

A CITY OF MILLIONAIRES.

All About Hangchow, the Great Silk Manufacturing City of China.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

HANGCHOW, Chekiang, China.—Have you ever heard of Hangchow?

It is the capital of the silk province of Chekiang and the chief silk manufacturing center of the great Chinese empire. It has thousands of hand looms and tens of thousands of workers. It weaves silks of all kinds and it has hundreds of looms which are employed exclusively in making goods for the imperial household.

A CITY OF MILLIONAIRES.

Hangchow has silk millionaires by the dozen. It is one of the richest cities of China, and in proportion to its population it has more rich men than any other. It is one of the centers of trade of the great Yangtze valley and with the opening up of the country, now that the war is settled, it will grow enormously in population and wealth. The city is already twice as big as Cincinnati and larger than any city in the United States except Philadelphia, New York and Chicago.

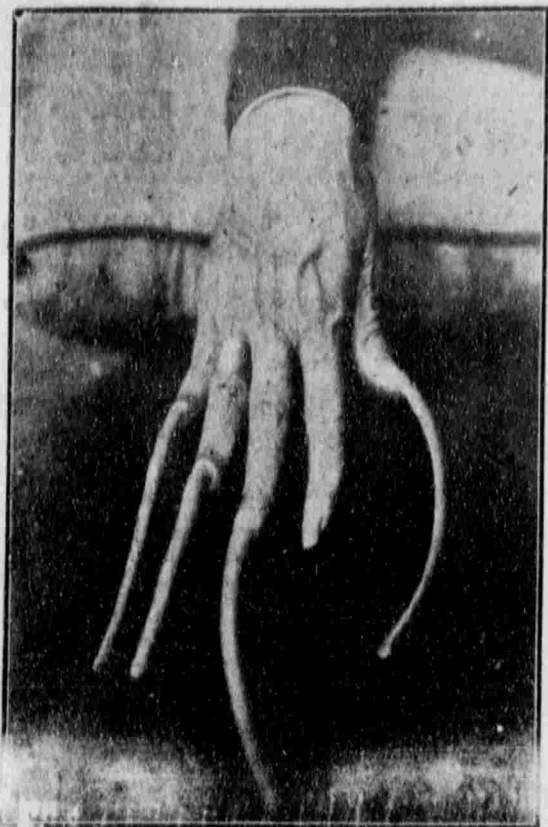
Hangchow has grown to this size without good connection with the sea, without railroads and with only canals and the little river Chentung. It is now proposed to join it to Shanghai and Soochow by rail, and lines will be extended to Nanking, Nipo and eventually south of Canton. The canal will probably be deepened and a ship canal may sometime join it to the sea. Foreign buildings are already going up, and though the city has only been opened to our trade for the last five years, the Japanese have taken its gates to the world and it now has a large foreign settlement extending a mile along the east bank of the Grand canal about four miles from the city walls. Near this settlement there is a big cotton mill filled with modern machinery and also a new steam silk flature. Both are owned and operated by Chinese.

NEXT TO HEAVEN IN BEAUTY.

"Above is Heaven, below are Hangchow and Soochow."

This is an old saying of the Chinese. They think Hangchow and Soochow are the most beautiful cities outside Heaven. Hangchow has been so noted for ages. It was the capital of China during the Sung dynasty. Marco Polo, who visited it in the thirteenth century, called it the finest city of the world. It was destroyed during the Tsin rebellion, but it has been largely rebuilt and is still noted for its beauty. It is on the edge of a great plain at the foot of rugged low mountains, which tower high above it. There is a lake at the west, and the city stretches out on all sides over the plain. I write this description on the

Its New Foreign Settlement—The Cotton and Silk Mills—Queer Street Scenes—How Chinese Women Shop—A Look at a Silk Store—In the Biggest Fan Store of Asia—Girls Who Paint and Powder—The New China And Its Sentiment—How the Kowshing Got Its Dimple.



THE HAND OF A SILK MERCHANT.

Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

mountain above it. There are temples to Confucius and Buddha all about me and I have climbed up here with the pilgrims who have come to worship in the temples in order to give you an idea of Hangchow.

