

Jan 27, 1929.

January 11, 1929

Trade Commissioner

To: Road Shanghai Office.
Shanghai, China

From: Peking Office.

Subject: Annual Automotive Census for China.

To: Peking Office.

In the past the Shanghai office has put together as promptly as possible after the 1st of January each year a census of automobiles, trucks etc., in China, for the Automotive Division of the Bureau, which prepares a world automotive census for use by the trade.

It appears that the "American Automobile", published by the Business Publishers International Corporation, New York City, puts out an annual automotive census, writing to Consuls all over the world for the information. Mr. Ward, Vice Consul at Tientsin informed Mr. Calder last week that he was preparing such a census for the Tientsin consular district for the Consul General at Shanghai, which supplies it to the American automobile. A copy of a consular report entitled "Automotive Situation in Mukden Consular District," dated December 17, 1928 (mailing date) has just come to our attention here. This report contains census figures as of January 1, 1929, and is prepared at the specific request of Consulate General, Shanghai of November 16, 1928. I do not know whether or not the Consul General in Shanghai is endeavoring to beat us to it on the preparation of an automotive census for all China for January 1, 1929. If the consul general's request or instructions to other consulates in China was not the result of a request from us, such would seem to be the case. I should like to have your views on this, also as to whether copies of these automotive reports are being made available to you by the Consulate General.

It might be well to take up this matter with the

Formerly in the preparation of this Census we requested the information from the various Consulates in China, preparing the Shanghai figures from information obtained ourselves from the Municipal Council, the French Municipality, and Chinese registration sources.

It might be just as well to look up the standing instructions from the Automotive Division, see what the requirements are, and bear in mind that the Consulate General is getting figures together for such a census presumably to be despatched immediately after the close of the present year. It is to be assumed that it is quite as important (or more so) to get the information to our Automotive Division as to transmit it to a single American automotive publication. Hence I suggest that your figures be cabled to the Bureau as soon after January 1 as possible, especially if our instructions require it.

A copy of the Mukden report will go forward to you from this office as soon as copied.

Julean Arnold,
Commercial Attache.