

The New York of Java

A Visit to Soerbaia, the Chief Commercial City of 25,000,000 People.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Bicycles and Automobiles on the Equator—Chances for American Trade—Our Cottons and How They Should Be Sold—Big Sugar Plantations—All About Indigo And How It Might Be Raised in the Philippines—Millions Who Work for a Cent an Hour and Live Well on Three Cents a Day—Java's New Oil Fields—Education Among the Javanese—High-Priced Teachers—A Visit to a Normal School.

SOERBAIA, Java.—Have you ever heard of Soerbaia? It is the chief commercial city of 25,000,000 people. It is situated as far east from Batavia as New York is from Cleveland and is connected by railroad with all parts of Java. I came to it on the government line, which crosses the island from west to east, and my whole journey was through rich plantations of coffee, tea, tobacco, sugar, indigo and rice. There were villages in sight all the way; the people fairly swarmed, and I got some idea of the enormous population of this Dutch colony.

THE NEW YORK OF JAVA.

Soerbaia is the New York of Java. It is its principal seaport and it has the most trade. The city has 150,000 inhabitants, and of these only 7,000 are Europeans. Still, these Europeans live far better than their brothers of Europe. Many of them are rich and their homes are palaces.

The streets of Soerbaia are wide and shaded with magnificent trees. They are paved with asphalt and beautifully lighted. In the residence parts every house has a large lawn about it, with palm trees and flowers and well-kept walks. The grounds about the better homes are as large as those of Euclid avenue and they are equally well kept. Some of the houses are of one story, but the rooms are large and the ceilings very high. Most of the houses have verandas roofed with red tiles, which are upheld by white marble pillars. Many of them are flowered with marble, and marble forms the floors of most of the porches. The town has electric lights. Every well-to-do man has a telephone and all the modern conveniences.

BICYCLES AND AUTOMOBILES.

I came here to investigate the chances for American trade. There is a good opening for our bicycles and also for automobiles. There are many American bicycles used in Java. I see our leading makes in every town. Here in Soerbaia the bicycles are taxed and there is a number fastened to the back of the seat of every wheel. I noticed one the other day which bore the figure 2,002, so I judge there must be more than two thousand in the city. These people want a good thing, and are accustomed to paying high prices. It seems strange to have to get out of the way of an automobile in Java, but I was nearly run down by one the other night. The driver was a young Dutchman who was out with his sweetheart taking the air. His hand which should have been on the lever was about the waist of his innamorata, and he was oblivious to globe trotters and everyone else.

All kinds of carriages are used here. I see English dog carts, victorias and

landaus. The rich Dutchmen drive about in fine style, and many of the native chiefs and nobles have magnificent turnouts. The ordinary vehicle is the *sado* or *dosa-dosa*, a sort of a little dog-cart drawn by a pony, in which the driver sits in front and the passengers behind facing the rear. These are the cabs of Batavia, Soerbaia and the other cities, although there are larger vehicles for hire. No one thinks of walking in this hot climate, and in the cooler parts of the day the roads are full of carriages, private and public. There are native coachmen and footmen in liveries and according to law, each coachman has to have a whistle to warn others to keep out of his way. He carries this in his mouth and toots once or twice at every block.

CHANCES FOR AMERICAN COTTONS.

Our cotton factories should send agents to Java to study the patterns and goods needed by the people. Java imports from \$50,000,000 to \$80,000,000 worth of stuff every year, and a large amount of this is cotton. England sells \$5,000,000 worth of piece goods to Java annually, and Germany and Holland have a large share of the trade. About \$300,000 worth of machinery are brought in from England every year, and an almost equal amount of iron. It used to be that the Dutch monopolized everything, but at present no difference is made between Dutch and foreign imports and the tariff is low. The chief American goods now sold are carpenter's tools and sewing machines. A cheap variety of hand sewing machines is common and American axes are everywhere in demand. There are no American cottons or prints to speak of, and these should be the chief feature of our trade.

HOW THE DUTCH TREAT TRAVELERS.