I stand on a high precipice in front of a Buddhist temple overlooking the city. For miles in front and to my right and left is a vast expanse of low black tiled ridged-roofed houses, cut here and there by narrow streets, which are marked out by the white buildings upon them. Beyond these I can see the great walls of the city itself. They are as high as a four-story house and so thick that you could drive three carriages side by side upon them without crowding, and I am told they are 30 miles long.

Beyond these walls extends a vast plain cut up by hundreds of waterways, large and small. That wide band

of silver which borders the walls is the famous Grand canal, the great artery of Chinese trade, which, beginning at Peking flows on south through the most populous parts of the empire and ends here at Hangchow. See the thousands of boats which are moving to and fro upon it. There are steam launches, great sailing junks and smaller craft of all kinds. That canal is the longest of the world. It is older than Christian America, and it has even now a vast trade. Along it and over the plain, cut up by other canals, a crazy quilt of green, yellow and other colored crops has been stretched and sewed together with those bands of silver water, while everywhere are the vast orchards of mulberry trees, which feed the tens of millions of silk worms for the silks, brocades and silks which make Hangchow famous.

Turn around now and look at the lake

on the western edge of the city. It is thirty miles in circumference and its diamond bright surface is studded with emerald islets. Some of the islands have palaces on them, the homes of the princes and rich men of the city. The hills about the lake are covered with bamboos, plums and peach trees and the gardens are full of roses and honeysuckles.

Hangchow extends back from this lake, a vast plain of one and two-story houses, with great business streets stretching for miles through the center. At the right there are two tall poles with what look like bird cages upon them, rising high above the black roofs. That is the women where the governor lives, and where you will find as many politicians as about the White House in Washington. The big building a little further over is a Mohammedan temple and the tall tower away at the left above the lake is Hangchow's famous many-storied pagoda, which stands over a white snake, a human being who was so changed as a punishment for his sins.

AMONG THE WORKSHOPS.

But let us go down and take a walk through the streets. The city is full of workshops. There are miles of stores and workshops. The people swarm, and men, women and children are all working. Every side alley has its little manufacturing establishments. Here they are making furniture, there they are painting in lacquer, and farther on is a section where tinfol is pounded out by the thousands of sheets. It is used as graveyard money, which the Chinese burn from dawn until dark. How narrow it is. It is not more than ten feet from one wall of shops to the other, and the signboards hang down so that we fear to bump our heads against them. There are no many signs that they obstruct the light and make the street too dark for me to take photographs. Even if it were light I could not get views. The throng is too thick and the movement too rapid. The Chinese stream from dawn until dark. How narrow it is. It is not more than ten feet from one wall of shops to the other, and the signboards hang down so that we fear to bump our heads against them. There are no many signs that they obstruct the light and make the street too dark for me to take photographs. Even if it were light I could not get views. The throng is too thick and the movement too rapid. The Chinese stream from dawn until dark. How narrow it is. It is not more than ten feet from one wall of shops to the other, and the signboards hang down so that we fear to bump our heads against them. There are no many signs that they obstruct the light and make the street too dark for me to take photographs. Even if it were light I could not get views. The throng is too thick and the movement too rapid. The Chinese stream from dawn until dark.

SCENES ON THE STREETS.

And still the street is full of good pictures. I stop in a store and take out my note book and jot down the strange things I see. There are two Chinese greeting each other. Each is shaking his own hands, putting his feet together; neither man touches the other. Here come some coolies carrying a great box fastened to the middle of a pole which they rest on their shoulders.

They grunt and cry out at every step as they move onward, and both rich and poor get out of the way. By custom the man who carries the load is given the center of the street and the others must go to the wall. This is for two reasons: one is that the Chinese naturally respect labor and another is that their clothes may not be soiled against the burden they carry.

Take, for instance, that man who is carrying a load of boards on his shoulders, and he has two buckets of the vilest slop attached to the two ends of a pole which rests on his shoulders. There is a framework of straw on the top of the liquid, but the stuff would splash out if he jostled against you in passing. Behind him are two coolies carrying a load of boards on their shoulders, and still further back are other men with baskets of greasy cooked ducks. There are coolies treading on the street, and in fact, all sorts of things used by the Chinese. The dray horse here is the coolie, and the coolie takes the place of the wagon as well.

CHINESE WOMEN OUT SHOPPING.

