

SIAM. No. 1. (1876).

COMMERCIAL REPORT

BY

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL-GENERAL

IN

S I A M

FOR THE YEAR

1875.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
August 1876.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS,
1876.

*Consular Report by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Siam
for the Year 1875.*

Commercial Report by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Siam : 1875.

SHIPPING.

A LARGER number of vessels entered this port during the year 1875 than in any previous year. The aggregate tonnage amounted to 213,174 tons, and of these 110,625 were British.

The following Table represents the British shipping and the value of their cargoes during the past three years :—

	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Value.	Vessels.	Tons.	Value.
			£			£
1873	84	32,713	409,634	83	32,296	406,740
1874	103	45,214	540,911	106	45,092	511,376
1875	211	110,625	787,666	204	107,789	919,774

The amount of rice exported during 1875 was in excess of all previous years by about 1,000,000 piculs. There is, however, no reason to believe that this arises from new land being brought into cultivation, but simply that the season was a good one and the demand for rice in China was constant throughout the year.

Burmah and Cochin-China having the advantage of telegraphic communication with the rest of the world, and their trade being on a more regular footing, the rice from those countries is all taken away as soon as it is ready.

In Siam the export, though far less on the whole than in either of those countries, continues throughout the year.

I fear there is little reason to believe that Siam will produce, at least for some time to come, more rice than she does at present. Nothing is done to encourage the cultivators, and a system of advances made by officials on the crops is growing up, which eventually takes all profit out of their hands.

The only business that shows signs of increasing is that of teak. If this trade were encouraged it would rise to great importance, but as the Government does nothing but collect the duty on the timber, and those engaged in the trade have but little capital, it has to struggle against many difficulties.

The production of sugar is yearly diminishing.

The fact is the country is overtaxed. Nearly all the profits made by producers are taken from them by the Government or the numerous officials, who are largely in excess of what is required either for maintaining order or for the purposes of administration. No part of the taxes obtained by Government is spent for the benefit of the people or for the encouragement of trade. It is either hoarded or spent on useless frivolities.

I inclose, amongst other Tables, a list of the taxes under which the country groans. By this it will be seen that there is no business of any sort in which a Siamese can engage which does not immediately bring him face to face with the tax-gatherer.

(Signed)

THOMAS GEORGE KNOX.

*British Agency and Consulate-General,
Bangkok, August 1, 1876.*

(No. 1.)—RETURN of British Shipping at the Port of Bangkok during the Year 1875.

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

When Arrived.	ENTERED.						Invoice Value of Cargoes.	Whither Bound.	CLEARED.						Invoice Value of Cargoes.
	Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.					Number of Vessels.			Tonnage.			
	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.			With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	With Cargo.	In Ballast.	Total.	
Singapore	109	35	144	46,077	19,249	65,326	£ 597,326	Singapore	95	...	95	42,026	...	42,026	£ 396,263
Hong Kong	26	31	57	16,773	21,953	38,725	189,105	Hong Kong	62	...	62	40,175	...	40,175	358,849
								Great Britain	11	...	11	9,515	...	9,515	48,529
								Melbourne	4	...	4	1,185	...	1,185	7,684
								Bombay	1	...	1	388	...	388	2,640
Total	185	66	251	63,850	41,191	104,041	786,431	Total	173	...	173	93,289	...	93,289	818,963

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

Chinese ports	2	3	5	500	2,777	3,277	1,235	Chinese ports	3	...	3	996	...	996	9,362
Java ... ..	...	3	3	...	2,021	2,021	...	Java	21	...	21	6,679	...	6,679	59,992
Saigon ... ..	...	2	2	...	1,286	1,286	...	Europe	6	...	6	4,381	...	4,381	30,508
								Pert	1	...	1	345	...	345	6,250
Total	2	8	10	500	6,084	6,584	1,235	Total	31	...	31	14,500	...	14,500	105,812
Grand Total	187	74	211	63,850	47,275	110,625	787,666	Grand Total	204	...	204	107,789	...	107,789	919,774

British Agency and Consulate-General, Bangkok, August 1, 1876.

BANGKOK.

