

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ
PEKING, CHINA

INDEXED
FILE NO. 411

January 29, 1924

China

SUBJECT: Monthly Trade and Economic Report

To: Shanghai Office
From: Commercial Attache, Julian Arnold



In going over somewhat more carefully the January report, it is requested that in the future you will exercise more care in the compilation of the section entitled, "Resume of General Business Conditions" so as to avoid incorporating in this resume items which should appear in other sections of the report. For instance, on Page 2 under "Harbin Conditions" there are twelve lines describing the fur trade of Harbin which should appear under "Exports" and not under "Resume of General Business Conditions." Under "North Manchuria" the material regarding crops should have been placed under "Agriculture and Crops."

More general considerations are wanted under the "Resume of General Business Conditions" and not specific data which could better be incorporated in other sections of the report.

You will also please bear in mind that in giving valuations in this report, it is necessary to either stipulate silver or gold. These reports go to the United States, and if the value appears merely as "dollars" it is naturally concluded by the American reader that it refers to American gold dollars. So in all cases be careful to make the qualification as "silver" or "Yuan" in case of Chinese dollars, or as "gold" in case of American dollars.

On Page 23 under "Shipping" was it intended that the word "now" in the fifth line should read "not" so that the sentence would read, "Exports are not moving very freely --- ---"? It would seem that following this phrase with "although" it must have been intended originally to have the word "not" used rather than "now." Kindly let me know which was intended.

Also please bear in mind that you are to mail to this office

Handwritten signature

January 29, 1924

copies of material prepared for the monthly report as this material is prepared,,at the same time mailing copies to the Bureau, following the method used by the Peking office in this connection. Recently we have been receiving from the Shanghai office more of this material than in the past. However in preparing answers for trade inquiries, it is very often the case that the important matter used in these replies can advantageously be digested for use at the same time in the monthly trade and economic report, for it is desired to make as much use of the material which is handled in our offices as possible. In other words, we want to bag as many birds as we can every time we shoot

JA:fn

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

CABLE ADDRESS
"AMCOMAT," PEKING

China

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHE
PEKING, CHINA

COPY FOR BUREAU

February 4, 1924
File 126.3

Subject: Monthly Economic Report

To Shanghai office
From Peking office - Julian Arnold, Commercial Attache

BUR. FOR DOM. COM.
MAR 7 1924
FOREIGN SERVICE

Not Received in this Section

Referring to Mr. Howard's note of February 1 in regard to the length of the Monthly Economic Report, I am thoroughly sympathetic with the idea of boiling it down to the minimum of useful material.

I had a personal experience some time ago in interviews with different Americans in regard to material which should and should not be included in this report. After going into the matter at some length I found that people who had certain interests wanted certain information and were willing that other material be excluded. On the other hand those wished some of the excluded material and were willing to have other data omitted. It is very difficult to find any one in a position in a business way who holds a proper perspective for the reason that each person is bound to be influenced by his own particular needs. I decided after the investigation that it would be better to make the report fuller and let those take from it what they needed rather than to omit what might prove to be useful material to some of these interests. It must also be borne in mind that these reports are now being used by some of our communities in the United States.

It is not easy to secure reliable trade data regarding China. This is a fact which we must always bear in mind. Material which is compiled by our offices here in China takes on the characteristics of reliability to the extent at least of having been given the consideration which the facilities of our office admit. If it were a question of securing economic and trade information regarding America for circulation in China we should not feel that it would be necessary to go into such elaborate treatment of the subject as we are obliged to give to the consideration of the situation in China for the reason that there are numerous reliable agencies including trade journals, etc., upon which the public may depend for its information regarding United States economic and trade conditions.

We hope to be able here in China in course of time to work out a form of economic and trade report which will occupy the minimum of space for the maximum of material presented. It is desirable that we boil down our material as much as we possibly can in the digests which are made. It is also desirable that we omit duplications. It is essential that certain statistical data be accompanied with qualifications. For instance, the mere statement of the revenues of the Chinese Government Railways is not in itself sufficient. This statement should be accompanied with useful qualifying material. This idea should be carried out whenever necessary with other material.

Lee

February 10, 1925

Your suggestion in a recent note to this office that we include in the reports statement of the status of certain matters pending, for instance, suggesting that I give you something for the February report on the Trade Mark Situation, on Rule I of the Chinese Customs, on the China Trade Act, and on the Shanghai Conservancy has been noted, and I have sent notes accordingly.

Our compilations are far from perfect and can stand considerable improvement and it is hoped that you will do everything possible to encourage this improvement. The final set up of the material presented is with your office and you can best judge the relative value of material available and act accordingly, bearing in mind that the interests which the reports serve are varied and that these reports are compiled for use in the United States as well as here in China.

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

February 10, 1925

You may be interested to know that we are sending some specimens of material to our confidential mailing list, consisting of forty or so persons and would not like to be in the list.

A:JV

Enclosure