There are many women in the crowd moving past me. Some of them are gorgeously dressed. They totter along on small feet, leaning on canes or aided by servants. Here and there you see one sitting in the stores or on the steps, resting herself during her shopping.

But what is that procession which is going by now? It pushes every one to the wall. First come men, bearing great heads on which red characters are painted, and behind them boys in long gowns, with red conical hats. Some carry flags and others maces and dragons on poles. Some have red umbrellas, and there are Chinese officials on horseback, and behind them a gorgeous sedan chair of green silk. I look in at the windows as the chair passes. Its occupant is a woman, the wife of a Chinese general. She is splendidly dressed, and the red paint of her cheeks is spread on in smears.

Behind is a rich Chinese merchant in silk, and with him are two boys in spectacles, who are perhaps preparing for the examinations which they will soon take at Peking.

IN A CHINESE SILK STORE.

There are silk shops everywhere. Children are weaving most beautiful ribbons and crepes, some of the finest of Chinese silks being made by boys and girls under 15 years of age. Some of the stores which sell silk have faceted corners connected with them and some of the silk establishments are very large. Hangchow has whole streets of silk shops, some of which sell hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of goods every year. The shops are nothing like our dry goods stores. There are no dresses displayed in the windows and no goods on the counters. The interior looks more like a music store than anything else. Its walls are covered with pigeon holes, out of which long rolls of cloth stick. To each roll is attached a little strip of white muslin bearing the price mark in Chinese. You ask for what you want and the goods are then brought forth and unrolled. Many of the silks are sold by weight, at so much per pound.

Later on I enter a silk factory. It is one of the largest in the city, and there are about a hundred girls sitting on the floor pounding at the refuse or waste of raw silk. The girls look up as I come in, and when I point my camera their way they stampered; every yellow almond-eyed maiden jumps up on her little feet and tumbles away at full speed. They huddle together behind the partition at the back of the room, and I hear their voices indignantly scolding, when my guide says:

"Master, no take picture here. China girl, he no like you take picture. He think you makee die."

One of the largest businesses of Hangchow is making fans. They are produced by the millions and shipped from here to all parts of China. Some of them are very valuable, costing \$5 and upward. Some are made of eagle's feathers, others of silk with ivory handles, and many of paper, wood and other materials. The Chinese use more fans than any other nation. Both sexes carry them, and there are fans which are proper for men, and other makes which are only proper for women. One of the most popular gifts is an autograph fan, and poetry fans are common. Such things are written in Chinese characters, and when produced by a scholar are much desired. There are folding fans and fans with maps of the various cities of China upon them. Some fans turn in at the ends. Some are round in shape, and many are hand painted and embroidered.

"One use of the fan is to shade the eyes from the sun. The most fashionable gentleman's cap has no brim, and the man who has no fan cannot walk around without an umbrella. Many of the people go bareheaded, and as they are shaved to the crown they must have something to protect them from the hot sun. In the shade the fan is either carried in the hand or folded up and stuck in the back of the neck, or sometimes in the top of the stocking.

Hangchow has the largest fan store of the world. It faces the main street, and consists of many rooms running around courts and covering a large space. In the front part of the establishment a dozen clerks are kept busy showing fans to would-be purchasers. The other rooms are workshops where Chinese men, women and children are making fans. In this store the business is done in departments, one set of men making the sticks, another painting the leaves, and others making the nicks which join the sticks together. In most businesses one Chinese makes the whole product, but the fan business here is organized into many divisions.

THEY PAINT AND POWDER.

Among the other queer shops of Hangchow are those which sell perfume and cosmetics. The Chinese women paint and powder more than their sisters of the United States. The ladies cover their cheeks with rouge. They shave their eyebrows and pencil out new ones after the most fashionable arch. They paint the lips red, and paste the neck over with a ghastly white. The painting is done by females of all ages, from little girls to old women.

Other odd shops are the silversmiths where most beautiful cups, pitchers and other things are sold. Among the curious articles are silver shields to protect the long finger nails of fashionable ladies. Both sexes allow the nails to grow, and I have seen men who could put the palm of one hand on their chin and scratch the back of the neck without moving it. Long nails, you know, are the signs of a gentleman, for no one who has nails two or three inches long can possibly do manual labor.

AN ORDERLY CITY.

