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Submitted by:.....Julian Arnold..

.....Commercial Attache.....

Shanghai's Most Modern Bank

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The local press carries the following information regarding the completion here in Shanghai of the most modern Chinese banking institution. This notice reads as follows:

"A Model from both the architectural and practical viewpoints, the new building of the Shanghai Commercial and Savings Bank, Ltd., which opened for business on Monday, is recognized by both financiers and builders as one of the most modern bank structures in China.

"A seven-story steel and stone erection, the estimated cost of the building is \$2,000,000. Its entrance is on Ningpo Road and two of its sides face respectively on Peking and Kiangse Roads.

"Besides the library and drawing rooms there are a number of offices on the first floor. The credit and business departments, the office of the general manager, the offices of the secretariat, the chairman of the board of trustees and the auditors' committee; the filing vaults and the stationery department are only a few of the business quarters to be found on the first floor.

"Fireproof Trunks.

"In the filing department are 175 filing cabinets and 24 steel trunks, all fireproof and practically time-proof. All important bank documents will be kept there.

"On the ground floor will be found the account, service, foreign, trust, security and loan departments.

"Accounting machines which never before have been in use in Shanghai banks will be found in the savings department. These machines are sold here by the Office Appliance Company.

"Big Deposit Vaults

"On the same floor will be found the safe deposit vaults, containing 3,000 steel drawers. The main and emergency doors of these vaults are both fire-proof and burglar-proof. They were constructed by the Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company in London and sold by Mustard and Company, local agents.

"The mezzanine floor houses the office of the architect, the real estate, rental, personnel, auditing, trust, godown, public service purchasing and accounting departments. Latest inventions, such as a pneumatic machine to transfer checks to the cashier's department downstairs are found on this floor.

"The basement contains three cash vaults and an electric conveyer, the latter for the purpose of transferring outside cash directly to the bank.

"Teak Wood Furniture

"All furniture for the building is made of teak wood and was supplied by the Taichang, Mou Chuan Tai and Shen Tai companies.

"The electric clocks, fans and sign boards were furnished and installed by Anderson, Meyer and Company.

"One of the novel features of the bank is the Morris slat conveyor, used to transport silver bullion from ferries in the street to the basement strong rooms. This was supplied by Inniss and Riddle, Ltd."

In connection with the above it is interesting to note that the plans for the interior arrangement and equipment of this bank were devised by an American bank expert who was brought from San Francisco especially for the purpose. He is remaining with the bank six months longer to assist in perfect-

of the latest invention are included in the equipment of this remarkable institution.

ing the operations of this the most modern of China's banking institutions. The American equipment in this bank consists of the following items:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Chinese Currency</u>
Elevators.....	\$126,000.
Electric Fans.....	15,000.
Electric Lighting Fixtures.....	25,000.
Miscellaneous Lighting Supplies.....	40,000.
Safe Deposit Vaults.....	225,000.
Book Vaults.....	25,000.
Library Equipment.....	4,000.
Calculating and Bookkeeping Machines.....	144,000.
Radiola (Used in employees' club room).....	<u>2,700.</u>
Total	<u><u>\$636,700.</u></u>

Refrigerating Equipment (Bank Apt. Bldg.)..... 50,000.

Grand Total....\$686,700.

An American visitor to this bank cannot help but draw an analogy with one of the most up to date and one of the larger banking institutions in the United States. Except for the fact that the two hundred or more employes are all Chinese he would have a difficult time persuading himself that he was in a Chinese bank.

One of the most remarkable features of the institution, as the observer beholds it, is that immediately after the staff took over this modernly equipped institution they apparently functioned with the ease of long experienced hands in using the devices which characterize a modern American bank. Calculating and bookkeeping machines, pneumatic tubes, typewriters and numerous other devices of the latest invention are included in the equipment of this remarkable institution.

It has its private offices, various departments, safety deposit boxes, vaults, clubrooms and furnishings which find their duplication in the up to date banks of our large American cities. Thus it represents here in Shanghai, the great commercial metropolis of the Far East, a live demonstration of the latest in American banking equipment and one which will serve as a model for other banking institutions, a number of which are erecting or planning to erect modern establishments.

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Julean Arnold
Commercial Attache