(No. 2).--RETURN of British and Foreign Shipping at the Port of Bangkok during the Year 1875.

Nationality of Vessels.	ENTRANED.						Invoice Value of Cargoes.	Nationality of Vessels.	CLEARED.						Invoice Value of Cargoes.
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.				With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.			Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
British ..	137	63,350	74	47,275	211	110,625	£ 787,666	British ..	204	107,789	..	..	204	107,789	£ 919,774
German ..	38	18,515	28	10,791	66	29,306	64,577	German ..	66	30,448	..	..	66	30,448	237,737
French ..	7	2,710	11	3,816	18	6,526	10,520	French ..	19	6,790	..	..	19	6,790	56,084
Dutch ..	10	3,589	4	1,967	14	5,556	4,792	Dutch ..	15	6,299	..	..	15	6,299	30,400
Danish ..	9	4,548	5	2,663	14	7,211	38,410	Danish ..	14	7,202	..	..	14	7,202	65,328
American ..	2	870	4	2,626	6	3,496	1,240	American ..	6	3,157	..	..	6	3,157	21,882
Italian ..	1	700	1	666	2	1,366	1,291	Italian ..	3	1,936	..	..	3	1,936	18,527
Russian ..	..	..	1	842	1	842	..	Russian ..	1	842	..	..	1	842	4,505
Siaméé ..	120	44,188	6	2,793	126	46,981	355,449	Siaméé ..	142	48,902	..	..	142	48,902	375,728
Sarawak ..	5	1,265	..	..	5	1,265	18,074	Sarawak ..	5	1,180	..	..	5	1,180	11,320
Junks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,015	Junks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,000
Total ..	329	139,735	134	73,439	463	213,174	1,326,034	Total ..	475	214,585	..	..	475	214,585	1,755,285

British Agency and Consulate-General, Bangkok, August 1, 1876.

1875

(No. 3.)—RETURN of Foreign Shipping at the Port of Bangkok engaged in the Direct and Indirect Trade during the Year 1875.

ENTERED.						CLEARED.							
Nationality of Vessels.	Direct Trade.		Indirect Trade.		Total.		Nationality of Vessels.	Direct Trade.		Indirect Trade.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
French	4	1,788	14	4,738	18	6,526	French	2	656	17	6,141	19	6,790
German	4	2,064	62	27,788	66	29,852	German	1	410	65	30,029	66	30,439
Dutch	1	355	12	398	13	4,339	Dutch .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish .. ..	..	..	14	7,211	14	7,211	Danish .. ..	..	..	14	7,202	14	7,202
American .. ..	..	..	6	3,496	6	3,496	American .. ..	..	..	6	3,137	6	3,137
Italian .. ..	..	..	2	1,366	2	1,366	Italian .. ..	..	..	3	1,936	3	1,936
Russian .. ..	..	..	1	842	1	842	Russian .. ..	..	..	1	812	1	812
Siamese	126	46,981	..	..	126	46,981	Siamese	142	48,902	..	..	142	48,902
Sarawak .. ..	..	..	5	1,265	5	1,265	Sarawak .. ..	..	..	5	1,180	5	1,180
Total	135	51,188	116	50,690	251	101,875	Total	156	53,952	114	51,902	270	105,854

BANGKOK.

British Agency and Consulate-General, Bangkok, August 1, 1876.

RETURN of Imports, as-declared at the Customs, from 1st January to 31st December, 1875.

Furnished by S. Bateman, Esq., Commissioner of Customs.

