

# COMMERCIAL REPORTS

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S CONSULS

IN

CHINA, JAPAN, AND SIAM.

1865.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
July 1866.*

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## No. 3.

*Consul Knox to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received April 18.)*

My Lord, *Bangkok, February 20, 1866.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Commercial Report for the past year, together with the Returns of Shipping, and Tables of Imports and Exports.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS GEORGE KNOX.

## Inclosure in No. 3.

*Report on the Trade of Bangkok for the Year 1865.*

OWING to the small quantity of rain that fell during the season of 1864, the rice crop was so much below the usual average that the Siamese Government considered it expedient to prohibit the exportation of that article.

This prohibition came into effect on the 25th of January, 1865, and ceased on the 21st of August last.

The high prices which the growers, as soon as the effect of the drought became apparent, demanded for their rice, would of itself have been a virtual prohibition to its export; and doubtless the most legitimate one.

The Siamese Government, however, failed to understand that in such matters there was no necessity for their interference, and, as the results would have been the same, whether caused by the shortness of supply or Government interference, I merely drew their attention to the fact, and yielded without remonstrance.

I have reason to believe that the lesson has not been lost on them, and that, on future occasions, this Government will not interfere in such matters.

From inquiries which I have made, it would appear that droughts occur in Siam on an average of once in twelve years. On former occasions the loss was much more injuriously felt than on the last.

Before the Treaty with Great Britain, Siam merely grew enough rice for home consumption; but, since that Treaty, a large export trade in that grain has sprung up, and consequently a great deal more is now planted than can be consumed in the country, even if the Return is only an average one. Thence last year, though the Return was very much below the average, yet, from the greater quantity sown, there was quite sufficient for the consumption of the people.

The consequences of this drought will, however, be plainly seen in the Tables that accompany this Report. Four-fifths of the exports of this country consist of rice, and having had last year none to export, the whole trade has been, to a great extent, paralyzed.

The present crop, now harvested, is said to be an excellent one, and I therefore hope that my next Report on the trade of this country will be very much more favourable than the present one.

I have to report one beneficial change which has taken place during last year, viz., the abolition of the heavy tax on cocoa-nut trees, which has been replaced by a light one on the oil extracted from the nut.

As the soil and climate of many parts of Siam are particularly well suited to the growth of this palm, a very extended cultivation of it will now probably take place.

(Signed) THOMAS GEORGE KNOX, *Consul.*  
*British Consulate, Bangkok, February 19, 1866.*

(No. 1.)—Returns of Imports into the Port of Bangkok, from December 1, 1864, to December 1, 1865.

