

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

"AMCOMAT," PEKING

INDEXED
FILE NO. *464*

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ
PEKING, CHINA

January 30, 1924

File 464

*This is a copy of the original
which was sent to the
Director of the Bureau
of Foreign and Domestic
Commerce on 1/27/24
New York 1/30/24*

SUBJECT: Shanghai Declared Export Returns

Director
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
Washington

CARDED

Sir:-

In looking over the copy of the covering letter for the declared exports from Shanghai for 1923 as sent to the Department of State under date of January 18 from Shanghai, I note the first sentence reads, "The year 1923 was probably the most disturbed year in the history of China."

I suggest that this sentence be deleted from any published statements as it is not in keeping with facts. Anyone familiar with the history of China knows very well that there have been many periods in China's history which have been more disturbed than the year 1923. We need only go back to the year 1900 for a more disturbed condition. During the Taiping Rebellion, which occurred about the time of our Civil War, it was estimated that twenty million people were killed, and undoubtedly conditions in the country were far more disturbed than even during the Boxer trouble. Probably scores of instances in Chinese history could be recited which show more disturbed years than the past one. In fact if it were possible to secure a statement as to the actual loss of life, or the damage done in a military way during 1923, I am under the impression that the figures would be surprisingly disappointing to those who would entertain any such ideas as the one expressed in the first sentence of the covering despatch of these declared export returns.

Very truly yours,

Julian Arnold
Julian Arnold
Commercial Attache