Description.	From Singapore.		From Hong Kong.		From China.		From Europe.		From Java.		From Coast.		Total Quantity.	Total Value
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
Shirts, white ... pieces	161,858	278,845	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161,858	278,845
" grey ... "	101,936	162,001	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101,936	162,001
" figured ... "	24,121	39,030	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,121	39,030
Coloured piece goods ...	154,341	167,037	680	878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154,341	167,010
Turkey red cloths ...	12,439	12,602	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,439	12,602
Long cloth ...	110	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110	500
Linen ...	36,398	30,851	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,398	30,851
Fris and chintz ...	5,058	3,610	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,058	3,610
Jaconet and muslin ...	15,968	12,732	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,968	12,732
Madapollans ...	26,016	13,787	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,016	13,787
Cambrics ...	130,535	74,926	4,876	1,971	1,900	718	...	...	...	...	2,632	1,256	139,443	78,868
Miscellaneous piece goods ...	1,726	15,140	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,726	15,140
Woolen goods ...	557	3,571	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	557	3,571
Carvas ... bolts	76,867	551,357	...	...	...	...	240	2,339	...	...	...	...	76,867	551,357
Chowls ... corges	1,055	56,611	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,055	56,611
Twist, white ... bales	1,084	57,555	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	1,698	1,084	57,555
" red ... "	786	42,729	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	786	42,729
" coloured ... "	1,252	46,448	1,573	15,348	145	4,353	2,258	30,167	2	80	37	1,159	5,267	97,450
Hardware ... packages	...	1,884	...	23,183	...	11,780	...	860	...	...	...	...	...	43,417
Earthenware ...	...	1,192	...	88,993	...	2,423	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	38,386
Brass and copper ware ...	...	1,103	...	5,125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101,698
Copper sheatings ... pieces	...	759	...	113	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,888
Glassware ... cases	...	8	...	2,307	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,144
Silverware ... packages	...	9,416	...	7,956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,588
Iron ... pieces	...	2,789	...	6,569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,759
Steel ... kegs	...	980	...	302	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,015
Machinery ... packages	...	91	...	49,574	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,053
Jewellery ... parcels	...	3,893	...	365	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86,171
Ship chandlery ... packages	...	44,196	...	24,225	49,574
Fancy goods	51,738	...	29,662	66,254
Sundries	96,656
														106,529

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Description.	From Singapore.		From Hong Kong.		From China.		From Europe.		From Jaita.		From Coast.		Total Quantity.	Total Value.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Dollars.	£
Paris goods packages ...	37	9,553	...	...	...	...	12	1,950	...	...	...	...	49	11,503	2,496
Rifles and guns cases ...	404	19,718	379	39,143	...	...	189	42,342	...	...	...	...	923	101,201	21,063
Treasure cases ...	9,924	1,433,652	63	240,630	...	...	1,494	125,000	...	...	1	1,660	4,482	1,800,942	375,196
Total	4,180,987	...	1,488,646	...	161,930	...	347,882	...	51,091	...	163,273	...	6,383,235	1,329,841

British Agency and Consulate-General, Bangkok, August 1st, 1876.

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MVLS

RETURN of Merchandize from the Port of Bangkok, Siam, during the Year 1875.

Furnished by S. Bateman, Commissioner of Customs.

