

by non-consanguineous members of the local village community. Even at this stage, the sacrifice of the crops was being made in a slightly degenerate form.

The ruler, together with the important members of his clan, personally tilled the *chi t'ien* and offered its crops to the god of his *she*. This must be a ritualized form of the earlier custom at the time when the entire clan had been engaged in agriculture under a communal regulation. Later, the *chi t'ien* was thought, as far as the emperor was concerned, to be meant for bringing the all people into participation in its tilling, but in fact it increasingly became the *t'ien* for the imperial worship of the *tsung miao*.

Land and Labor Duty Equalization

in Soochow, Sungkiang and Changchow, Nanchihli,

in the Late Ming Times

by Atsutoshi HAMASHIMA

In Kiangnan in the late-Ming and early-Ch'ing times there was widespread amassing of land by the landed gentry 鄉紳. As this process was helped mainly by the gentry's privilege of the exemption from labor duties 優免, it gave rise to a difficult problem concerning the *li chia ch'eng i* 里甲正役 which still remained as a crude labor duty. It has been established that in Chekiang 浙江, where similar situation existed, the reform by land and labor duty equalization 均田均役 was introduced to solve this problem. Some instances of the Chekiang-type reform are known to have been experimented in the Kiangnan 江南 Delta part of Nanchihli 南直隸, basically consisting of a limitation on the labor-duty exemption privilege and a reorganization of the *li chia* 里甲 (*li chang* 里長) based on the area of cultivated land, but they seem to have been unsuccessful. In 1610 Hsü Min-shih 徐民式, governor of Ying-t'ien 應天, introduced a system of equalized land and labor duties in Soochow 蘇州, Changchow 常州 and Sungkiang 松江, which replaced the dead-letter regulation of 1545 with a new one setting standard for the exemption and allocated the *liang i* 糧役 duty of transporting the collected tax in grain to the capital according to the area of the land. This reform was wholeheartedly backed by Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat Yeh Hsiang-kao 葉向高 and supported by the Tung-lin 東林

faction of the landed gentry. The landed gentry in the Kiangnan Delta was critical of this reform, however, and counterproposed a system of the *t'ieh i* 貼役, under which the gentry would be exempted from labor in return to rice or silver paid to those who actually undertook it. Under such circumstances, it must have been difficult for the county magistrate 知縣 to enforce the new system despite the central government's orders and encouragement, and thus very little seems to have been achieved.

A Study of Foreign Trade Finance in Modern China :

Silver Price Increase in the First

Half of the Nineteenth Century and

Change in the Foreign Trade Mechanism

by Takeshi HAMASHITA

In China up to the end of 1840's, settlement of foreign trade accounts was made in three manners: in silver; by draft; by "barter". The three, which alternated as main methods of settlement in various phases of the historical development of China's foreign trade, were not mutually exclusive; rather, in the way how they were related to one another, they reflected the characteristics of foreign trade finance and mechanism.

(1) Settlement in silver : It is true that, along with the expanding opium trade in the second half of the 1830's and the first half of the '40's, a large outflow of silver took place from China to India. However, in discussing the outflow of silver not only opium but also tea, silk and cotton goods, i.e., both the outflow and inflow of silver, should be considered fundamental factors of the whole structure of Chinese export-import relations with world markets. Settlement in silver, therefore, was caused as the result of a final settlement of accounts from a multilateral trade in the world market lead by Great Britain and the United States.

(2) Settlement by draft : In the second half of the 1820's and later, American merchants would draw a bill of exchange payable in London to settle their tea trade accounts. British merchants, in turn, would purchase it in China for their own remittance home. This method of settlement was made possible by a new trade mechanism which combined, with the British