I don't think our commercial travelers would have any trouble in entering Java. The custom officers are lenient. A drummer who brought some samples of silver plated ware to Batavia not long ago was allowed to open his stuff in the custom house and sell there. He was charged duty only on the articles sold, and he used the government office as a store. There is a good opening here for American watches and clocks, and for all kinds of American knickknacks and notions. The distance is too great for flour and perishable products, and the freights are high. At present everything comes via Europe and the Suez canal, and this may still be the route after the opening of the Nicaragua canal, as the Suez route will probably be the cheaper.

JAVA'S BIG SUGAR PLANTATIONS.

A vast deal of machinery of all kinds is used in Java, and it will pay our exporters to send their agents to work the various factories. There are sugar mills here which have the finest of modern machinery, single machines running high into the thousands of dollars. At present most of such machinery comes from Germany or Eng-

land, whereas it should come from the United States, for the United States takes a great part of Java's sugar production. We took last year \$15,000,000 worth of sugar from this port of Soerbaia alone, and our total imports of sugar last year from Java amounted to \$27,000,000.

Java is now producing about a billion and a half pounds of sugar every year, and its plantations are among the richest of the world. The cultivation is along scientific lines. The fields are trenched to a great depth and are otherwise cultivated more carefully perhaps than in any other part of the world, with the single exception of the Hawaiian Islands. They are planted by cutting the cane into short lengths and sticking it upright in the ground. In some places the seed plants are raised on the highlands and the cuttings carried to the lowlands for planting. This is on account of a disease which has recently affected the cane of the lowlands.

IN THE CANE FIELDS.

Sugar grows luxuriantly here. The cane fields are a very thick growth which it is almost impossible to go. The cane is full of juice and contains a large percentage of sugar. For a time a great part of the product was raised on the government plantations, but about ten years ago such cultivation was stopped. Now all sugar is raised on lands leased from the government and on private estates. The government estates have steadily decreased, and in 1898 there were less than 200 of them.

Many of the large sugar factories were developed through the culture system. The government advanced money to colonists to build sugar mills, agreeing that the natives of the districts where the mills were built should be forced to grow enough sugar cane to keep the mills going. One-fifth of the land was planted in sugar cane, and every native had to give one day's labor a week to tend the crop. The mill owner agreed to sell one-third of his product to the government at a low fixed rate, thus paying back the money advanced to him. Holland made an enormous profit out of this business, receiving for years a revenue of more than \$5,000,000 annually from its sugar sales. It insisted that all plans for factories should be submitted to the government engineers for approval, and the result is that sugar making is carried on as scientifically here as at any place in the world. The low wages and the machinery reduce the cost of the product to a minimum. As it is now they make refined sugar for about \$1.60 gold a picul, or for a little more than 1 cent per pound.