Description.	For Hong Kong.		For Singapore.		For China.		For Europe and America.		For Java.		For Coast.		Total.			
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
Rice piculs	1,909,253	2,672,934	1,137,838	1,762,904	43,723	61,212	358,295	609,101	433,899	672,464	23,363	35,779	3,904,800	5,614,354	1,211,323	
Raddy "	13,524	10,811	6,994	5,135	725	636	...	...	21	17	244	105	21,578	17,854	3,719
Sugar "	29,336	175,956	16,795	100,770	8,655	48,830	...	...	...	...	2,312	13,872	56,488	338,928	70,610
Pepper "	9,283	53,392	2,187	13,122	4,360	26,160	1,074	6,444	...	...	...	...	16,883	101,118	2,106
Fees "	4,030	7,290	8,433	15,197	400	720	...	...	2,322	4,179	78	140	15,233	27,326	734
Teel-seed "	10,930	22,538	624	1,497	1,619	3,883	36,547	73,094	...	...	...	...	13,193	100,814	21,003
Sapan wood "	56,595	67,914	7,709	9,250	14,110	16,023	4,186	5,022	...	...	2,022	2,426	84,622	101,544	21,155
Rosewood "	40,132	40,132	3,818	3,818	4,142	4,143	...	...	30	30	3,579	3,579	61,751	61,751	10,781
Tenk planks "	33,045	36,090	6,702	18,404	3,065	6,130	2,375	4,750	...	...	8,565	17,730	54,052	68,164	14,138
Salt ... .. "	...	...	11,060	1,659	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,410	663	16,478	2,322	484
Dried mussels "	12,519	78,114	4,055	24,330	2,469	11,814	...	...	...	...	372	1,632	19,316	116,390	24,144
Hemp "	547	8,823	92	644	9	63	19	133	4	28	386	3,095	1,656	7,492	1,540	
Buffaloes' hides "	4,674	32,718	8,905	62,335	45	315	106	742	...	...	...	...	13,730	96,110	20,923
" horns "	1,040	7,280	1,554	10,879	8	56	234	1,433	...	...	4,188	29,316	7,024	48,368	10,502
" bones "	1,514	227	26	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,540	231	48
Ivory "	61	6,120	84	10,080	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	16,320	3,400
Elephant hides "	17	85	5	25	3	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	125	26
" horns "	1,415	9,905	19	133	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,434	10,033	2,091
Rhinoceros hides "	22	198	5	45	8	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	316	66
" horns "	12	14,400	2	2,400	1	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	18,000	3,760
Tiger skins pieces	45	185	10	30	3	9	...	...	1	3	...	...	59	177	37
" bones piculs	108	3,302	12	340	8	272	...	...	...	...	...	...	124	4,148	898
Best cardamums "	310	9,300	53	1,530	14	420	...	...	...	...	...	...	377	11,250	2,344
Bestard cardamums "	3,003	27,297	428	3,812	17	153	...	...	33	297	...	...	3,611	31,669	6,575
Cleand cotton "	377	9,547	330	2,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,816	63,376	6,333
Uncleand cotton "	1,100	5,500	1,000	5,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,667	38,335	9,767
Gamboge "	64	2,880	263	12,060	9	405	4	180	...	...	...	...	840	15,470	3,244
Sukkie "	1,233	23,374	11,576	218,763	3	54	...	...	23	414	...	...	13,241	238,338	40,654
Mangrove-bark "	3,330	1,675	142	71	5,841	2,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	109	65	9,442
Tallow "	51	468	111	888	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162	1,296	270
Indigo "	...	150	42	250	...	60	...	...	...	...	356	712	481	962	200
Gum Benjamin "	325	18,168	10,900	45	2,700	562
Bean-cakes ... .. "	...	...	195	18,168	10,900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	735	441	19,228
Lukraw-seed "	1,784	2,145	459	550	112	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,354	2,829	689

BANGKOK.

CD

Description.	For Hong Kong.		For Singapore.		For China.		For Europe and America.		For Java.		For Const.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Lotus-seed piculs	550	6,600	130	1,560	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	689	8,160
Tobacco ... .. "	...	...	56	193	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	288
Rayskins "	288	1,900	47	303	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	335	2,203
Deer skins "	24	144	150	900	5,656	34,116	60	300	...	...	...	...	5,910	35,400
Soft deer horns pairs	2,630	12,150	344	2,064	1,728	10,368	...	...	37	222	...	...	4,189	24,834
Old piculs	349	1,047	78	231	66	198	63	159	2	6	...	...	538	1,614
Turtle-shell "	262	2,358	7	64	69	601	...	...	...	...	...	...	338	3,022
Soft turtle-shell "	87	1,856	4	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91	1,858
Cutch "	2	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	325
Onions "	8	5	9	6	...	...	...	...	10	6	283	169	310	166
White shark-skins "	37	1,110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	1,110
Black "	119	5,570	11	330	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	3,900
Tin "	1,728	34,560	1,908	38,160	156	3,120	64	1,280	...	...	...	...	3,856	77,120
Salt meat "	1,332	7,992	1,193	7,188	1,650	9,900	...	...	33	198	13	78	4,231	25,326
Plata "	332	532	5,051	5,051	...	...	...	...	103,479	103,479	1,000	1,000	105,802	105,802
Plasalt "	1,780	8,900	12,766	63,830	1,458	7,290	...	...	4,043	20,215	317	1,735	20,214	101,370
Dried prawns "	1,669	7,345	16,651	84,255	2	10	...	...	9,631	16,155	763	3,615	28,816	141,880
Sundries "	185	1,215	258	1,322	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	393	2,537
Dried betelnut "	21	12	13	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Raw silk "	57	5,130	151	40,590	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108	45,720
Hides cutting "	450	2,700	21	144	...	...	...	...	18	108	...	...	492	2,952
Agilis wood "	275	33,000	36	4,320	161	18,120	2	240	1	120	...	...	465	55,800
Iron pans "	500	1,500	5,721	11,163	...	...	...	...	600	1,800	...	...	4,821	14,463
Pangolai seed "	133	150	105	126	15	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	233	304
Deer sinews "	295	4,425	2	30	64	960	...	...	...	...	...	...	363	5,445
Beche de mer "	6	54	1	9	24	196	...	...	1	15	...	...	35	225
Fishwags "	117	7,020	3	180	8	480	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	7,680
Shark skins "	21	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	6
Armadillo skins "	1,209	12,090	32	320	16	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,257	12,570
Pelican quills "	60	720	3	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	756
Kingfisher feathers pieces	4,041	1,312	...	...	1,665	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,706	1,812
Peacock tails "	1,777	1,777	6	6	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,795	1,795
Bechee seed piculs	14	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	64
Krautai wood "	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Mexican dollars pieces	...	46,681	...	301,896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	348,577
Total "	...	3,522,703	...	2,846,463	...	286,143	...	702,883	...	819,711	...	219,484	...	8,427,416

