

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES Shanghai, January 30,

SHANGHAI, China Jan. 30, 1948
(City) (Country) (Date)

Submitted by: Frank N. W. Doodha Clerk
(Name) (Title)

GPO

11-5651

Subject: Present day Shanghai

Mr. Calder: details already given by you together with population, living activities; housing problems, however, the following I know this is a rather long-winded affair, however, I have tried to include all the items of possible interest in the following pages. Please use the info. in whatever fashion you may want and ditch the others.

Food: Pinned foodstuffs: Practically all American canned foods are obtainable; Army surplus canned provisions still obtainable in large quantities. Chinese-style and foreign style restaurants very popular and always jammed with patrons. Expensive and inadequate transportation facilities cause office workers to eat in the down-town district home rush on restaurants.

Rice: the native staple food still very expensive - a million a bushel and a half dollars per bushel.

Clothing: Cost of clothing extremely high. Tailoring charges prohibitively high in comparison with pre-war days. It costs \$30. to \$50.- for tailoring charges alone to make a man's suit.

Fuel: Gasoline is rationed but practically every filling station sells gas at a premium of about 10% over the official retail price; similarly with fuel oil and kerosene oil.

Coal: Very expensive -- can be gotten at black market rates at around a million and a half dollars per ton.

Transportation: Trans ocean lines (international) are well represented in Shanghai. Passenger space on trans-Pacific liners still difficult and congested. Semi-passenger-freighters to Europe less crowded.

Railway and inland surface travel: Very congested and difficult to obtain passage. Foreign shipping still barred on inland routes. In spite of supplemented supplies of rails and engines, there is a definite shortage of railways and rolling stock.

Local traffic conditions: Abominable-- too many non-powered vehicles operating in the city.

Street cars and taxis and busses: Totally inadequate to cope with local demands. Most of the larger foreign and Chinese firms provide bus or truck transportation for their staff.

Taxicab services: Inadequate number of vehicles--those in operation are mainly cabs. Charges about US\$1.00 per trip of 20 mins.

ECONOMIC
DIMENSIONS
OF THE
WORLD
COMMERCE
BUREAU

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BU. F. AND D. COM.—Form 457

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

SHANGHAI, China Jan. 30, 1948
(City) (Country) (Date)

Submitted by: Frank N. W. Doodha Clerk
(Name) (Title)

CITY OF SHANGHAI, China: In spite of increased admittance, all theaters; practically every movie-house is full throughout the three days. Dancing halls are full every night. Geographical details already given by you together with population, building activities; housing problems, however, the following may be of interest if the info. can be 'squeezed in' in concise form.

Hotels and Boarding houses: Already covered by you.

Food situation: Adequate supplies of meat, fish and vegetables-- prices high. Construction: Already covered by you.

Tinned foodstuffs: Practically all wellknown makes of American tinned foods are obtainable; Army surplus canned provisions still obtainable in large quantities. Chinese-style and foreign style restaurants very popular and always jammed with patrons. Expensive and inadequate transportation facilities cause office workers to eat in the down-town district hence rush on restaurants. Rice--the native staple food still very expensive -- a million ~~and~~ ^{and} a half dollars per picul. T.T. Grade No. 1 Fresh milk available. Clothing: Cost of clothing extremely high. Tailoring charges prohibitively high in comparison with pre-war days. during epidemics It costs US\$30. to \$50.- for tailoring charges alone to make a man's suit.

Shops and stores: Native stores and shops have sprung up like mushrooms. Fuel: Gasoline is rationed but practically every filling station sells gas at a premium of about 10% over the official retail price; similarly with fuel oil and kerosene oil. actual purchasers are few. Department stores are not enjoying profitable business and look for a decline.

Coal: Very expensive -- can be gotten at black market rates at around a million and a half dollars per ton. there is very little difference in price, especially ^{steamship} which ~~can~~ can be made locally.

Transportation: Trans-ocean lines (international) are well represented in Shanghai. Passenger space on trans-Pacific liners still difficult and congested. Semi-passenger-freighters to Europe less crowded.

Railway and inland surface travel: Very congested and difficult to obtain passage. Foreign shipping still barred on inland routes. In spite of supplemented supplies of rails and engines, there is a definite shortage of railways and rolling stock. ^{UNARRA}

Local traffic conditions: Abominable-- too many man-powered vehicles operating in the city.

Street cars, and taxis and busses: Totally inadequate to cope with local demands. Most of the larger foreign and Chinese firms provide bus or truck transportation for their staff.

Taxicab service: Inadequate number of vehicles--those in operation are mainly derelicts. Charges about US\$1.00 per trip of 20 mins.

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

(City) (Country) (Date)

Submitted by: _____
GPO 11-8851 (Name) (Title)

Entertainment and theaters: In spite of increased admittance charges practically every movie-house is full throughout the three or four performances each day. Dancing halls are full every night --- present austerity program may force all of them to close down gradually.

Hotels and Boarding houses: Already covered by you.

Housing and construction: Already covered by you.

Local street and road maintenance: Practically nothing has been done in this respect. Streets are in terrible condition with no repairs although special motor car taxes were levied for that purpose.

