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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China (Sinkiang)
SUBJECT Agriculture/Land/Irrigation/Livestock/Taxes

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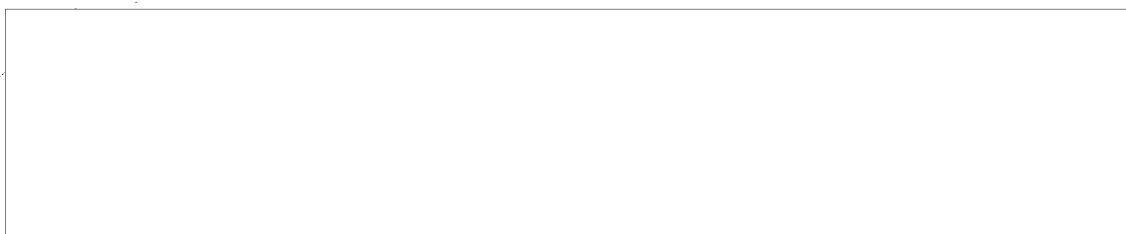
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- Agriculture:** Most of the agricultural products of Sinkiang are superior to those of the interior of China in beauty, body, taste and size. The most outstanding and renown are its fruit, particularly grapes (lady-fingers), watermelon and cantaloupe. The main agricultural areas of Sinkiang are in the vicinity of Kuldja (Ining), Suiting, Manass (Suilai), Urumchi (Tihwa), Chuguchak (Tahcheng), Sharasume (Chenghwa), Turfan, Hami (Qomul), Aqsu (Akosu), Kashgar (Shufu), Yarkand (Soche) and Khotan (Hotien). Turfan is famous for its grapes and carries on a large export business in raisins. The rice growing areas of Sinkiang are in Suiting, Wusu, Manass, Urumchi and Aqsu. Cotton is grown extensively throughout the southern regions of Sinkiang and raw silk is the main product of most southern Sinkiang towns, especially Yangi Shahr (Shuleh), Yarkand and Khotan.
- In the Ili Region, because of its excellent climate and soil and because it is completely sheltered from high winds all known types of grain crops, vegetables and fruit trees are grown with excellent results. After 7 Nov 44, when this region became a part of the East Turkestan People's Republic (ETPR), Soviets experimented and were successful in introducing the mulberry tree (shelkovitsa) into the area and the development of a silk worm which would thrive in this comparatively damp region. 50X1
- The main types of crops grown in the Ili and Urumchi Regions of Sinkiang in 1947, were the following. They are listed according to the proportion of land devoted to each crop. 50X1

Crop	Average Yield per Hectare	Approx. Price per 4 puds
a. Wheat	100 to 110 puds, 90 puds is considered very poor.	5,000 ETPR rubles
b. Barley	60 to 150 puds, in the Ili Region it is usually around 150 puds.	
c. Corn	120 to 150 puds.	2,000 " "