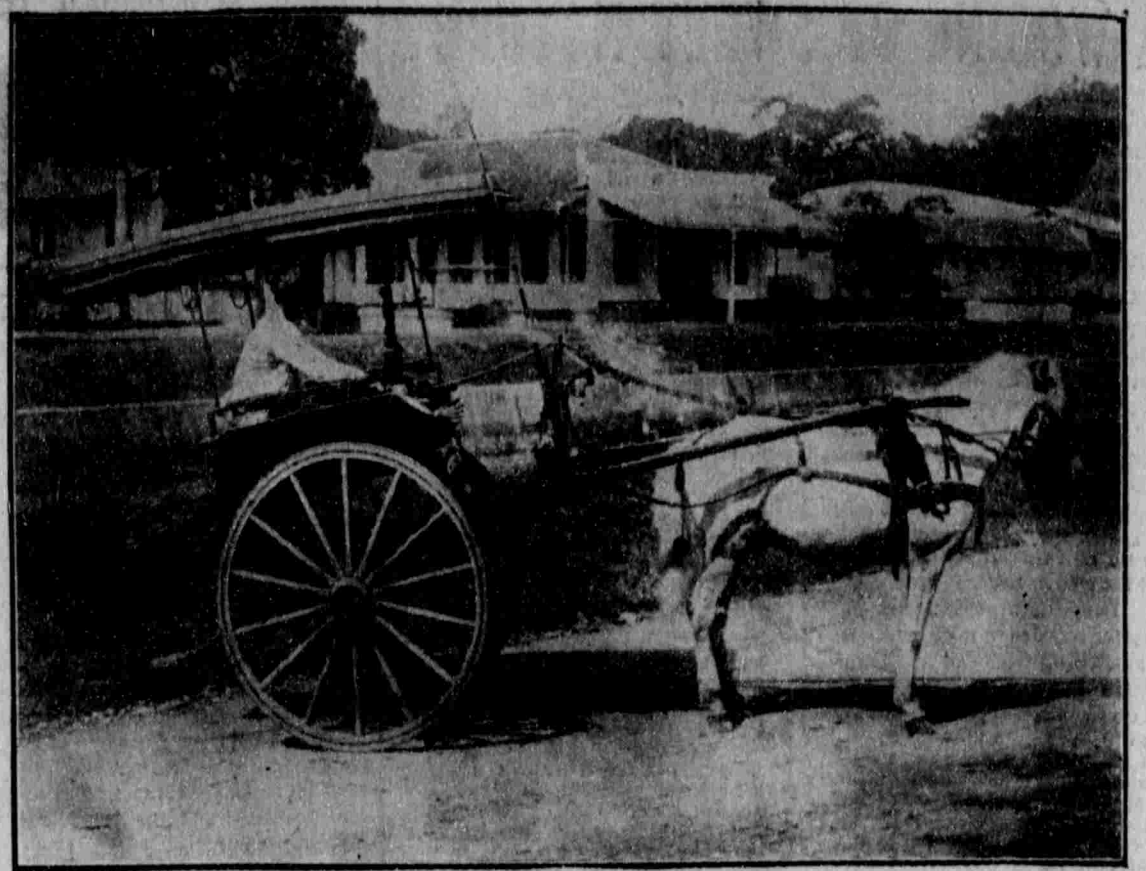
Our sugar lands in the Philippines are managed after the most wasteful methods. Nevertheless the planters make money. If the agricultural department can establish experimental stations and factories it can probably show the sugar men how to increase their profits tenfold. I should think that indigo could be

grown at a profit on almost every one of the Philippine islands. The indigo plants are found in several of the provinces of Luzon, and a small amount is grown in the northern part of that island. Here in Java there are vast plantations devoted to this crop, and I am told that they pay very well. Some of the planters rent their lands of the natives and others have estates leased from the Dutch government. The best indigo is grown in the central part of the island. I saw a number of plantations on my way from Solo to Soerbaia. They looked for all the world like plantations of rag-weed grown in regular rows. The indigo comes from the leaves, which are picked off three times a year and put in vats of water to ferment. Enough water is put in to just cover the leaves. Within a short time the blue coloring matter or juice goes out into the water and after a while the water turns a yellowish green. It is now drawn off and allowed to soak into powdered chalk, which, when dried, becomes the indigo of commerce. The best indigo has a fine purple-blue color and it should have a sort of a copper gloss.

MILLIONS WORKING AT 1 CENT AN HOUR.

So far I have not discovered trades unions in Java, and the contrast between wages here and in Australia is painful. It is difficult to find a man in Australia and New Zealand who is not making \$2 or more for eight hours' work. Here there are millions who are glad to get 20 cents for ten hours' work. It is only in the cities that the men receive as much as this. In the mountainous regions of the Preanger I saw men and women laboring for less than a cent an hour, and in the tea plantations the regular wages are 7 cents a day for six hours' work. On the railways the trackmen get 14 cents, gold, a day and on the government farms they receive less. Here in Soerbaia some common laborers get 16 cents a day, and this is considered high wages.

