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20432

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

INDEXED

FILE No.

531

March 14, 1935.

China

To: Aeronautics-Automotive Trade Division

From: Shanghai Office.

Subject: "Automotive Census of China" (Questionnaire No. 27-4)

We are sending by the next pouch five copies of a special report embracing the "Automotive Census of China" as of January 1, 1935, prepared in answer to your Questionnaire No. 27-4. In compiling this report we have kept in mind your comments of last year, and have endeavored to set up the material in the form most useful to you. At the same time we have reproduced the statistical tables, and data as to "makes" of cars, (wherever it has been obtainable), as we have innumerable calls for this type of material from local contacts throughout the year. The report has been mimeographed to facilitate our supplying sufficient copies to the Bureau, State Department, Legation and Consulates, and a reserve supply for our own needs.

Although we have been compiling a China census now for some ten years, it is still extremely difficult to secure accurate or uniform information, hence the census should continue to be regarded only in the nature of the "best estimates" or "guesses" available. We have felt justified in inserting a category of "Unregistered Military Vehicles", estimated at 1,950 units, in addition to the total figures received from various districts. It is common knowledge that there are many unregistered military vehicles operating in many areas, but because they are shifted from time to time to different sections it is impossible to allocate them to any given point. This designation is intended to include military units of Chinese military units in China proper and Japanese and Manchukuo military units in the Manchurian region. We believe that the grand total of 52,047 motor vehicles represents a fair estimate of the number of units in actual operation in the territory which the census covers. We have been unable to secure any data relative to equipment

that may be temporarily out of service, but whatever amount there might be is believed to be relatively small, with the possible exception of probably 200 or 300 Ree trucks owned by the Nanking Government, which have been in storage in Shanghai for many months past.

Hon. Wilbur J. Carr,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: A-G/G.

My dear Mr. Carr:

A. Viola Smith,
Trade Commissioner.

Reference is made to report No. 34791, submitted under date of January 1, 1935, by Harold E. Montanet, giving the estimated number of motor vehicles operating in certain parts of the Nanking Consular District on January 1, 1935, by make. **Approved for Transmission:**

It is noted that the report includes registrations by make in the month of **Commercial Attache.** during the months of October, November and December, 1934. Open investigation, Mr. A. W. Childs, Chief of the Automobile-Inventory Trade Division, finds that these are the first figures of this type submitted by the American Consulate at Nanking. However, they will not be published in the **Inclosure No. 6445.** Annual unless similar figures are available for the whole of 1934, and monthly in 1935. When submitting future figures, if they are available, it will be appreciated if the American Consulate will separate passenger cars and trucks.

The American Consulate's cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Lacey C. Zapf,
Liaison Officer.

WF-bh

TRADE COMMISSIONER
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FILE NO.

Submitted by: A. Viola Smith, Trade Commissioner.

SHANGHAI.

China

INDUSTRIAL MARKET SURVEY
Quarter ended March 31, 1936.

April 2, 1936.

Supplementing Special Report #71, dated April 14.
L-400

China 13095

To: Automotive-Aeronautic & Trade Division.

From: Shanghai Office.

Subject: Automotive Census of China.

Referring to Special Report #55, dated March 9, 1936,
we regret to advise that through inadvertence the name of Consul
General P. R. Josselyn was omitted from the Source of Information
given. Kindly insert his name on the copies of the report which
were despatched to you. We are particularly sorry that this
error should have occurred as the information which he sent to
us for Central and West China was well organized and extremely
useful.

A. Viola Smith,
Trade Commissioner

Approved for Transmission:

A. Bland Calder,
Assistant Commercial Attache,
Temporarily in Charge

AVS:B

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MAY 5 1936
FOR MAIL

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