

attitude towards the problems, which were connected with the matter of national sovereignty. (And later, such attitudes took the form of anti-aggression movements, the clearest expression of which was found in their first attack to Shanghai in 1860.) This tendency gave quite a bad impression to the Western Powers. Though this did not directly lead to an active intervention in 1853-54, the Western Powers suggested that the Manchoos suppress the Taipings and tried to use it as a bargaining point for the Treaty Revision to get many advantages such as residence of foreign envoys at Peking, access to cities on the Yangtze, rights to travel to all parts of the interior, a revision of the tariff and legalization of opium and so on. When these demands were accepted through the Treaty of Peking in 1860 and a new order was established, the Taipings were regarded as an obstacle to be put down thoroughly by the Western Powers.

Poppy Cultivation in Ssü-ch'uan in Late Ch'ing

by Yôko NIMURA

The British government in 1906, agreed to restrict export of Indian opium by one-tenth in each year from 1908. This change in British opium trade policy was brought about by the failure of Indian opium to compete with Chinese opium successfully. Chinese opium, above all Ssü-ch'uan opium, which comprised about two-thirds of all the opium produced in China, was far cheaper than the Indian.

Poppy cultivation had begun about 1860 in Ssü-ch'uan, and until 1909, when the provincial proclamation ordering the prohibition of poppy cultivation was issued, it had been practiced in every district of Ssü-ch'uan except those on the western frontier. Poppy cultivation was very profitable to the small farmers who wanted cash, and it was this fact which made the speedy development of poppy cultivation possible. At that time, the small farmers, who were almost all tenants, had to pay large amounts of cash to the landlords, rent being paid on the summer crop, but it was calculated in the rising market price. Moreover, at the commencement of the lease the tenant deposited with the landlord a sum of money as security for the rent.

Usually the winter crop—wheat, beans—was not subject to rent, so that opium cultivation in winter was the tenant's greatest source of profit. The poorer tenant, the greater his dependence upon opium cultivation.

However, it was difficult for the tenant to accumulate cash and enlarge tenancy management through poppy cultivation, because, since 1880 landlords had begun to realize the value to tenants of the opium crop, and had demanded a share of it. Moreover, the opium merchants cut the price of raw opium when they bought it from tenants, because they monopolized the opium market.

As opium cultivators came to rely exclusively on opium production, it became necessary to purchase grains and provisions for their own consumption. Whereas, grain merchants raised the price of grains by manipulations, taking advantage of a shortage of provisions caused by expanded opium cultivation. So, it was said that the cost of tenants' provisions was greater than their income from the opium crop. Generally, the tenant used all the profit of poppy cultivation to continue tenancy as before.