British Agency and Consulate-General, Bangkok, August 1, 1876.

Statement of Taxes and Sources of Revenue of the Siamese Government.

1. Taxes on Exports:—

Principal article of export, rice, on which the duty is from 10 to 12 c. per picul.

2. Taxes on Imports:—

Uniform rate of 3 per cent. on the market value of the goods.

3. Taxes on cultivated lands:—

About 2s. 5d. an acre.

4. Taxes on fruit trees, &c.:—

A list of the duties is given in the Treaty. These taxes are in lieu of land tax.

5. The revenue derived from certain monopolies which are either in the hands of Government, or farmed out by them, viz.:—

Preparation and sale of opium.
 Manufacture and sale of spirits.
 Tax on gambling-houses.
 The collection and sale of edible birds'-nests.
 The collection of turtles'-eggs.
 The manufacture and sale of cakes and confectionery.
 The manufacture of iron-pans.
 The manufacture of iron.
 Tax on prostitutes.

6. Taxes on houses, floating-houses, shops, godowns, &c.; and on boats employed in a certain manner, viz.:—

				Tical.
Boats engaged in carrying bricks	..	..	Per fathom	.. 1
" " " sand	..	..	..	.. 1
" " " tiles	..	..	..	.. 1
Boats hawking miscellaneous hardware	..	..	..	.. 1
North-country boats, bringing goods to Bangkok for sale	..	..	..	.. ½
Boats moored with goods for sale, for more than two months, but under twelve months	..	..	..	.. ½
Ditto, over twelve months	..	..	..	.. 1
Floating houses—				
With goods for sale	..	..	Per room	.. 1½ to 3
Used as brothels	..	..	..	.. 3
" lottery stations	..	..	..	.. 3
" gambling-houses	..	..	..	.. 3
" liquor shops	..	..	..	.. 3
Those rented out	..	..	..	.. 3
Houses, godowns, shops, &c., on shore, with goods for sale—				
Used as brothels	..	..	} If within the district guarded by police must pay 12½ per cent. of their annual rental. If not in the districts of the police, must pay 8½ per cent. of the rental.	
" lottery stations	..	..
" gambling-houses	..	..
" liquor-shops	..	..
Also, those rented out	..	..

There is also a tax on fresh provision markets.

SIAM.

