

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ  
PEKING, CHINA

September 27, 1922  
File 531

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Director,  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce,  
Washington.

SUBJECT: Motor car census of Peking, Tientsin and Kalgan.

Sir:

Attached hereto is a chart showing the motor car census of Tientsin with both the nationality of make of the cars and the nationality of the owners indicated. Mr. Calder secured this information from Mr. E. L. Rick of H. S. Honigsberg & Co., an American firm in Tientsin dealing in automobiles. These figures are not absolutely accurate or complete, but are as near to a correct census as it is possible to arrive under the conditions obtaining in Tientsin where motor cars are licensed and registered under five foreign concessions (the municipal areas under control of different foreign governments). The annual cost for motor car license per automobile is about Yuan 12.00, which is a flat rate without reference to the horse power or size of the car.

From these Tientsin figures it will be noted that there are in Tientsin at present a total of 785 motor cars, of which 646 are American made, 41 British, 5 French or Italian, and 27 German.

The American Consul at Kalgan has furnished this office with a statement as to the number of motor vehicles in his district. There are 45 passenger cars, 14 trucks, and three motor cycles (one with side car). Of these 36 or 37 of the passenger cars are owned by firms in Kalgan and used for transporting passengers back and forth between Kalgan and Urga, Mongolia, a distance of 700 miles. Of the fourteen trucks only one is in running order, these having been a part of a Chinese military organization. The trucks are Fiats and are badly in need of repairs. The balance of 8 or 9 passenger cars are owned in Urga and there is one motor truck in Urga.

Figures secured by this office August 28th from the Metropolitan Police of Peking indicate that 1152 automobile licenses have been issued in Peking during 1922 but only 1144 were in operation on August 30th. Of this number 67 are owned by members of the foreign legations, 50 by Chinese Government organizations, 197 by foreign private owners,



218 owned by Chinese garages for hire purposes, and 612 owned privately by Chinese.

As no distinction is made by the Peking police in registering automobiles and trucks, the above figures include several trucks operated by the Chinese Post Office and other Departments, and by foreign firms.

There are 34 motor cycles registered, of which 18 are owned by foreign residents.

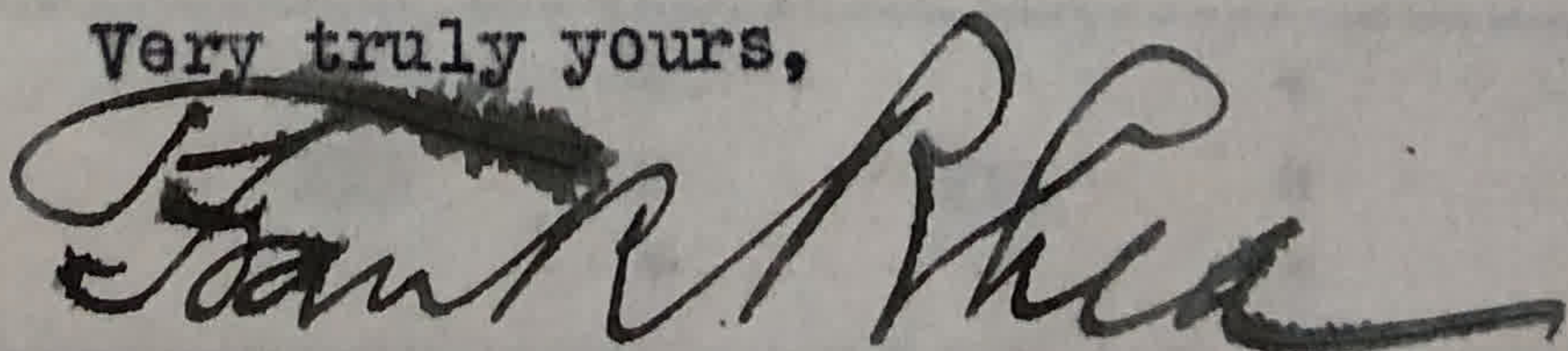
Peking's main thoroughfares running north and south and east and west are kept in fair condition and much has been done in the past year to widen and improve these main arteries. The small side streets, some of which are too narrow for motor cars, are not kept in good repair but many of them are navigable for automobiles. There are about 30 miles of automobile highway in fair condition running west of Peking to the Western Hills. It is now also possible to go from Peking to Tientsin (about 80 miles) over a highway constructed within the past two years.

Motor car licenses in Peking cost Yuan 4. per month or \$44. per annum; motor cycles with side cars \$3. per month, - without side cars \$2. per month. (All figures in Yuan). No data is kept by the registration Bureau as to the makes of cars registered. The license fees are not based on the horse power or size of the car, the rate being the same for all sizes of cars and trucks.

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Miss Smith of the Shanghai office is now endeavoring to revise all the automobile statistics on hand in an effort to formulate a comprehensive reply to the automobile questionnaires sent out by the Bureau some months ago. The above data collected by the Peking office is merely submitted for the Bureau's information pending the more complete data covering the whole of China which it is hoped will be ready to forward in the near future.

Very truly yours,



(FRANK RHEA)

Trade Commissioner, in absence of  
Commercial Attache.

ABC/



Nationality of owners.	NUMBER AND ORIGIN OF MOTOR CARS				NUMBER	
	American	Great Britain	France & Italy	Germany		
American	66	XXX	XXX	XXX		
British	96	33	16	2		
French	17	XXX	16	1		
Chinese	385	7	27	20		
Others	41	XXX	7	3		
Japanese	21	XXX	XXX	1		
British Controlled offices or Cos!	7	1	XXX	XXX		
American Controlled	6	XXX	XXX	XXX		
French Controlled	7	XXX	XXX	XXX		
<u>646</u>				<u>41</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>27</u>

Total 785