

China

June 29, 1923.

Mr. Julian Arnold,
 American Commercial Attache,
 American Legation,
 Peking, China.

19.

Dear Mr. Arnold;

Subject: China organization Monthly
 Trade Report.

Not removed in files Section

The Bureau is very sympathetic with the difficulties outlined in your letter of May 23rd, File 128.3, on the above subject and the enclosures that you sent in make it quite evident that it is almost impossible to gather any definite information on production in many parts of China. We are sending a carbon of your letter to Mr. O.C. Stine of the Department of Agriculture, at whose instance this attempt to gather information on crop conditions was instituted, explaining to him that we will carry out the suggestions contained in his memorandum to you as far as possible in view of the difficulties outlined.

We were quite cognizant of the difficulties in obtaining anything like accurate crop estimates in China and in all of our instructions regarding monthly cables, we have deliberately refrained from asking for any such information. When Mr. Stine requested that we make it, however, I agreed to pass the request on to you.

As we have suggested in Paragraph 9 of our letter of February 10th, we believe that about as far as you can go on crop estimates is to obtain some reliable figures from prominent exporters in ports as to amounts available for export. In suggesting this, we do not expect to get definite figures, but merely some intimation that there is a surplus of wheat or flour, soya beans, tea, silk, etc., either in excess of present demand or that the available supplies for export do not meet the probable export demand. We believe that close contact with the shipping companies and a careful check on the forward tonnage requirements might also help in gauging this condition.

In the same way, we do not expect crop condition reports such as are prepared by the Department of Agriculture on United States covering crops of China, but we believe that the inclusion in the monthly cable of any

definite information on weather conditions in any part of China, which indicate either a favorable crop condition or an unfavorable crop condition, would be much appreciated by those who are interested in China's export of agricultural products.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Eldridge,
Chief, Far Eastern Division.

fre/vpc

Inclosure (10212)