jeho, of the 12th year of Kwanghsü (1886) amounts altogether to 2232173-6518 compared with that of the 11th year (2,229,873-2579) shewing an increase of 2,300-3939. The quantity of rice of Kiangsi has not been recorded for many years because of its inexact nature and on this occasion also it is not quite correct, therefore it is not placed on this record by your Servants.

Kirin.

It is stated in the record by the General that Kirin contains Ninguta (甯古塔), Po to na (Petunè) 伯都納, *San Shing* (三姓) and four *ling*. Its real population for the 12th year of Kwanghsü is 447, 858 and its real rice supply is 37,044-3624. The records of the population and rice for the 13th year have not been recorded.

The population of the 13 provinces, exclusive of Cheng teh fu in Chihli is 301,362,489, or inclusive 302, 088,114. For the 13th year (1887) the figures stand 303,241,969 shewing an increase over the previous year of 1,153,855. The population of the province of Fuhkien is not included in the totals for the 12th year as

Provinces	Fu	Chow	Chili chow	Hsien Ting	Twan Tsao	Wei So	Chow p'an	Population in 1886.	Population in 1885.	Increase of 1886 over 1885.	Population of the year 1887.	Increase of 1887 over 1886.
1. Feng Yien	2	5		14	4			6, 409, 271	4, 368, 872	40, 399	4, 437, 261	41, 999
Chibli	10							72, 025	725, 875	230	727, 442	1, 817
2. Shantung	9	11		96		4	1	36, 631, 308	36, 545, 704	85, 604	36, 644, 255	62, 947
3. Shansi	9	10		85				10, 847, 447	10, 791, 341	55, 806	10, 638, 401	188, 746
4. Honan	9	10		96	14			22, 117, 439	22, 117, 036	403	22, 117, 839	399
5. Kiangsu	4	5		30	1			21, 346, 899	21, 259, 989	86, 910	21, 408, 930	62, 031
6. Kiangsi	4	2		76	2	4	13	24, 554, 085	24, 541, 406	12, 679	24, 559, 327	5, 242
7. Chehkiang	11	1		75	2			11, 691, 255	11, 635, 348	5, 907	11, 703, 038	11, 783
8. Hupei	10	8		60		10		33, 682, 193	33, 600, 490	81, 703	33, 763, 437	81, 242
9. Hunan	9	7	5	64	4	1		21, 005, 952	21, 005, 171	781	21, 006, 368	416
10. Shensi	7			76				8, 395, 954	8, 246, 967	118, 937	8, 403, 818	7, 864
11. Szechwen	12	19		112	10	1		72, 126, 148	71, 073, 730	1, 052, 418	73, 178, 566	1, 053, 418
12. Kwangtung	10	13		77	5			29, 751, 178	29, 740, 055	11, 123	29, 762, 725	11, 547
13. Kweichow	12	13		32	12	10	2	4, 803, 658			4, 806, 572	2, 914
14. Fuhkien	9	2		58	1			24, 344, 810	23, 894, 533	450, 277		

presented to the Emperor, nor in the 13th year, as the Statistics forwarded to the Board do not refer to the years for which the record is drawn up. But as the memorials on the Population for 1886 and 1887 from the Board of Revenue, came into my hands, I have added the figures for Fuhkien for the 12th year of Kwangshü as they were supplied to the Board in the 13th year. This enables me to give the population of 14 provinces for the year 1886 as 325,707,299. The population of Fuhkien for the 9th year (1833) is already given as 23,113,439.

I leave the figures now presented to speak for themselves. They should be read in the light of the remarks made by the writer on the paper read by Mr. Popoff and already printed in the transactions of the Society. The latest statistics obtained by Mr Popoff refer to the year 1882 and include 11 provinces only. He had previously obtained an unofficial list of 10 provinces for 1879. Five of the eleven provinces were included in the list of 1879. The deficiencies in the number of provinces of the official list were made up by him from those of the unofficial list. In this way he arrived at the population of 5 more provinces. Three provinces remained of which the population could not be ascertained. Considering the devastation caused by the rebels in Anhwei, he estimates the population of that province at 16 millions less than the figures given for 1842 (36,596,988) and for Kwangsi the birthplace of the great rebellion, at 3 millions less than the figures for 1842 (8,121,327) Fuhkien being beyond the range of the devastations caused by the T'ai p'ings, he retains the population for 1842. I am now able to furnish him with the latest figures which do not materially differ from those given for 1842. The most remarkable thing about these statistics is, perhaps, the vast population of Szechwen, the garden of China, the largest province

