

Almost every part of the empire is mountainous, there being several mountain chains.

The highest mountains are Fujisan, height 12,370 shaku, Ahaishiyama 10,214 shaku, and Shuanesan 10,212 shaku. A shaku is equal to .994 of a foot.

The general feature of the country is its length north and south and its narrowness east and west. As one great chain of mountains runs through the middle, the rivers correspond in their course to the formation. The few longer rivers running parallel to the mountain ranges, the greater number are short. The current of the rivers emptying into the Pacific Ocean is comparatively slow owing to the gradual slope of the land. The rivers discharging into the sea of Japan have a rapid descent. The longest river is the Ishikarigawa with a length of 407 miles.

The coast line of the empire amounts to 15,300 nautical miles, of which the four great islands have 8,177 miles.

The coast abounds in numerous harbours, the most important being Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka, Niigata, Nagasaki and Hakodate, which are the open ports. Besides these there are ten ports which are special ports for exports and twenty-two others without specially designated uses.

373. There are 36 cities having more than 30,000 inhabitants, Tokio, the largest, having 1,214,113 of a population.

374. Of the total population of 41,388,313 persons, 20,906,465 are males and 20,481,848 are females. Of the 41,388,313 persons, 18,611,702 are under 21 years of age, 15,908,538 are between 21 and 50 years of age, and 6,868,053 are over 50 years old.

The foreign population is small, numbering only 9,803, of which English and Canadians number 1,802.

375. The religions are Shintoism, with 10 sects, and Buddhism with 12 sects and 40 creeds. The Shinto temples in 1892 numbered 193,476, and the Buddhist temples 71,973.

376. Elementary education is compulsory. The number of schools of all grades was 25,579. The teaching staff numbered 68,697, and students pupils, 3,300,016.

The number of periodicals, monthly, weekly and daily, published was 792, of which 244,203,066 copies were issued during 1892.

The number of letters and printed documents received into and sent from Japan in 1893 was 1,583,509, of which 24,792 were for and from Canada.

The total number of letters, post cards, newspapers, books, samples and parcels sent through the post offices of Japan in 1893-94 was 321,630,508, or 7.66 per inhabitant.

There were in the beginning of 1894, 9,053 miles of telegraph, with 24,972 miles of wire, besides 269 miles of submarine cable, and 403 miles of telephone, with 4,356 miles of wire.

The number of telegrams sent and received was 6,444,463.