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- 2 -



- d. Sunflower 50X1
- e. Alfalfa When alfalfa is first planted, barley or millet is also planted to give it shade. 1st year - two cuttings, each 80 to 90 puds, 2nd year - two cuttings, each 150 to 200 puds, 3rd year - three cuttings, each 400 to 600 puds. This yield continues for at least 3 years more, then starts to decline. On 8th or 9th year an alternate crop is planted for diversification practices.
- f. Millet 8,000 ETPR rubles
- g. Oats Extremely low 2,500 " "
- h. Rice 12,000 " "
- i. Kaoliang
- j. Potatoes
- k. Miscellaneous vegetables such as beans, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, etc.
- l. Flax
- m. Sesame
- n. Cotton
4. The Soviets had no, or very little, influence on Sinkiang agriculture. They brought only a handful of tractors and other mechanized farm equipment into the province and although experimental farm stations were maintained by them in Urumchi, Kuldja, Chuguchak and Sharasume, these were very small and had no influence on local agricultural practices. Sinkiang farmers felt that they knew far more about local agricultural problems than did the Soviet agricultural advisors. Therefore, farming in Sinkiang, in 1947, was being carried on in the same manner and by the same implements as it had been hundreds of years ago.
5. Land: There was no collectivization of farm land in either Sinkiang, or in the ETPR, in 1947. During the reign of Governor Sheng Shih-tsai (1933 through 1943), in Sinkiang and after 7 Nov 44, in the ETPR, tens of thousands of peoples were thrown into prison, declared an enemy of the State and their land and other possessions confiscated by the government. This land was then rented to other farmers. Normally, most land in Sinkiang can only be acquired through inheritance. The Moslems never sold land because it was against their religion to do so and the Chinese were simply hesitant to sell. Therefore most farmland was owned by old local families and native Moslem princes who rented their vast land holdings to farmers. It was, however, a local custom to permit both farmers and city dwellers to purchase small parcels of land upon which their home and compound would be located. Thus, a farmer, in most cases, would own a small tract of land upon which his house stood, but would rent the surrounding land which he was cultivating. There are, however, vast areas of land throughout Sinkiang which, for reasons of location, rough terrain, poor soil, lack of water, or any other of a number of reasons, have not been claimed by anyone and are open to homesteading. 50X1
6. Irrigation: a low-cost irrigation and water conservation program could be developed in Sinkiang and would result in an unlimited expansion of cultivable land. Millions of hectares are presently awaiting the energies of man to convert them into fertile farm land. This could be accomplished by damming the innumerable mountain rivers and streams and then piping the water where it is needed. This precious water is now wasted by being allowed to rush

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CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

- 3 -

down (the year around) from the high snow-capped mountains to the desert lowlands and there to immediately disappear below the earth's surface. Just as an example of what can be done with the existing water supply, for the full length of the road from Yarkand to Khotan there is a man-made underground water duct with openings three kilometers apart, which is supplied by a mountain stream. This water duct was lined with stone and brick some centuries ago and has been the only source of water (cool and sweet) for travellers who pass through this dry desert region. Virtually the entire province of Sinkiang could blossom forth into a rich agricultural area if only these mountain rivers were utilized. This applies not only to the vast areas of land which lie both north and south of the Tien Shan Range, but also to the areas south of the Altai Range, east of the Muztagh Alta Range and north of the Kunlun and Astin Tagh Ranges. Even during the extremely hot summer months these rivers are supplied by the melting snows and do not dry up. In summer days most of these rivers can easily be waded across by humans, whereas towards nightfall they are replenished by the melting snows and become so deep and fast that even horses cannot cross them without being carried away. Thus, Sinkiang has vast possibilities as an agricultural region. It must, however, be remembered that Sinkiang has a total area of 705,769 square miles; yet in 1946 its total population was under four million, one-third of which live in the cities and the balance are predominantly pastoral nomads.

7. The following are the only Sinkiang irrigation and water conservation projects of any consequence, [redacted] 50X1
- a. A water conservation and irrigation project was completed by the Soviets, prior to 1943, about 30 kilometers east of Urumchi. The exact location is the peak of the Bogdo Ula Mountain which is an ancient volcano. On the north side of the crater is Bogdo Ula Lake. This large lake was enlarged to approximately four times its normal size by dynamiting its spillway to the north and constructing a dam there. The water from this dam was then channeled to irrigate an area northeast of Urumchi, in the vicinity of Fukang.
 - b. About 30 kilometers south of Urumchi a canal was built from the Kuerhohilo Ho (River), running through the valley to the east. Another canal, which starts at the Kuerhohilo Ho, about seven kilometers north of Urumchi, was built to run in a northwesterly direction and ultimately connect with the Changchi Ho (River). Approximately half the length of this canal (the half closest to Urumchi) was lined with brick and stone. All of the above mentioned canals are some four feet deep and eight to ten feet wide.
 - c. [redacted] small irrigation projects were being planned, in 1947, in the vicinity of the town of Aqsu, and somewhere along the Kash River in the Ili Region. 50X1
8. Livestock: The different types of livestock raised in Sinkiang are:
- a. Sheep: The majority of livestock raised in Sinkiang are a local Central Asian Breed of sheep, small in size and having fat-tails. The most popular area for raising this breed of sheep are the Altai prairies. Their appendage is broad and flat instead of long and round and is an adaptation to the rigorous life of the steppes. During the months when the pastures are good the sheep store up fat in their tails. I have seen them weighing eight to ten pounds and in the fall have seen tails so heavy that they were half broken off. Shepherds sometimes rig up little carts, for their prize sheep, which the animals drag along behind to hold up their fat-heavy tails. In southern Sinkiang, south of the Tien Shan Range, a different breed of sheep is raised. This breed is twice the size of the Central Asian sheep and has long round tails and long wool. Both breeds are primarily raised for their mutton and hides, and not their wool.
 - b. Horses: Most Sinkiang horses are of a local breed generally referred to as Kazakh Asiatic horses. This breed is short and extremely sure-footed and therefore very satisfactory for travelling over the rugged terrain of Sinkiang, and as a draft horse. Another breed, which was more popular than the Kazakh