	From Singapore and Batavia.		From Hong Kong.		From China.		From India.		From Europe.		From Coast.		Total.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quant.	Value.	Quant.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Quantity.	Total Value.	
		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		Mex. dol.	Sterling
White shirtings	32,166	121,445											32,166	121,445	25,301
Grey ditto	91,992	265,693	850	3,586			750	1,825					96,592	271,100	57,106
Figured ditto	6,978	23,030	500	2,700									7,478	27,730	5,777
Coloured piece goods	4,817	18,226	1,330	6,663									6,747	24,889	5,175
Turkey red cloth	5,856	12,958	490	9,683									6,346	22,641	4,908
Lonze cloth	1,135	4,073											1,135	4,073	819
T-cloth	335	823											335	823	122
Fris and chints	3,073	7,751											3,073	7,751	1,455
Madapolams	4,714	8,218											4,714	8,218	1,712
Canvass	1,303	6,533											1,303	6,533	1,373
Cambrics	6,115	6,556											6,666	8,153	1,937
Muslins and jaconets	8,763	14,348											8,763	14,348	3,369
Shawls	17,331	141,187											17,331	141,187	29,411
Handkerchiefs	117	815											117	815	175
Miscellaneous piece goods	52,643	71,779											52,643	71,779	14,954
Woolen goods	232	17,636											232	17,636	3,674
Red twist	226	31,238											226	31,238	6,008
White twist	419	67,472											419	67,472	14,957
Yellow and green twist	250	29,563											250	29,563	6,139
Raw silk	20	5,275											20	5,275	1,099
Hardware	309	7,036					1	15					310	7,051	1,475
Iron	9,831	27,553	90	305	250	703							10,221	28,566	5,931
Steel	1,345	4,434											1,345	4,434	924
Pepper												15,997	85,497	16,997	17,812
Muskets	800	21,951											800	21,951	5,193
Glassware	320	10,855	133	4,833	5	128			0	147			604	15,302	2,382
Copper metal, sheathing, &c.	223	16,748											223	16,748	3,169
Crockery	277	5,606	5,133	23,799	6,593	21,365							19,002	50,670	10,436
Coal	1,252	9,152											2,167	15,071	2,515
Brass and copperware	84	4,259	911	52,472	51	21,553			915	2,919			1,366	78,416	16,337
Jewellery and precious stones	65	40,043	20	11,785	5	2,473							70	61,301	11,413
Mat bags	1,046	33	121,800	3,357	466,189	10,827					1,941,160	35,214	1,634,676	49,481	10,598
Mis	20,454	5,291	900	84	116,565	5,224					110,551	6,011	218,553	16,856	3,455
Opium	205	105,392											205	105,392	21,957
Dates	1,949	4,557					1,670	3,793					3,619	8,319	1,733
Ship chandlery	1,659	18,491											1,659	18,491	3,532
Liquors	9,666	21,638	1,378	3,742			25	250	214	875			11,253	26,503	5,822
Tin												1,600	29,915	1,600	6,238
China goods		17,606		8,321		171,378							11,660	208,805	45,613
Fancy goods	15	2,119	37	7,736					36	1,260			88	11,115	2,322
Silk shawls	100	470	14,415	67,820									14,615	67,790	14,123
Crapes	1,030	4,560	4,413	27,421	19	121							5,613	32,105	6,659
Silk piece goods	319	3,055	23,924	177,492	107	1,000			87	1,087			23,557	185,544	39,630
Gold thread	9	1,517	76	4,962	41	1,510							157	8,319	1,783
Sundries		51,625		58,496		53,216							50,872	231,532	48,299
Gallery	115	5,428	89	1,962	41	1,366			40	288			265	8,774	1,828
Mexican dollars		39,916		70,194		34,453							3,808	169,353	35,074
Gold leaf		60,690												60,690	12,624
		1,876,723		642,697		325,700		5,882		21,200			222,910	2,495,018	619,795

British Consulate, Bangkok, January 31, 1866.

(Signed)

THOMAS GEORGE KNOX, Consul.

## (No. 2.)—RETURN of Exports from the Port of Bangkok, during 1865.

December 1, 1864, to December 1, 1865.

Description of Export.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Piculs.	Tons.	Ticals.	£ sterling.
Rice .. .. .	36,713	2,295	174,410	21,801
Paddy . . . . .	10,324	645	43,877	5,485
Sugar . . . . .	81,966	5,123	819,660	102,458
Sapan wood .. .. .	90,117	5,632	315,409	39,426
Peas .. .. .	2,279	142	11,395	1,424
Silk .. .. .	947	59	255,690	31,961
Pepper .. .. .	26,281	1,643	289,091	36,136
Tin .. .. .	2,752	172	110,080	13,760
Teel-seed .. .. .	32,016	2,001	176,088	22,011
Hemp . . . . .	1,855	116	37,700	4,712
Hides . . . . .	5,344	334	64,128	8,016
Horns . . . . .	1,674	105	20,088	2,511
Salt .. .. .	252,419	15,772	201,935	25,242
Salt fish .. .. .	87,512	5,469	962,632	120,329
Mussels .. .. .	10,985	686	142,805	17,851
Rosewood .. .. .	74,380	4,649	106,570	13,321
Gum Benjamin .. .. .	189	12	37,800	4,725
Ivory .. .. .	65	5½	24,650	3,081
Clean cotton .. .. .	11,922	745	29,800	3,725
Unclean cotton .. .. .	12,813	809	12,944	1,618
Lickhraboo seed . . . . .	1,638	102	8,190	1,024
Cardamums .. .. .	1,300	81	97,500	12,118
Stick lac .. .. .	4,744	296	94,880	11,860
Gamboge .. .. .	477	30	9,540	1,192
Mangrove bark . . . . .	23,882	1,493	35,823	4,478
Ebony .. .. .	11,302	706	22,604	2,826
Teak logs and planks .. .. .	Pieces 16,569	About 2,578	128,920	16,115
..	..	51,700	4,234,209	529,276

British Consulate, Bangkok, January 31, 1866.

(Signed)

THOMAS GEORGE KNOX, Consul.

(No. 3.)—RETURN of British Shipping at the Port of Bangkok, during the Year 1865.

Direct Trade in British Vessels from and to Great Britain and British Colonies.

