

TRADE AND SHIPPING

OF

SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

PART I.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

French Indo-China, since the treaties concluded with Siam in 1893 and with China in 1895, by which its frontiers were defined, has a population estimated at between 18 and 20 millions, and a total area half as large again as that of France. Its different parts exhibit characteristics which vary in many respects. Under the above designation are included the French dependencies of Cochin-China, Tonkin, Annam, and Cambodia, together with the Laos territory, which is a large and somewhat undefined portion of the Shan States between Siam, British Burmah, Annam, and China proper, and has been a French protectorate since 1893.

The area of French Cochin-China is estimated at 23,000 square miles, the whole being divided into four provinces, and these into 21 arrondissements; and the total population was estimated in 1897 at 2,034,453. Cambodia has an area of 46,000 square miles and a population of about 1,500,000, while Laos is estimated to contain from 90,000 to 110,000 square miles and about 270,000 inhabitants. The territory of Tonkin, which has an area of 34,740 square miles, is divided into 14 provinces, and has an estimated population of 9,000,000. The area of Annam is about 81,042 square miles, with a population estimated by some at 2,000,000 and by others at 6,000,000, the latter being considered the more probable figure.

The trade statistics of Indo-China are far from complete, but some figures have been published in the *Bulletin Economique de l'Indo-Chine* showing the value of the imports