

Mobilizing Men and Women to Produce Taiwanese Tea

Douglas Fix* and Stephen Schick**

ABSTRACT

With reference to annual reports of the Customs, annual trade reports of the British consul, early investigations carried out by Japanese colonial officials, photographs and historical materials of various sources, this paper traces the evolution of the labor pool employed for second-stage tea processing by firms in Dadaocheng, Taiwan during the nineteenth century and the early Japanese colonial era. The size of this labor pool was estimated using specific data on tea-processing firms, annual tea export statistics, and firm-based employee figures. This paper also explores the gendered division of labor, working conditions for different tasks, and the brief historical data on wages for laborers involved in this second-stage processing of oolong and baozhong tea in northern Taiwan.

Keywords: Labor Conditions, Nineteenth Century, Taiwan, Tea Industry, Tea Labor

* Professor, History Department, Reed College

** Graduate, Political Science Department, Reed College

來稿日期：2020年12月25日；通過刊登：2021年4月6日。