I am told that a man can live on 4 quiden, or about \$1.60 per month, and the man who gets from \$3 to \$5 a month has all he wants and money to burn. The result is that with all the low wages there is little poverty in Java. The people everywhere look fat and healthy. They respect themselves, and on the whole are, I think, happy. They spend all they make and delight in gay clothing. In some regions they wear the craziest patterns of brown, red and yellow calicoes. The men wear calico trousers, a sort of divided skirt, which has zigzag stripes, looking as though it had been struck by lightning. Many of the patterns are beautiful. They are the invention of the people, the work of printing them being done by hand and in some cases the design being sketched out of the head of the designer. The English and Germans have copied these patterns, even to their faults, and are shipping in printed cottons in vast quantities. The home-made articles bring high prices, but the imitations sell for a fair profit on the



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

THE REGULAR VEHICLE OF TRAVEL.

cost of manufacturing. To introduce American prints it might be well for our factories to obtain the original designs and copy them.

JAVA'S NEW OIL FIELDS.

I passed through Java's new oil fields on my way eastward. They are situated not far from the north coast. One lies near Soerbaia and the other not far from Batavia, the two being several hundred miles apart. None of the oil so far gotten is equal to that from the United States, and it is now selling for about 20 cents less per case. The Standard Oil company has the bulk of the trade here. It has its agencies at Batavia, Samrang, and Soerbaia, and it brings in oil by the ship load. The oil is bought by the Chinese middlemen, who sell it to the native merchants, who peddle it out in small quantities. In the market the average measure is a tin cup about the size of a claret glass, and the usual purchase would not more than fill an egg-shell. The oil is sold on a very close margin, costing about 18 cents a gallon. The Chinese use oil largely in their trade with the natives, exchanging it for rice and other articles.

HOW THE DUTCH EDUCATE THE JAVANESE.

During my stay in Java I have looked into the methods which the Dutch are employing to educate the natives. They have quite as big a job as we have in the Philippines, and so far they are hardly at the beginning. For years they did not educate at all, but they are now establishing native schools, and in time hope to make some change in the 25,000,000 people under their government. I traveled from Batavia to Djokjakarta with one of the school examiners, a man who has been teaching here for twenty-five years, and who is now employed in the high school at Batavia. He tells me that the government has its department of education, with a minister in the cabinet of the governor-general, and that the author-

ities are doing all they can to advance the natives. They are training teachers right along in the native schools, and they expect that in time the whole population will read and write.

There are now high schools at Batavia, Soerbaia and Samarang. There are five colleges for the training of native schoolmasters and more than a thousand schools of a lower order, with 125,000 pupils. There are some private schools taught by missionaries, and also schools of a mechanical and industrial order. All told, however, there are not more than 200,000 children in school, and this in a population of 25,000,000 is very few.

WHAT THE TEACHERS GET.

We have just sent a ship load of teachers to the Philippines on an understanding that they are to be paid from \$75 to \$100 a month. The Dutch pay their teachers much better, especially those of higher rank. The school examiner I have referred to told me that his salary was \$300 a month in gold. He said that primary teachers received from \$50 to \$220 per month, with house rent, and high school teachers from \$150 to \$300 per month, while school directors or superintendents get from \$240 to \$400 per month. In addition to this the teachers have a year's vacation on half pay at the close of every ten years' service and a free trip to Europe and back. After serving twenty years every teacher has the right to retire on a pension amounting to 16 per cent of his salary at the time of leaving.

The school work is not so hard in Java as in the Philippines. The hours are shorter. In Batavia they are from 8 a. m. to 1 p. m., and as a rule teachers expect to put in about twenty-four hours per week. The instruction in the schools is given in the Dutch language and it is required that all children appear there in European clothes whether they be Europeans, Japanese or Chinese. During my stay at Bandong I was

taken by the government secretary, Mr. E. Meertens, through the schools. We first went to the normal school for native teachers. It is held in a collection of Greek buildings surrounded by large grounds. At the back there is a gymnasium and about it an acre of campus. Entrance to the school is by competitive examination. The applicants coming from the schools below. In this college only boys were taken. They enter at the age of twelve or more years and graduate three years thereafter. They spend a year under the superintendence of a Dutch teacher, after which they may manage a school for themselves. The boys are paid from the time of entrance to the college, receiving \$30 per month, which is enough to clothe them and given them spending money. The studies include the higher branches taught in our public schools. They have geography, algebra, chemistry and physiology. They must also learn the Malay and Javanese languages as well as the Dutch. They are taught to draw and paint and they are in short given what would be considered a very good education even in the United States.

