

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHE
AMERICAN LEGATION
PEKING, CHINA

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
CABLE ADDRESS:
AMCOMAT, PEKING.

December 19, 1923

Subject: Data for Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

REC'D.

22 JAN 1924

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| 7 | 19 | 4 | 12 |
|---|----|---|----|

To Director
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
Washington.

RECEIVED IN
FILES SECTION

From Julean Arnold, Commercial Attache.

FEB 13 1924

Sir:

Dr. Y. S. Tsao, President of Tsing Hua College, the institution which is training Chinese students for American colleges under the Boxer Indemnity Fund, has interested himself in a project to organize an association for the education of the Chinese merchants to an appreciation of the possibilities of their chambers of commerce along constructive lines.

Dr. Tsao has secured very considerable material from continental chambers of commerce and I have furnished him a certain amount of data regarding the organization and functions of American chambers of commerce.

I am now desirous of securing for him some helpful material descriptive of the work of the American chambers of commerce which will be helpful in his plan of education for the Chinese merchants. The Bureau will be performing a very helpful service by way of encouraging development of the modern chamber of commerce idea in China if it can secure for me some motion picture films depicting the activities of some of our commercial organizations. It would seem that the United States Chamber of Commerce might be very helpful in this connection.

I consider this an unusually good opportunity to do some constructive work in aiding the business men of China to a better appreciation of the possibilities of organized efforts in furtherance of an improvement in the economic conditions obtaining in this country.

I have written very considerably on the subject of the possibilities of educational and industrial films in China and I consider the motion picture film depicting the development and activities of the American Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations as offering a particularly effective opportunity for substantial results in connection with the use of the motion picture film. I would suggest that Commerce Reports carry an editorial article on this subject.

A: JW

Very truly yours,

Julean Arnold
Commercial Attache.

TRADE COMMISSIONER
3 CANTON ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ SERVICE

SHANGHAI Feb. 4, 1924
File 713.2

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|---|----|----|
| B.F.D.C. | 4 MAR 1924 | 7 | 19 | 12 |
| REC'D. | | | | |

Subject: Booklet - Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

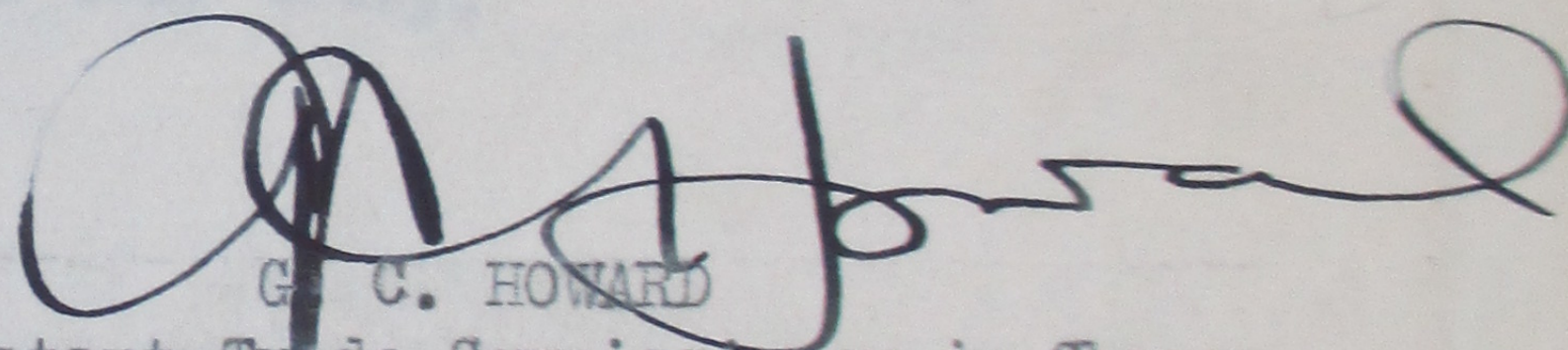
*File in China
book case 19*

Director,
Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce,
Washington.

Sir: Attention Far Eastern Division

As of possible interest to the Far Eastern Division,
we are forwarding herewith a booklet describing the Chinese
General Chamber of Commerce at Shanghai showing pictures
of a number of its members, buildings, etc.

