

Report from Envoys Chen Lanbin and Yung Wing who were sent on a mission to the United States, Spain and Peru to open consulates;

After we were sent on a mission to the United States, Spain and Peru, we reported that since there are many Chinese people in San Francisco of the U.S., Cuba of Spain, and Callao of Peru, we should appoint consuls and other diplomats to handle various issues. We presented the Credentials when we arrived in the United States, and we found that there are over 140,000 Chinese people living in different states of the United States. San Francisco area alone has about 60,000, and more than half of them are laborers. Recently because the Westerners from outside [probably outside of SF] and the local laborers cannot get along, we must appoint consuls and other diplomats to protect [the Chinese people] as soon as possible. We have discussed thoroughly, and we found Chen Shutang, the diplomatic attaché and official candidate for Circuit Intendant, wise and prudent enough to be the Consul General in San Francisco. Moreover, there are too many issues that involve diplomatic negotiations in San Francisco, so we believed when we first open our Consulate General, we need Westerners who are familiar with the situation to assist us. We have investigated and found Mr. Frederick Bee, a gentleman in San Francisco, who has previously helped the Chinese people settle disputes, worthy of the appointment, and he should be

appointed as a Consul to work together with Chen Shutang. We have already sent the official appointment letter on the fourteenth day of the tenth month [Nov. 8, 1878], and the next day [Nov. 9, 1878] we also sent a diplomatic note to the United States Department of State. The note was submitted to the President to sign and approve on the eighteenth day [Nov. 12, 1878]. The two documents [appointment letters?] were sent [to the ones who were appointed?]. We also presented Chen Shutang a wooden seal with the inscription of “The Seal of the Consul General of the Great Qing”. According to the report, he has assumed the office on the twentieth day of the eleventh month [Dec. 13, 1878]. So now we are reporting the reasons for the appointments of the Consul General and other diplomats.

Imperial decree received:

“File the report with the Office [in charge of Affairs of All Nations]”.