I visited the class rooms and heard the students recite. They do quite as well as our boys and are equally intelligent. In a geography class I asked a boy to go to the map and put his finger on New York. He did so at once. I asked him how he could get to San Francisco from that point. He replied that he would cross the United States by railroad and outlined the route with his fingers, although there was no railroad marked upon the map. I referred to the war between the English and the Boers and he took another map and described for me the territory of the Transvaal, and in response to my questions pointed out the Nile and located Cairo and Khartoum. I found boys equally bright in every class, and was told by the director that they showed fully as much intelligence as the European children.

All Plush Capes 1/3 Off.

| | | |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| \$4.50 Cape | ..... | \$3.00 |
| 6.00 Cape | ..... | 4.00 |
| 7.50 Cape | ..... | 5.00 |
| 9.00 Cape | ..... | 6.00 |
| 10.50 Cape | ..... | 7.00 |
| 13.50 Cape | ..... | 9.00 |

Flannelette Waists

A line of Flannelette Waists, all sizes, at 75c (Worth \$1.25 and \$1.50.)

Ladies' Skirts.

A line of Ladies' Skirts, plaids, at each \$1.50 (Worth \$4.50.)

Our Entire Line of French Flannel Waists.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| \$3.50 Waists for | ..... | \$2.65 |
| 4.00 Waists for | ..... | 3.00 |
| 4.50 Waists for | ..... | 3.40 |
| 5.00 Waists for | ..... | 3.75 |
| 5.50 Waists for | ..... | 4.15 |
| 6.00 Waists for | ..... | 4.50 |
| 6.50 Waists for | ..... | 4.90 |
| 7.00 Waists for | ..... | 5.35 |
| 7.50 Waists for | ..... | 5.65 |
| 8.00 Waists for | ..... | 6.00 |
| 8.50 Waists for | ..... | 6.40 |
| 9.00 Waists for | ..... | 6.75 |

Our Entire Line of Tailor-Made Suits

| ONE-THIRD OFF. | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| \$12.00 Suits for | ..... | \$ 8.00 |
| 13.50 Suits for | ..... | 9.00 |
| 15.00 Suits for | ..... | 10.00 |
| 16.50 Suits for | ..... | 11.00 |
| 18.00 Suits for | ..... | 12.00 |
| 21.00 Suits for | ..... | 14.00 |
| 22.50 Suits for | ..... | 15.00 |
| 25.00 Suits for | ..... | 16.75 |
| 27.50 Suits for | ..... | 18.35 |
| 30.00 Suits for | ..... | 20.00 |
| 45.00 Suits for | ..... | 30.00 |
| 60.00 Suits for | ..... | 40.00 |

THANKSGIVING SALE!

Another Opportunity of Choice Bargain Offerings for the Ladies will be given at Z. C. M. I. during the

Week Commencing Monday, Nov. 11th

Here are some of the figures. Come and see our Magnificent Stock of Goods, note the prices, and you will realize that these are the Choicest Bargain Offers in the City along these lines of goods. These prices tell a welcome story to purchasers for Thanksgiving time. Look at these sample items:

Flannelette Wrappers.



Will go thus:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------|
| \$1.25 Wrappers for | ..... | \$1.00 |
| 1.50 Wrappers for | ..... | 1.20 |
| 1.75 Wrappers for | ..... | 1.40 |
| 2.00 Wrappers for | ..... | 1.60 |
| 2.25 Wrappers for | ..... | 1.80 |
| 2.50 Wrappers for | ..... | 2.00 |
| 2.75 Wrappers for | ..... | 2.20 |
| 3.00 Wrappers for | ..... | 2.40 |
| 3.75 Wrappers for | ..... | 3.00 |

Dress Goods.

