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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ  
American Legation

Peking, China, April 13, 1915.

Subject: Visit of the Chinese Commercial Delegation  
to the United States.

Honorable E. E. Pratt, Chief,  
Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce,  
Department of Commerce,  
Washington.

COMMERCE  
MAY 17 1915

Dear Dr. Pratt:

I have to confirm my cablegram to the Bureau on  
the 10th instant as follows:-

"Pratarn,  
Washington.

Twenty Chinese representatives of merchants  
sailed yesterday, steamer Manchuria, purpose  
extension China American trade."

The Bureau has undoubtedly received through the  
Department of State considerable information in regard  
to the proposed visit of this Chinese Commercial Delegation,  
so that it is probably unnecessary for me at this time to  
add anything. However, I might mention the fact that this  
is the first Chinese Commercial Delegation that has ever  
gone abroad in such large numbers, and that every effort  
should be made on the part of American Chambers of Commerce  
and similar organizations to utilize the advantage which  
the visit of this commercial delegation offers to strengthen

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our trade relations with the Chinese people. It was extremely difficult, so the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce informs me, to secure a representative business delegation in China to go abroad for some months, as Chinese business men find it very difficult to leave their establishments for a considerable length of time and are, generally speaking, adverse to the idea of being away from their country for so long a period. However, the delegation is a very representative one and does credit to the business interests of the country.

I am sorry that I was unable to be in Shanghai to meet with them and bid them farewell before their departure to America, but I consider that it was more important to work out the details of the opportunity now presenting itself for American manufacturers of cotton mill machinery and other considerations having to do with American trade in its connection with the Chinese Government, than to have gone to Shanghai for the purpose above mentioned.

Our Consul-General at Shanghai, Mr. Thomas Sammons, in addition to being of great assistance to the delegation in an advisory capacity before its departure, also entertained them at a reception in Shanghai to which all Americans were invited. Press notices of the reception indicate that it was largely attended and that it did much to create  
a good



a good feeling between the Commercial Delegation and the American Community in Shanghai prior to the former's departure to the United States.

Some time ago this office reported at considerable length on the opportunities presenting themselves in connection with the Hunan mining enterprises. Mr. H. Y. Liang, of the delegation, represents a Changsha mining company, and is in a position to give Americans interested therein much information which may be of value to them in connection with proposals to work conjoined American and Chinese capital in Hunan mines.

Mr. Z. T. K. Woo, of the delegation, is from Hankow, the Chicago of this country, being manager of the Yangtze Engineering Works there, and is greatly interested in engineering and machine matters.

Mr. Sing Ming Kung, of the delegation, is connected with a large modern flour mill in China, as is also, Mr. Wen-Hsia Ts'ai.

Mr. Chen Pao is a large bean merchant in Manchuria. There are several tea and silk merchants on the delegation and special representatives of Chinese Chambers of Commerce, as well as men interested directly in industrial education. The delegation consists of about twenty business men representing all sections of China, and under the circumstances

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is probably as representative a delegation as could be secured for the purposes in question. The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce expressed to me his regret that he was unable to secure men of higher financial standing representing some of the big Chinese banking institutions to accompany this delegation, but as stated above, it is very difficult to induce such men to leave their country even for a short visit abroad under the favorable circumstances which will attend the tour of this delegation through America.

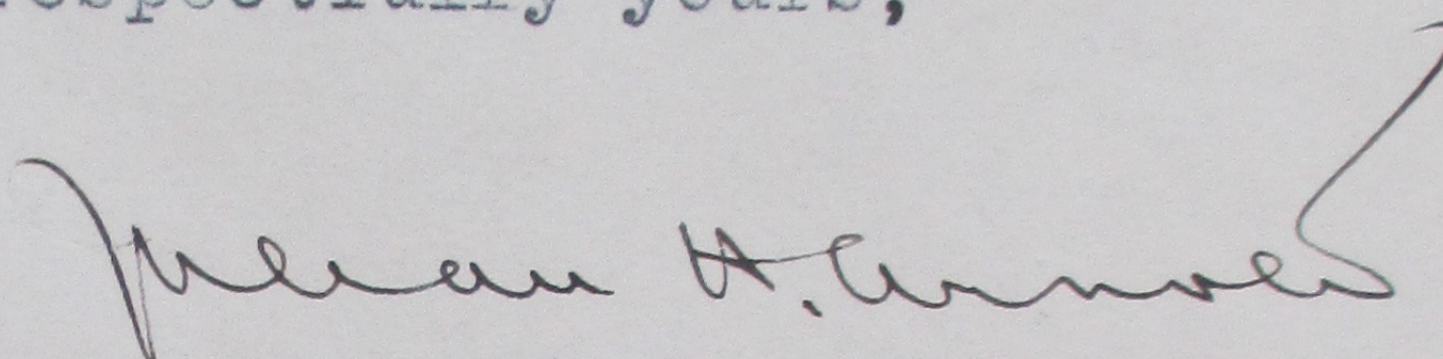
A pamphlet has been printed giving the names and sketches of the members of the delegation but was issued too late for me to secure copies to accompany this despatch. Our consul-general at Shanghai will undoubtedly forward a number of copies to the Department of State for your Bureau.

At the instance of this office and of the Chinese Secretary of this Legation, Mr. Albert W. Robinson, an American merchant from Boston who recently came to China to enter into business relations with this country, was designated by the Minister of Agriculture & Commerce as Honorary Advisor to accompany this delegation on its tour through America, Mr. Robinson volunteering to do so at his own expense. Mr. Robinson is a man of pleasing personality



sonality, kindly sympathetic toward all that interests the Chinese people, and apparently well connected in a business way in America, hence we have deemed it fortunate to be able to have him with the delegation in an advisory capacity.

Very respectfully yours,

  
Commercial Attaché.

JHA:AGL.