PROGRESS IN CHINA.

A New Spirit Seeming to Guide the Counels of the Government

The vast progress of China in recent years is set in a striking light in an article, "The March of the Mongol." by W. B. Dunlop. Mr. Dunlop dates the new movement from the period soon after the suppression of the Taiping rebellion, when the Chinese Government first established the imperial lat maritime customs, which, under the wise and energetic control of Sir Robert Hart, the inspector-general of customs at Peking, has attained so remarkable a development. It is significant of the shrewdness of the Chinese that they perceived the advantage to be derived from dismissing the native collectors and appointing trustworthy foreigners in their room. The experiment was justified by a large experiment was justified by a large pure and perfect. Dobbins' prevents and immediate rise in the amount of hands from chapping. the revenue from customs duties, which has ever since been steadily increasing-a considerable part of the surplus having been employed in erecting lighthouses along the immense scaboard of China, which has now one of the best lighted coasts in the world.

It is a sign of the new spirit that guides the counsels of the Government that there have been erected during the last year or two many thousands of miles of telegraph wires radiating through the Empire. It is now possible to telegraph from London to Peking or Chung King, the principal town of the rich and fertile province of Szechueh, a city nearly fifteen hundred miles in the interior of the country. Meanwhile the extension of the Chinese telegraph system is, we are told, proceeding at a rate which may shortly astonish even American telegraphists. Railway extension is more difficult and necessarily slower; bu against this has to be set the splendid system of internal water communication.

The total coast trade in foreignbuilt vessels outward and inward amounted in 1886 to the enormous sum of 17,000,000 tons. Here again the Chinese are well aware of the advantages to be gained from employing foreigners. Only a certain portion of the foreign commerce of the Empire comes within the jurisdiction of the imperial maritime customs; but this portion reached in 1886 the hitherto unprecedented amount of £41,000,000 -still a trifling amount when we consider that China proper is estimated by the imperial statisticians, with the assistance of the best native authorities, to have a population of 389,000,-000 souls.

The only practical obstacle to a trade of startling dimensions between China and the outside world seems to be the old "Likin" system of internal dues, some notion of which may be derived from the fact that on the great west river trade route between Canton and Pese, a distance of 900 miles, merchandise is said to have to run the gauntlet of nearly one hundred customs barriers. The Government, however, has rivalled; pleasant to take; absolutely safe. By shown significant signs of being alive tail, securely scaled in plain wrapper, price to this evil, which it has already mit
Oakland, Cai, igated to some extent, in the teeth of vested interests, by allowing the Likin charges in certain cases to be commuted by a fixed payment for a "transit pass."

The improvement in the system of national defense is still more striking. Huge arsenals under foreign direction are springing up in various directions. and the vast army of China is being gradually supplied with weapons of the latest pattern, while great battalions are being incessantly dritted and disciplined by European officers. The Chinese navy already consists of twenty-six foreign built men-of-war. some of them large and powerful iron-clads, and about one hundred gunboats, built in the arsenals of the empire. Referring to the notorious industry and enterprise of the Chinese abroad, Mr. Dunlop prophesies that when the subjects of the Celestial Empire enjoy under the new and more enlightened policy the same privileges and opportunities at home as are afforded to them abroad there will be no room for doubt as to what is to be the dominating power of the future in the far east of Asia.

The writer of the article on "The March of the Mongol" is very far from being the only authority on Asiatic affairs who thinks that the solution of the Eastern question, as far as Russian aggression in Asia is concerned, with one day be found in an Anglo-Chinece alliance. - Asiatic Quarterly Review.

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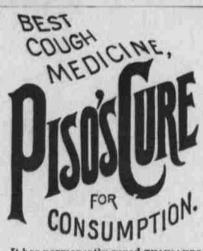
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