of the Empire, and excepting Yunnan, twice the size of any other of the larger provinces, and four times that of Chehkiang. It has more than trebled its population in fifty years. Besides its enormous size and fertility, it must be noted that it did not suffer from the ravages of the rebels, and that at that time the people from the neighbouring provinces sought refuge here. I am informed that when Tsêng kwo fan was an Examiner in this province, he reported to the Throne, even at that time, its populousness as greatly in excess of anything to be found in other provinces. There can be no question of the vast population of this province. If we take a rough average of the 14 provinces, exclusive of Szechwen, we shall find about 20 millions for each province, which would add at least from 80 to 100 millions for the provinces whose records have not been forwarded. The statistics of these provinces are not to be found in the Board of Revenue, since they were destroyed by fire. But if the required records are annually furnished to the Board, there should not be any difficulty in presenting the figures to his Majesty. In the speech which I delivered at the adjourned discussion of the question of population, I stated that I held in my hands the returns for the whole Empire taken a few years previously, in which the entire population for China Proper including Manchuria is given as 215 millions. I disavowed all responsibility for their accuracy and characterized the returns as, in my opinion, a gross under-estimate, although presumably emanating from the same source as Mr. Popoff's statistics. I also on that occasion remarked that the statistics for the rest of the Empire, exclusive of China Proper, appeared to be even a grosser over-estimate, namely 39 millions, than the under-estimate of the 18 provinces. These statistics certainly afforded Mr. Jordan good grounds for his remark that "nothing better proved the fallacy of the Chinese census than a

comparison of the two lists (Dr. Dudgeon's and Mr. Popoff's) in question." Shortly after the discussion, further enquiries in the proper quarter regarding the controverted figures furnished privately by and handsomely paid for to, a subordinate officer of the Board of Revenue, gave good grounds for believing that the figures presented were radically inaccurate and designedly misleading, the population of China Proper, having been reduced with the connivance and by the sanction of the Board, by exactly one third, while the population North of the great wall seems to have been correspondingly increased. This mass of figures was furnished to one of the Foreign Representatives and by him to his government. When we remember that foreigners have always taken a great interest in the question of population—a fact which is known to the Chinese officials, it is presumed by the Chinese that such an interest could not be developed and maintained from purely statistical grounds, but that other and ulterior purposes of a commercial and missionary character were in view. Now the demand for greater facilities of inland trade and the propagation of religion would appear to the Chinese to have a close connexion with the question of the density of the population, and hence the attempt to deceive. In fact we have the best of grounds for stating that the request for statistics of the population of the Empire from this Foreign Legation was reported to the Board of Revenue and that after a long discussion the diminution by one third was agreed to and carried out. From this incident we may learn how puerile in many matters even so astute a people may be and how suspicious the Chinese officials are in their relations with foreigners and how they seek to neutralize any concessions which they may be obliged to make. They have overlooked a third alternative which a greatly enhanced population might have given them in

the eyes of foreigners, viz, a sense of their great strength to resist foreign aggression.

On the same occasion in question I stated that a reduction in 1886 in the population to the extent of over six millions had been approved by the Board of Revenue in order temporarily to mitigate taxation. Mr. Jordan stated that no general reduction of taxation of the nature described had taken place. The true reason, which was afterwards forthcoming, was that as the missionary question was giving uneasiness to the officials and missionaries were pouring into the country in large numbers and distributing themselves all over the Empire, the vast millions of China seemed to be the exciting cause of so much missionary enthusiasm. The officials of the Board of Revenue thought to check this zeal by the above considerable reduction of the population. In the following year as no abatement of missionary immigration seemed to follow, the figures were again added to the record.

On the same occasion I added "In conclusion I have now to present you with some statistics furnished me this afternoon by a high official of the Board of Revenue. When all the returns arrive I hope to present them to the Society" This paper is the fulfilment of that promise. The translation of the Memorial as presented to the Emperor by the Board of Revenue should convince any candid reader of the genuineness of these statistics, so far at least as they are known to and by the Board. Since the above was written, I have been placed in possession of the statistics submitted to the Throne for the 13th year of the present reign (1887) and I have consequently added the figures in the tabulated statement.