Public Health and Sanitation: Pretty bad. Streets are littered with exposed garbage and manholes are uncovered. Street lighting extremely poor and inadequate. Beggars and refugees bring more disease and sickness into the city. No compulsory inoculation enforced by Health authorities. Feeble attempts were made by the Health Bureau to give free cholera and small pox shots to the natives during epidemics but none too successful.

Shops and stores: Native stores and shops have sprung up like mushrooms all over the city. There is hardly any vacant shop space in the city. Investors would rather keep stocks and open up stores rather than hold currency. Customers and actual purchasers are few. Department stores are not enjoying profitable business and look dead and dismal. Majority of stores and shops stock imported and locally manufactured items. On many items there is very little difference in price, especially on items which ~~are~~ can be made locally.

Public Parks: In advanced stage of disrepair however they are well patronized by the natives.

Air lines: Practically all international airlines are represented in this city and bookings can be made here. Only one civilian air-port --Lunghwa Air Port -- recently renovated and enlarged to accommodate largest airliners.

Liquors: Choice of all foreign imported brands available at very high price. On prohibited list of imports but they managed to come into the local market.

Local Police: Best to avoid being involved in this city as there is distinct anti-foreignism among the police force. Policemen are ill paid, undisciplined and lackadaisical in the performance of their duties. Bribery rampant.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

(City) (Country) (Date)

Submitted by: _____ (Name) _____ (Title) _____
Number of Americans and business firms: You have ready covered.

GPO 11-2881

Customs formalities: Undue and unnecessary red tape.--examiners are none too cooperative. Briberies rampant.

Public Utilities: Telephone service passable--shortage of equipment and over load.

Power and domestic electricity supply: Restrictions and fines--output totally inadequate for city of this size.

Water: Adequate for time being and drinkable in ex-foreign concession sections.(without boiling).

Recreational facilities: Majority of foreign owned recreation clubs functioning; ~~some~~ facilities for golf, tennis, swimming, baseball, football, soccer, soft ball, bowling, cricket, volley ball etc., Several international clubs cater to all nationalities. Excellent golf links in outskirts of city.

Two large American Clubs with room and board facilities.

Highways: With the exception of the Shanghai-Hangchow Highway, the main arteries to adjoining cities are still in state of disrepair although road repairing machinery and equipment are kept in state of disuse. Lack of funds and trained personnel (engineers) were reasons advanced by the authorities.

Ferries: A truck and car ferry comenced operation linking Shanghai and Pootung in the down town area during the early part of 1948. The Whangpoo River Ferry at Minghong ~~ix~~ consist of two surplus LCM's which is able to convey ten automobiles across the river.

Automobiles: Practically all makes of new American cars are to be found in this city. A new Plymouth 1946 Model 4 door sedan is sold at US\$5,500.-

Restrictions on import and license in recent months have affected the local car market. However, a new license can be obtained by the payment of a US\$200. bribe to the authorities.

Cigarettes and tobacco: American and British imported cigarettes are sold in abundance throughout the city.

Beauty Parlors and Barber Shops: Adequate and fairly good--catering to foreigners and natives.

Dress salons and tailors: Plentiful but prices extremely high.

Servants and domestic help: Plentiful but wages are high.

Radio Broadcasting stations: With exception of two English speaking stations all other broadcasts are in Chinese. All Chinese owned and operated. Foreigners are not allowed to operate broadcasting stations.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BU. F. AND D. COM.—Form 457

ECONOMIC AND TRADE NOTES

(City) (Country) (Date)

Submitted by: -----
Number of ^(Name) Americans and business firms: You have ^(Title) already covered.

Churches: Adequate both Protestants and Catholics. Practically all denominations represented by missions.

Schools: Four or five foreign owned and operated--pretty congested and fees are exceptionally high. Fees for Junior High grade are around US\$40.- per month. ~~Max~~

Banking facilities: 15 foreign banks (comprising American, British, French, Belgian, Dutch, USSR) and 190 Chinese banks plus another 300 small native banks.

Insurance: All types of insurance and coverage available--foreign and Chinese companies.

Consulates, Legations and Embassies: American, British, Belgian, French, Chilean, Panamanian, Danish, Dominican, Estonian, Finnish, Indian, Greek, Portuguese, Paraguain, Polish, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, USSR and Austrianian.

Doctors and Physicians: Plentiful -- all nationalities including specialists and dentists.

Veterinary surgeons: Adequate.

Hospitals: There are over 100 registered hospitals including four or five foreign ones. Sufficient to meet local foreign demands.

Legal practitioners: Adequate in number- American, British, Chinese, French and Russian etc.,

Medicines and drugs: Imported drugs are available at black market prices. Rare drugs scarce.

Newspapers: Three foreign language newspapers-- two morning editions and one American evening.

Photographic supplies: Films for still and movie cameras --limited Stocks. Numerous photo studios.

Radiogram and cables: Adequate and good.
Radio-telephone service to all USA available.

Miscellaneous prohibited import merchandise, such as, cosmetics, watches, radios, fountain pens etc., are to be found in abundance in the city. If ~~we~~ were to base cost of living expenses in terms of US dollars at the black market rate of exchange, many items will be found cheaper than pre-war.-----
fnwd. *J. J. J.*