I am surprised at the good order of the interior Chinese cities. The people are courteous and very polite. In Hangchow I am treated everywhere with deference, and, though a crowd follows me when I attempt to take pictures, no stones are thrown, nor, as far as I can learn, are any rude things said. We have now grown accustomed to the Chinese, but twenty years ago a party of celestials in gowns would have been mobbed in many of our interior towns, and the boys would probably have thrown stones at them. Certainly a Chinese woman dressed as she is at home could not go about upon her small feet in our cities today without a crowd of boys at her heels.

Gray Hair

Ayer's Hair Vigor doesn't suddenly restore color to your gray hair; but gradually the old color comes back—all the dark, rich color it used to have. It stops falling of the hair, too, and will often make the hair grow to be very long and heavy.

"Ayer's Hair Vigor is certainly wonderful. It has restored the natural color to my gray hair and has made a splendid new growth."—Miss Emma Calder, New York City.

St. All drugists. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

The streets here are so crowded that it would be impossible to do business if the people were not very good natured. The few policemen are required. In the fourteen miles which I have walked through Hangchow in going from place to place I have not seen one policeman. The only evidence that there is anything of the kind are the black boxes on the sidewalks where the police sleep at night. Indeed, I think the Chinese have been much maligned as to their ill-treatment of strangers. I have traveled many thousands of miles in the empire, and as a rule have received as much courtesy here as in other parts of the world.

THE NEW CHINA.

The day is fast coming when China will be better understood than it is now. This country is one of the most beautiful of the world. It has picturesque mountains, grassy plains and green valleys cut up by canals. It is a land of sentiment and poetry, where even the common people appreciate literature.

HOW THE PLUMS GOT THEIR DIMPLES.

Indeed, everything here has some sentiment connected with it. I bought a handful of beautiful plums the other day, and remarked on the dimple which each has in its, when I was told how the dimples came to be. Said my Chinese guide: "Centuries ago there was in the town of Kowshing a princess who was noted for her beauty. She was fond of fruit, and one day while eating some plums picked out an especially fine one and pressed her little finger into it. The pressure left a dimple. She tasted the plum and found it so delicious that she planted the stone. It grew into a tree which bore other plums equally sweet, but each of the new plums, strange to say, had a dimple in its side. The plums were so fine that they became famous all over China. Graffiti from the tree were carried everywhere, so that the dimple became the mother of all the dimpled plums of the China of today."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Didn't Marry for Money.

The Boston man, who lately married a sickly rich young woman, is happy now, for he got Dr. King's New Life Pills, which restored her to perfect health. Infallible for Jaundice, Biliousness, Malaria, Fever and Ague and all Liver and Stomach troubles. Gentle but effective. Only 25c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

AT F. Muerbach's & Bro.

ESTABLISHED 1864

ONE PRICE TO ALL — NEVER UNDERSOLD

BECAUSE of the reception of the many Shipments of New Goods during the past week.—Novelties and New Styles are arriving Every Day.—New Goods are pouring in from all sides—Evidence of thrift and enterprise everywhere—Many Unusual Happenings this week.—"Read them."—The prices will give you practical lessons in economical buying.—It's unnecessary to say they are rare values.—It is enough to say, we have seldom if ever offered better.

Advance Attractions

For Season 1902 in our

Dress Goods Department

Every day sees some new addition in the new colored wools. Everything stylish and novel, with the great feature of lowest prices in every instance. To make this week of tremendous interest we have prepared the following list of introductory opening values:

All wool Etonettes, 36 in. wide, in all the new spring colorings, for waists and full suits. Our introductory price for this week a yard 50c

French Poplins, 38 in. wide, big range of colors; our introductory price for this week a yard 60c

Camels-Hair Serge, the correct thing for street and traveling gowns, 38 in. wide, in all shades; our introductory price for this week a yard 65c

46 in. wide Serge Suitings, 18 different colors; one of the very good things; our introductory price this week a yard 67½c

46 in. wide, Full-Cloth, in the different shades of Gray, Tan, Pastel Blue, reseed, etc.; our introductory price this week a yard \$1.25

Charming, Exclusive, New Imported Wash Dress Materials.