All plain and figured COLORED DRESS GOODS for this week 20 PER CENT OFF our entire stock of all new goods, is offered. It includes Broadcloths, Prunella Cloths, Soleils, Venetians, Granite Cloths, Basket Weaves, Hop Sackings, Storm Serges, Henriettas, Vigoreaux, Cheviot Plaids, Silk and Wool Plaids, Kerseys, Golfings, Grenadines, Wool Poplins, Camel's Hair, etc.

Linen Handkerchiefs.

Ladies' Plain Hemstitched Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, full size, worth regularly 15c, special for this week at 10c

Ladies' Hemstitched and Embroidered Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, worth regularly 25c, this week 16 2/3c

Great Thanksgiving Sale.

Linen Sale.

Lovely Table Damask, our entire stock, at— 15 PER CENT OFF.

All Napkins, Linen Lunch and Tray Cloths— 15 PER CENT OFF.

20 per cent off all Doilies, Scarfs and Pillow Shams, in Swiss Embroidery, Appliques and Battenberg.

FRENCH FLANNELS— 20 PER CENT OFF.

Fancy Ribbon.

A lot of Elegant Francy Ribbon, worth up to 35c a yard, for this week at 15c

Week Commencing Monday, November 11th, Great Thanksgiving Sale.

GLOVES!

\$2.00 Street Gloves for \$1.50.

Ladies' Tannette and Cheverette Street Gloves, 2 clasps, P. K., the greatest wearing gloves to be had at any price. Our regular price \$2.00, this week only \$1.50

\$1.25 Gloves at 95 cents.

Ladies' 2 clasp P. K. Street Gloves. A broken line, all sizes from 5 1/2 to 7 1/2, but not all colors in every size. Regular price, \$1.25, this week only, 95c to close out

Laces, Etc.

Allover Laces, Fancy Vestings, etc. For this week only our entire line at— 33 1-3 PER CENT OFF.

Children's Dresses.



Entire Line

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| \$.65 Dresses for | ..... | \$ .50 |
| 1.25 Dresses for | ..... | 1.00 |
| 1.50 Dresses for | ..... | 1.20 |
| 2.25 Dresses for | ..... | 1.80 |
| 3.00 Dresses for | ..... | 2.40 |
| 4.00 Dresses for | ..... | 3.20 |
| 4.50 Dresses for | ..... | 3.60 |
| 6.00 Dresses for | ..... | 4.80 |
| 7.50 Dresses for | ..... | 6.00 |
| 9.00 Dresses for | ..... | 7.20 |

Our Entire Line of Silk and Velvet Skirts

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| \$12.00 Skirt for | ..... | \$ 8.00 |
| 13.50 Skirt for | ..... | 9.00 |
| 15.00 Skirt for | ..... | 10.00 |
| 16.50 Skirt for | ..... | 11.00 |
| 17.50 Skirt for | ..... | 12.00 |
| 20.00 Skirt for | ..... | 13.35 |
| 22.50 Skirt for | ..... | 15.00 |
| 32.50 Skirt for | ..... | 21.75 |
| 27.50 Skirt for | ..... | 18.35 |
| 40.00 Skirt for | ..... | 26.75 |
| 45.00 Skirt for | ..... | 30.00 |

GIRLS' Newmarkets.

A line of Girls' Newmarkets, 8 to 14, less than HALF PRICE.

Child's Reefers.

A line of Child's Reefers, 6 to 14, \$3.00 goods, for \$2.00

NO EXCHANGES. NO APPROVALS.

Ladies' Underwear Department.

Ladies' Cotton Fleece Ribbed UNION SUITS, all open front, natural color, 50c quality, as a special inducement during sale, per suit..... 35c

Ladies' Melba Fleece Ribbed COMBINATION SUITS, open across bust—ecru, all sizes from 3 to 8, regular price \$1.25, Sale Price..... \$1.00

Ladies' Melba Fleece Ribbed COMBINATION SUITS, all open front, ecru, all sizes from 3 to 8, regular price \$1.25, Sale Price..... \$1.00

Our Special Sale on Black Figured Silk-finished Pierolas and Crepes.

Continues during this week. The entire lot, all new and choice goods, will go at HALF PRICE.

Z. C. M. I.

T. G. WEBBER, Superintendent.