Whence Arrived.	ENTERED.							Whither Bound.	CLEARED.								
	Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.			Number of Crew.		Invoice Value of Cargoes.	Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.			Number of Crew.	Value of Cargoes.
	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.				With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.	Total.		
Great Britain ...	5	..	5	1,621	...	1,621	59	19,605	Great Britain ...	2	...	2	668	...	668	20	6,927
Hong Kong ...	4	7	11	917	5,329	3,276	163	16,533	Hong Kong ...	9	...	9	3,032	...	3,032	139	30,363
Singapore ...	9	3	12	2,257	1,502	3,459	135	23,970	Singapore ...	10	...	10	2,630	...	2,630	131	14,790
Bombay ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bombay ...	4	...	4	1,741	...	1,741	121	30,260
<b>Total Direct trade ...</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>3,831</b>	<b>8,386</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>58,208</b>	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7,991</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>7,991</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>82,185</b>

Indirect or Carrying Trade in British Vessels from and to other Countries.

Chinese Ports ...	2	1	3	472	193	670	27	500	Saigon ...	1	1	2	218	130	348	24	69
Siamese coast ...	1	1	2	63	110	233	18	300	Siamese coast ...	...	3	3	...	363	353	30	...
<b>Total Indirect trade ...</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>7,825</b>
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>9,279</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>59,008</b>	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>10,835</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>90,010</b>

(No. 4.)—RETURN of British and Foreign Shipping at the Port of Bangkok, during the Year 1865.

Nationality of Vessels.	ENTERED.									Nationality of Vessels.	CLEARED.												
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.				Invoice Value of Cargoes.	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.			Invoice Value of Cargoes.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.			Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.			
British ...	21	5,410	269	12	3,869	193	33	9,279	462	69,008	British ...	33	10,332	619	4	483	38	37	10,835	557	90,012		
Danish ...	...	...	...	1	224	12	1	224	12	...	Danish ...	...	...	...	1	168	9	1	168	9	...		
Dutch ...	10	3,198	250	10	6,222	219	20	1,420	439	9,766	Dutch ...	19	9,210	469	...	...	19	9,210	469	...	15,090		
French ...	...	...	...	3	1,157	47	3	1,157	47	...	French ...	2	919	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,139		
Hanoverian ...	1	334	12	...	...	...	1	334	12	8,333	Hanoverian ...	2	571	25	...	...	...	...	...	571	25	6,384	
Hanseatic ...	5	1,355	61	6	3,015	89	11	4,373	150	11,709	Hanseatic ...	7	2,546	136	...	...	...	...	...	2,546	136	11,600	
Odenburg ...	...	...	...	1	500	18	1	500	18	...	Odenburg ...	1	500	18	...	...	...	...	...	500	18	900	
Prussian ...	2	570	23	2	756	25	4	1,326	56	2,035	Prussian ...	1	305	7	...	...	...	...	...	305	7	612	
United States ...	1	501	7	1	255	9	2	530	16	1,000	United States ...	79	30,818	...	...	...	79	30,818	...	...	30,818	...	402,109
Siamese ...	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	33,032	(?)	127,433	Siamese ...	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
Junks ...	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	127,433	Junks ...	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>60,195</b>	<b>(?)</b>	<b>519,795</b>	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>55,219</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>55,870</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>529,276</b>	

British Consulate, Bangkok, January 31, 1866.

(Signed)

THOMAS GEORGE KNOX, Consul.

(No. 5.)—RETURN of Foreign Shipping engaged in the Direct and Indirect Trade at the Port of Bangkok, in the Year 1865.

Nationality of Vessels.	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	Direct Trade.		Indirect Trade.		Total.		Direct Trade.		Indirect Trade.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Danish . . .	..	..	1	224	1	224	..	..	1	168	1	168
Dutch ...	15	8,117	5	1,303	20	9,420	19	9,210	..	..	19	9,210
French . . .	..	..	3	1,167	3	1,167	..	..	..	919	3	919
Hanoverian . . .	..	..	1	334	1	334	..	..	..	571	1	571
Hanseatic . . .	..	..	11	4,373	11	4,373	..	..	..	2,546	7	2,546
Oldenburg . . .	..	..	1	500	1	500	..	..	1	500	1	500
Prussian . . .	..	..	4	1,326	4	1,326	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States . . .	..	..	2	630	2	630	..	..	1	305	1	305
Siamese . . .	80	33,052	..	..	80	33,052	79	30,816	..	..	79	30,816
	95	41,169	28	9,747	123	50,916	98	40,026	14	5,009	112	45,035

*British Consulate, Bangkok, January 31, 1866.*

(Signed)

THOMAS GEORGE KNOX, *Consul.*