Colored Wash Fabrics that fairly whisper of sunshine and summery days. Our advance novelties are extensive in range, vast in variety, rare in beauty, fashionable in effect, worthy in quality and unsurpassed from the standpoint of economy. Delicately tinted fabrics meet the eye at every glance. French, German, English and Scotch makes are blended in our bewildering array—constituting the most extensive and attractive spring showing we ever presented. Choose early. Choose now!

NOTE—The remarkable introductory values for Monday and if they last for the following five days.

25 pcs. Plain colored Dimities, finished in the most noted linen mills, all this season's prettiest shades, for evening and summer gowns, value 25c a yard 16¾c

15 pieces plain silk Mousseline de Soie—in cream, pink, light blue, sage green, lavender, black, navy blue and the popular Linen color, value 65c—Monday at, a yard 45c

Buy Percales This Week

You cannot imagine the extent of our new lines of Percales at 10c and 12½c worth positively 12½, 15 and 16-2-3 a yard. Seeing is the only thing that will convince you that this line could not be surpassed in quality, style and colorings.

SEE our window display of the NEW SCOTCH ZEPHYRS and TISSUES for waists and full dresses. The most elaborate styles, the daintiest colorings.

Boys' Clothing Dept. SPECIALS FOR THIS WEEK.

Boys' Two-piece Suits: plain and fancy mixtures of chevrons and cassimeres, \$2.50 and \$3.00 values, ages 11 to 16 years, per suit \$1.50

Boys' Two-piece and Three-piece Suits, worsteds, serges and fine cassimeres in navy blue, black and fancy patterns, \$4.50 to \$5.50 values, all sizes, per suit \$3.25

See window display for specials in this dept.

A Most Extraordinary Sale

OF Infants' LONG AND SHORT

Sample Dresses and Skirts

All 1902 Styles.

"Mother's here's a chance you've been waiting for. A showing of all the new dainty novelties, at ACTUAL COST OF PRODUCTION, a host of powerful values—no two alike. To see them is to buy them. Come early this week before the best are picked over."

Just a Few New Spring Shirt Waists.

But the choicest of 1902 productions, including some of the latest "Gibson" style. Our first showing will be from the famous "Derby waist." A brand that has never been surpassed in perfect fit, GOOD WORKMANSHIP or HIGH CLASS FINISH.

The range of materials comprise every fashionable weave of percale, marseilles, Chambray, lawn, dimity, pique, and wash silk. The ALTERBACH PRICES have been a primary consideration. The range of prices on this our season's first display run from—

\$1.25 to \$3.95.



MAIL ORDERS for this jacket must reach us not later than 12 noon, on Monday, to insure being properly filled.

New Arrivals in Shoes.

The New Shoes and Slippers to be displayed and sold here this week come to us from makers who set the fashion in footwear. When you read these prices you will know that we are in every way prepared to merit your immediate patronage.

New Ladies' Street Shoe.

Ladies' Street Shoe, made of very fine vici kid, with neat patent Goodyear welt, soft and military heel. THE VERY NEATEST AND UP-TO-DATE STREET SHOE EVER OFFERED AT ANY PRICE: \$3.75 all sizes and widths. Price \$3.75

New Ladies' Dress Shoe.

Our dress shoe is made up of the finest selected stock with a cloth top, handturned sole and a high opera heel. THIS SHOE WILL SURELY ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF SPRING BUYERS. Price \$3.75

New Ladies' Oxfords.

We have already received a shipment of spring Oxfords suitable for street or dress wear, a very pretty assortment of styles and prices that will please you; all sizes, width and prices.

New Ladies' Slippers.

We can show you the greatest line of ladies' evening or party slippers ever shown in the west. The colonial slipper, also strap slippers, ranging from one to eight straps, in kid or patent leather; sizes, 2½ to 7; prices from—

\$1.15 to \$5.00.

New Infants' and Children's

SHOES just arrived, a complete line of infants' and children's dress shoes, colored or black, lace or button, with kid or cloth tops. THE VERY LATEST AND ATTRACTIVE STYLES. PRICES THAT WILL SUIT EVERY BODY.

\$5.00

27-inch Jackets.

Only 33 left of fine Kersey Jackets in black only, sizes 32 to 44 inches, velvet trimmed on collar, cuffs and pockets. Satin serge lined, two styles only, that sold at \$10.00 and \$12.50, Monday and until sold, for—

FIVE DOLLARS.