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CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -

50X1

Asiatic horse and also much more expensive, was the Ul Duz horse. This horse was originally bred by a wealthy Mongol prince whose territory lies throughout the Tien Shan Range, between Kuldja and Urumchi. This horse is a cross between the Kazakh Asiatic and the Arabian breeds. It is by far the most superior and prized breed in Sinkiang, being the fastest, most durable, sure-footed and certainly the most beautiful.

- c. Ishik: A small local breed of donkey.
 - d. Mules: A tall, black breed of mule which is bred and highly prized by the Tungans.
 - e. Camels: The Bactrian camel, whose native home is Central Asia, is bred in large quantities in Sinkiang, since this province has had to rely on them for carrying on trade and travel both within the province and with other points in China. The Bactrian camel of Sinkiang has two humps, is short-legged and grows a long, thick winter coat which it sheds in masses in the spring. This camel's wool is then utilized within the province in the padding of winter clothes and blankets, in the making of felt for the native yurts (tent with a conical roof), etc.
 - f. Goats: A local breed of goat, which is primarily a milk producer, is bred extensively in Sinkiang. Goat's milk is much more popular in Sinkiang than cow's milk. Cow's milk is consumed only by the small Russian population of the province.
 - g. Cows: Only the Russian population of Sinkiang breed cows, which are all of local Asiatic stock. A few Swiss milch cows, however, were brought into Sinkiang for breeding purposes in the late 1930s.
 - h. Pigs: The number of pigs raised in Sinkiang is very small. This is due to the religion of the majority of the population, Mohammedanism, which forbids its followers to eat pork. Therefore, only the Chinese and Russians of Sinkiang raise pigs for their own needs.
 - i. Oxen: Oxen are only raised, in small quantities, in the Ili Region of Sinkiang.
9. Taxes: Taxes in Sinkiang and the ETPR were collected by the regional tax collectors. They were then transmitted to the Tax Division of the Provincial Finance Commission.
- a. Farms: The farmers were required to deliver a certain percentage of each crop to a government warehouse. The land tax was paid in currency, based on the tax collector's appraisal of the land. As mentioned previously, few farmers owned their own land.
 - b. Livestock: As most livestock breeding in Sinkiang is carried on by pastoral nomads, the elder of each tribe was held responsible for collecting the taxes from members of his tribe and then accounting to the regional tax collector. The elder of a tribe is called an Ak Sakal (grey beard) and once a year the whole tribe would meet at his "yurt" village, bringing all of their herds with them. The Ak Sakal would then count their herds and confiscate a certain percentage of each family's herd. He would then turn this cattle over to the regional tax collector.
 - c. Business: Merchants and others who are in business for themselves in Sinkiang are required to purchase a business license, which has to be renewed each year. The price of the license is based on the previous year's volume of business. The total volume of business done by a firm, or store, puts it in one of four categories of business (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th grade). Since accounting records are not kept in this part of the world, it is completely up to the owner of the business to be truthful in his yearly verbal declaration to the local tax collector. If the tax collector has any doubts as to the accuracy of a declaration, he assigns

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- 5 -

50X1

a tax investigator to watch the daily volume done by that business and if his doubts are confirmed, a heavy fine is imposed. A fine cannot be appealed and must be paid immediately. A person first going into business must estimate the volume of business that he expects to do during the first year and his license fee (tax) is based on that figure. If his business does not meet with his expectations, he receives no refund. However, if his volume of business exceeds his estimate, then he must pay the difference between the fee that he has already paid and the fee that is required of a higher "grade" license.

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