

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ  
AMERICAN LEGATION  
PEKING, CHINA

December 21, 1922

Subject: Constitution and Resolutions of the  
Associated American Chambers of  
Commerce of China.

Honorable Jacob Gould Schurman

American Minister

Peking.

1/ I have the honor to return herewith the five copies of the  
above Constitution and Resolutions which were handed me by Mr.  
Kirk with request as to any comments I had to make in connection  
therewith.

I have to advise that this Association is an arrangement which  
has been under contemplation for a considerable period, particularly  
for the purpose of securing more unity of action between American  
business interests in China. In my opinion in the past there has  
been a very considerable occasion for more unity of action by the  
American interests in China, particularly as between American in-  
terests in Shanghai and the other commercial communities, ordinarily  
spoken of as the out ports. These remarks apply particularly as  
to the relations between American business interests in Shanghai  
and Tientsin, and particularly between the American Chambers of  
Commerce at these two places.

Commercial Attache Arnold has always taken a great deal of  
interest in the formation of such an association of the American  
Chambers of Commerce, and while he did not take part in these



proceedings, he had been consulted previously as to the scope of the association and the need of it.

As to the resolutions passed at this initial convention of the above Association I can advise that they were given careful consideration before the convention. A draft of them was shown to Mr. Arnold, Mr. Hoyt, and myself in Shanghai some ten days before the convention and we were asked to make any suggestions we had in connection therewith. We had few suggestions to make and those made were of such a nature which we thought would make the resolutions more acceptable to the Legation, the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient servant

Frank Rhea  
Acting Trade Commissioner  
In absence of Commercial Attache.

R:R

Inclosures



July 6, 1923.

Mr. R. T. Evans, Secretary,  
American Chamber of Commerce of Tientsin,  
1, Victoria Terrace,  
Tientsin, China.

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Dear Mr. Evans:

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is frequently approached by American Chambers of Commerce abroad requesting it to obtain American connections for the members of these organizations. In order to render the most effective service it has been found necessary to give the American exporters as detailed information as possible in regard to the nature of the business and the standing of the foreign inquirers. With such information at hand the Bureau can approach American concerns in an intelligent way.

Commercial Attaches and Trade Commissioners of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and American Consular Officers abroad will be glad to assist you in this matter and it is suggested that you consult them in all such cases. Your requests will then be forwarded through these officials which will make it possible for the Bureau to give immediate attention to such inquiries.

I am attaching a copy of the form used by the Commercial Intelligence Division of the Bureau in collecting information concerning foreign firms. This may be of assistance in this connection.

I shall appreciate your cooperation in this matter and can assure you that it will be a pleasure for us to give your members our best services.

Sincerely yours,

Inclosure 8936

Julius Klein,  
Director.