

Introduction to "Notes on Nanking Economics".

The accompanying "Notes" on the economic situation in and around Nanking prepared by Dr. M. S. Bates seem to me so informative and to contain so much in a brief space that I have asked his permission to share them with certain friends. Dr. Bates "Notes" assume that the reader knows the destruction that has taken place in or near the city, but for those who may not be fully aware of what has happened let me say briefly that the principal business streets of the city such as Chung Hwa Lu, Tai Ping Lu, Shen Chou Lu (known to many more familiarly as Giang Tang Giai) and Chung Shan Road from Hsin Giai Kou to the Drum Tower have been badly burned. In various other sections of the city there have also been many fires destroying some times several houses together, so the total number of buildings burned is very large. Among the suburbs Hsiakwan has been largely destroyed, and considerable portions of the area outside the South Gate and Hansimen and Shuisimen have also been burned. A great deal of this burning outside of the city was done by the Chinese soldiers in their retreat, in a desire to leave no corner for the enemy, but most of the burning inside of the city, in fact practically all of it, was done by the Japanese. This was, if not a systematic work of destruction, at least a constant one for the first three or four weeks after the Japanese entered the city.

In addition to the burning the looting has been very bad. There is scarcely a home or place of business in Nanking that has not been entered and robbed, the buildings being frequently damaged to some extent in the process. When these facts ^{as to burning and looting} are added to those Dr. Bates gives, one can get some idea of what the material loss to Nanking by the fighting has been. The whole is a sad picture of what war costs.

W. P. Mills

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