

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

American Consulate General,
Shanghai, China, August 2, 1928.

Subject: Automotive Importers and Distributors
in China.

RECEIVED IN
FILES SECTION

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

JUN 17 1929

Sir:

1/ I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a booklet recently prepared by Miss A. Viola Smith, American Trade Commissioner, United States Department of Commerce, 3 Canton Road, Shanghai, entitled AUTOMOTIVE IMPORTERS AND DISTRIBUTORS IN CHINA. As the table of contents indicates, the pamphlet contains information regarding the number of motor vehicles in China, road mileage, motor bus transportation companies, automobile associations, et cetera, the most important feature of the booklet, however, being the list of importers and distributors of automobiles and accessories in China.

It is stated in the attached pamphlet that the list of importers and distributors in China of automobiles and accessories was compiled by Miss A. Viola Smith, as of July 1, 1928, but mention is not made, however, that the list was prepared to a considerable extent from information furnished by the various Consulates throughout China (including Hongkong) at the request of Miss Smith herself.

herself. During the middle of May Miss Smith wrote direct (and not through this office) to the Consulates in China requesting that she be supplied with a list of automobile and accessory importers in the different Consular districts since she was desirous of compiling an up to date list of such importers for all China. Nine American Consular officers replied to Miss Smith through the Shanghai Consulate General, two replies, however, being received too late to be of service in the compilation in hand. There would seem to be little doubt but that the information furnished by the various Consulates was used by Miss Smith in compiling the list of automotive importers and distributors which she had in mind. Yet, as previously stated, credit was not given in the booklet for the assistance rendered by the Consular Service.

It is a pleasure for American Consular officers in China to cooperate with the representatives of the Department of Commerce in this field, but as pointed out in the despatch from this office dated July 13, 1923, No. 5556, "Changes in the China Monthly Trade Report Compiled by the American Commercial Attaché," such cooperation would undoubtedly be even more cheerfully extended if greater recognition were given in the local publications of the American Trade Commissioners to the assistance rendered by the representatives of the Department of State in China. This would tend, it is believed, to a closer and better relationship between the two departments.

Another instance of the failure of the Shanghai office

of the American Trade Commissioner to give proper credit to the Consular Service in China may not be amiss. In May of this year Miss A. Viola Smith prepared a comprehensive report entitled MOTOR HIGHWAYS IN CHINA, describing in considerable detail the roads of each province. (It is regretted a copy is not available for transmission to the Department.) On page 80 of the report in question, in dealing with the highways of Kwangtung Province, it is stated that:

"The roads are fairly well constructed to meet local conditions. Local road builders do not have to contend with frost, therefore, the main object in road building in this part of China is to put a proper crown on the road for drainage purposes. So far these dirt roads in the interior have withstood the heavy rainfalls in a remarkable manner. The roads which are already built, under construction, or contemplated, total slightly less than 1,000 miles, 535 miles of which are suitable for motor traffic."

Consul J. C. Huston, who as the Department knows was formerly stationed at Canton, states that the foregoing is quoted verbatim from a report which he prepared in December of last year in regard to roads in the Canton Consular District. The previous paragraph of the report in question is also obviously lifted from the report of the Canton Consulate General. Miss Smith, however, does not employ quotation marks in her report, neither does she mention in any way that the information so quoted was obtained from material originally prepared by Consul Huston. It is not unreasonable to assume that material submitted by other Consular officers throughout China has been similarly treated by Miss Smith.

the following () on page 10 of the report in question
to be corrected and copy to be prepared for distribution to
in accordance with the order of each location. (14)
The following is a list of the names of the persons who
are mentioned in the report and who are to be notified of the
same.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant, September 6, 1920

Respectfully,
Edwin S. Cunningham, E.S.C.

American Consul General.

Enclosure:
1/- As stated.

IN QUINTUPLICATE, ENCLOSURE
IN SINGLE COPY.

K/JCH/GBH
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