Very truly yours,


G. C. HOWARD
Assistant Trade Commissioner in Charge

Enc. Booklet as above

H:G

Chief, Foreign Service Division

184

February 5, 1924.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|---|----|
| U.S.D.C. | 8 APR 1924 | V | 12 |
|----------|------------|---|----|

Mr. Julian Arnold, Commercial Attache,
Care American Legation,
Peking, China.

43

Subject: Chinese Chamber of Commerce Bulletin

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Your letter of December 19, pertaining to motion picture films depicting the activities of some of our commercial organizations, has been received in the Bureau.

In reply thereto, we wish to state that we are endeavoring to procure films of various kinds from the Bureau of Mines, and as soon as they are received they will be forwarded to you.

Yours very truly,

Very truly yours,

A. S. Chadwick,
Chief, Supplies & Equip. Section.

Forwarded:

W:G Walter L. Miller,
Chief, Foreign Service Division.
eh-ds

TRADE COMMISSIONER
3 CANTON ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ SERVICE

SHANGHAI

April 23, 1924.

Subject: Shanghai Chinese General Chamber
of Commerce.

Director,
Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce,
Washington.

Sir:

Attention: Far Eastern Division

During the past few months, largely as a result of our motion picture activities, intimate contacts have been established between this office and the officials of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce (Chinese) particularly the Secretary of this Chinese Chamber, Mr. Zee Ko Seng, which are resulting in an opportunity to discuss informally the various problems faced by this organization in a way which appears to offer an excellent occasion for closer cooperation between our own American Chamber of Commerce and the Bureau's interests on behalf of American trade promotion and protection in China.

Mr. Zee, the secretary, was formerly in Y.M.C.A. work in China and being the first active secretary of this tremendously influential Chinese organization is ideally equipped with his knowledge of the English language, and American methods of organization and publicity, to serve this organization which in a city the size and character of Shanghai is placed in such immediate and intimate contact with Europeans, Americans and foreign organizations.

This Chinese organization with a membership of over 600 have a large group of buildings devoted exclusively to their activities, including an assembly hall for 1000 people, reception rooms, offices, school rooms for commercial courses, servants living quarters and a commercial museum with attached sales department all of which compare very favorably with any like institution abroad and the entire group of buildings are a decided credit to the organization.

The

22
23

The secretary classifies the Chairman, Mr. Sung and the Vice Chairman, Mr. Fong, terms corresponding to our own President and Vice President in similar organization, as old style, ultra-conservative, 100% Chinese, but exceedingly broad minded and unbiased in their opinion. Mr. Fong and one other director have for some time been desirous of becoming members of the Shanghai International Chamber of Commerce feeling that this was their duty in full justice to efficient representation of Chinese business interests. The other directors have opposed this idea, basing their opposition on the interpretation of "international" as "foreign" and something apart from Chinese inclusion but are slowly giving way to the pressure of the more progressive and fair minded directors.

24

Realizing the need for reliable information on the Chinese firms in Shanghai transacting business with foreign merchants resident in Shanghai and the increasing number of Chinese firms endeavoring to deal directly with manufactures outside of China, this Chinese Chamber has recently established a registration office where all Chinese firms, regardless of membership in the Chamber of Commerce, may register and on due investigation of standing receive a certificate of registration which while far from being a 100 per cent reliable is certainly a step in the right direction and in time will furnish a service hitherto entirely lacking in the Shanghai business community.

29

The directors of this Chinese organization are also interested in equipping their assembly hall with a motion picture machine in order to encourage the exhibition of foreign commercial and industrial films which has been given decided impetus by our own activities in this field.

That such a large and potentially influential organization has been so unproductive of results in furthering its own interests and that of the community at large seems thus largely accounted for by this period of transition from the old order to the new which cannot be accomplished overnight and which seems the common ailment of the long established Chinese institutions in China today.

Very truly yours,

John H. Nelson

John H. Nelson,
Assistant Trade Commissioner.

Approved:

G. G. Howard
Trade Commissioner.

N/Y