7. Inland Taxes:—

		Ticals.		
White sugar	.. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ per picul	Charcoal	.. .. 10 per cent.
Red "	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	Posts (wood)	.. .. 10 "
Pepper	.. ..	1 "	Cocoa-nut oil	.. .. 10 "
Fish ("pla thoo")	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	Red and white lime	.. .. 10 "
Tulseed	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Palm sugar	.. .. 10 "
Beans	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Molasses	.. .. $8\frac{1}{2}$ "
Petchaboon tobacco	.. ..	10 "	Tin	.. .. 10 "
Silk	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Firewood	.. .. 20 "
Bees'-wax	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Attap	.. .. 10 "
Raw cotton	.. ..	10 "	Kachengs	.. .. 10 "
Faw (vegetable fibre)	.. ..	10 "	Torches	.. .. 10 "
Indigo	.. ..	10 "	Resin	.. .. 10 "
Salt sea-fish	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Oil of Yang tree	.. .. 10 "
Smoked fish	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Rattans	.. .. 10 "
Fresh fish	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Bamboos	.. .. 10 "
Shrimp paste	.. ..	10 "	Red wood	.. .. 10 "
Prik-Hawm chilis	.. ..	10 "	Black wood	.. .. 10 "
Hemp, for sails	.. ..	10 "	Mai Takuan wood	.. .. 10 "
Vegetables	.. ..	5 "	Wood called Mai phyra loi	.. .. 10 "
Pork	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Salt	.. .. { 6 a coyau or
Fowls	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Teak wood	.. .. { $\frac{1}{10}$ per picul
Ducks	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "	Tobacco	.. .. 10 "
Eggs of fowls and ducks	.. ..	$8\frac{1}{2}$ "		

8. Taxes on implements used for catching fish in salt and fresh water:—

		Ticals.
Rafts, in line, to which nets are attached, for each aperture	.. ..	4
Boat with large net	.. .. per annum	10
" smaller ditto	.. ..	6
" small ditto	.. ..	1
" dragging ditto	.. ..	10
Large round net stretched on crossed bamboos, with handle attached	.. .. per fathom	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Spoon net, with wider mouth than 10 cubits	.. .. per annum	2
A boat with a big spoon net	.. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
" small ditto	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Basket used for catching fish in shallow water	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Net for the fish "Ta phioi"	.. ..	1
Harpoon or spear	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
"Lawp," a long trap or basket	.. ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$
A string of hooks	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Each line for chawn or kado fish	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Small net stretched on two sticks	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Scoop made of split bamboo	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
Other snares, from	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$
Beds of water-plants in front of houses for attracting fishes.	.. .. per fathom	$\frac{1}{4}$
Fish-pools	.. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$
The following are used in salt water—		
Fishing-stakes, disposed in a circle	.. .. per annum	6
" " in triangular form, with net at apex	.. ..	12
One boat, with hooks for dragging	.. ..	3
Fence for confining shrimps	.. ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Casting-net	.. ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Spoon-net, for shrimps and prawns	.. ..	1
Fishing stakes	.. ..	$\frac{5}{8}$
A large fishing-boat	.. ..	10
A very large net, used by many men	.. ..	6
Boat for catching "pla kuraw"	.. ..	12
" Lamoo," a large enclosure of bamboo	.. ..	4
" " for deeper water	.. ..	6
" " " "	.. ..	20

					Ticals.
Close bamboo fence	..	..	..	per annum	12
		for deeper water	..	..	16
A kind of fishing-net	..	..	..	..	16
Net for shrimps	..	..	..	..	20
.. for bêche de mer	..	..	..	..	24
Spears for ditto	..	..	..	..	4
Harpoon for turtle	..	..	..	..	8
Plank for sliding over the mud	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hook and line	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$

9. The revenue derived from money paid in commutation of Government service, to which all adult males are liable, to which may be added the services performed by corvée.

10. The revenue derived from a poll-tax of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ticals on Chinese every third year.

11. Taxes are also levied on theatrical representations, and plays of various kinds:—

					Ticals.
Drama of "Rama Kien"	..	..	..	per diem	28
.. "Anirut"	..	..	..	..	12
Theatrical representation "Nang"	..	..	..	each night	$\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese theatre	..	..	..	per diem	2
.. puppet-show	..	..	..	..	1
Drama of "Ih Hnao"	..	..	..	..	20
Dramas of various kinds	..	..	..	..	2
Singing	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese theatre (special)	..	..	..	..	4

British Agency, Consulate-General, Bangkok,
August 5, 1876.