

**RECENT CHINESE  
LEGISLATION RELATING TO  
COMMERCIAL, RAILWAY  
AND MINING ENTERPRISES**

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Recent Chinese Legislation Relating to Commercial, Railway and Mining Enterprises by E. T. Williams

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**E. T. WILLIAMS**

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AND MINING ENTERPRISES**



# RECENT CHINESE LEGISLATION

RELATING TO

## Commercial, Railway and Mining Enterprises.

TRANSLATED BY

E. T. WILLIAMS,

CHINESE SECRETARY, U. S. LEGATION, PEKING.

— 503 —

Shanghai:

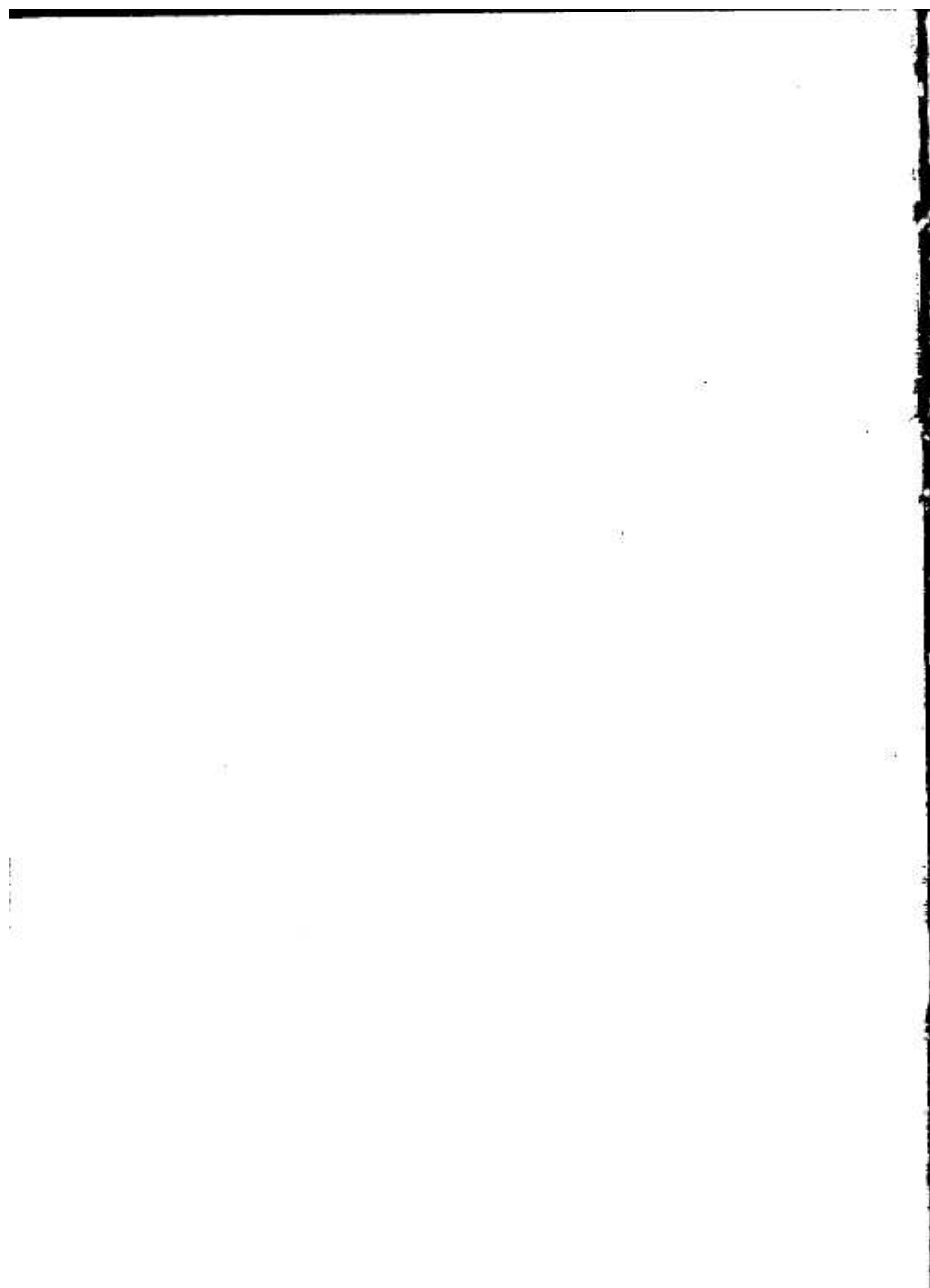
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1904.

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## IMPERIAL EDICT.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE PEKING GAZETTE  
OF APRIL 22nd, 1903.

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Commerce and the encouragement of industries have ever been from ancient times to the present matters of real importance to governments, but according to an old tradition, WE have looked upon industries and commerce as matters of the last importance. That the policy of the Government and the labor of the people result in daily increasing poverty can have no other reason than this. It is most necessary, therefore, that changes be made that will be of general advantage, and greater attention than ever ought to be given to the matter.

Recently WE received a report from the Bureau of National Administration in reply to the memorial of Prince Tsai-chen, requesting that a Board of Commerce should be established. WE have already issued an Edict sanctioning the proposal.



Now WE appoint Prince Tsai-chen, Yüan Shih-k'ai and Wu T'ing-fang to arrange, first of all, a Code of Commercial Laws, which may serve for a standard. After the compilation of these commercial laws shall have been completed and presented in a memorial, and approval given to them, WE shall select a high official to organize and manage a Board of Commerce. As to the methods to be employed to introduce industries and to improve the conditions of commerce, let Prince Tsai-chen and his associates carefully consider the matter and petition for an Edict sanctioning their proposals, all of which, it is hoped, may put an end to the old attitude of officials and unite all in one spirit, that there may not be the least division of sentiment to become a source of trouble. It is more than ever necessary that no effort be spared to give the protection and assistance needed\*, so that to some extent commercial matters may be improved and daily grow more prosperous, thus increasing the wealth of the people and nourishing the roots of the State. This is OUR earnest hope. "Respect This."

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\*That is, by commerce and manufactures.

IMPERIAL EDICT.

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1903.

Now that encouragement is being given to commercial pursuits it becomes necessary to establish a Board of Commerce. WE therefore now appoint Tsai-chen to the post of President of the said Board, Wu T'ing-fang\* to be First Vice-President, and Ch'en Pi† to be Second Vice-President.

Let the said President and Vice-Presidents make satisfactory arrangements for the management of the matters that fall to the control of the said Board, and report in a memorial to US. "Respect This."

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\*Wu T'ing-fang has since been transferred to the Board of Foreign Affairs.

†Ch'en Pi promoted to succeed Wu T'ing-fang as First Vice-President, has himself been succeeded as Second Vice-President by Ku Chaoshin.

IMPERIAL EDICT.

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ABOLISHING BUREAU OF RAILWAYS AND MINES  
AND TRANSFERRING THESE INTERESTS TO  
THE BOARD OF COMMERCE.

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Some time ago WE issued an Edict, appointing Wang Wen-shao, Ch'u Hung-chi, and Chang I to take charge of railway and mining affairs. Having now established a Board of Commerce, all matters connected with railways and mines ought to be put under its control.

Let the General Bureau of Railways and Mines be abolished. "Respect This."

Issued Sept. 26th, 1903.

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