

Chinese Diplomatic Mission in Korea in the Post-Sino-Japanese War Period: The Terms of Consul General Tang Shaoyi and Legate Xu Shoupeng

LEE Eun Ja, Kyungwon University

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Chinese Diplomatic Mission in Korea in the Post-Sino-Japanese War Period: The Terms of Consul General Tang Shaoyi and Legate Xu Shoupeng

This study analyzes the historical genealogy and status of Chinese diplomatic offices and missions in Korea after the First Sino-Japanese War, focusing on the tenures of Consul General Tang Shaoyi (1897-1899) and Legate Xu Shoupeng (1899-1901). *Cheongan* (淸案) and *Historical Materials on China-Japan-Korea Relations in the Late Qing Dynasty* (清季中日韓關係史料) are used as primary source materials.

Consul General Tang Shaoyi was sent to Korea to handle Joseon's repeated request for signing a treaty of amity with China. However, because there was no diplomatic treaty between the two nations when Tang first got to Korea, he was not recognized by the Korean government as an official diplomat. His duty, of course, was protecting Chinese nationals. However, given that China was a protectorate of Great Britain, Tang had to go through the British Consul for matters regarding negotiations and litigations on behalf of Chinese nationals in Korea. The diplomatic offices during the days of Tang were similar in size to the trade bureau during the days of General Trade Commissioner Chen Shutang before the Sino-Japanese War.

Legate Xu Shoupeng was the first diplomat sent to Korea based on the Treaty of Trade and Commerce between Korea and China. Xu came to Korea as Minister Plenipotentiary to conclude the treaty between Korea and China at the end of 1898. Through some six months of negotiations between the two countries, he concluded the Treaty of Trade and Commerce between the Qing dynasty and the Great Han Empire in September 1899. According to the provisions of Article 2 of the Treaty of Trade and Commerce between Korea and China, he was appointed the first Chinese envoy to Korea. During Xu's tenure, Chinese diplomatic offices in Korea were reorganized. The Legation, Hanseong Consulate General, Incheon Consulate, Busan Consulate, and Jeungnampo Vice-Consulate were established.

This study of Chinese diplomatic offices in Korea after the First Sino-Japanese War can serve as a point of comparison for studies on other countries' diplomatic offices in Korea as well as for studies on Chinese diplomatic offices in other countries. In turn, this larger corpus of research on diplomatic offices could serve to enhance the understanding of the status of Chinese diplomatic offices in Korea from a macroscopic perspective.

Keywords: Chinese diplomatic offices in Korea, Great Han Empire, Tang Shaoyi, Xu Shoupeng, Korea-China Treaty of Trade and Commerce

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I. Introduction

This essay reconstructs the historical circumstances surrounding the re-establishment of Chinese diplomatic presence in Korea in the years immediately following the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese War, examining the roles and activities of the diplomats successively stationed by the Qing government during this period. This paper focuses on the term of Tang Shaoyi as the Chinese Consul General to Korea (1897-1899) and that of Legate Xu Shoupeng (1899-1901). The years under Legate Xu Taishen (1901-1905) and Ceng Guangquan (1905), discussed in the original version of this paper, are not covered here due to limited space.

The present essay follows up on my earlier study on the Chinese legation and other forms of Chinese diplomatic presence in Korea, covering the period prior to the Sino-Japanese War.¹ The post-Sino-

¹ Lee, Eun-ja (이은자). (2009). Gachanggi juhan Jungguk gonggwon yeongu – Cheong-Il Jeonjaeng ijeon sigi (1883-1864)-reul jungsimeuro (개항기 주한 중국 공관 연구-청일전쟁 이전 시기(1883-1894

Japanese war period is the portion of the history of diplomatic relations between Korea and China that has thus far received little attention from researchers. Although some recent research casts light on topics such as border issues and trade agreements between the Great Han Empire and Qing China, many areas of the diplomatic interaction between the two countries during this period still remain unexplored. The turn of the 20th century was an important period of transition in the Sino-Korean relationship, during which Korea broke out of the traditional mold of the Chinese tributary system and began to interact with China as an equal. In spite of the unique significance of this period, the existing literature on this chapter of the diplomatic history between the two countries remains patchy, and little is known about the Chinese legation and other institutions officially representing China in Korea.²

In this paper, I examine China's Korea policy in the aftermath of the Sino-Japanese War and the circumstances surrounding the establishment of a Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea and its role and activities, including its organization and personnel composition. This discussion relies heavily on two primary sources: Cheongan, Joseon diplomatic documents related to Qing China from the turn of the 20th

년)를 중심으로, The Chinese diplomatic presence in Korea during the “opening period”: The pre-Sino-Japanese War years (1883-1894). In *Gaehanggi juhan oeguk gongwan yeongu* (개항기 주한 외국 공관 연구; Foreign diplomatic presence in Korea during the “port-opening period”). Seoul: Northeast Asian History Foundation.

² Seo, Yeong-hui (서영희). (2006). Han-Cheong tongsang joyak ihu Han-Jung oegyo-ui silje-wa sangho insik (한청통상조약 이후 한중 외교의 실제와 상호 인식, Korea-China diplomatic relations following the conclusion of the Sino-Korean Treaty of Trade and Commerce and SinoKorean mutual perception). In *Dongbuka Yeoksa Nonchong* (동북아역사논총; Northeast Asian History Paper Series) 13.

Cai, Jian (蔡建). (2004). Dahan diguo yu Zhongguo de waijiao guanxi: 1897-1910 (大韓帝國與中國的外交關係: 1897-1910, Great Han Empire-China diplomatic relations: 1897-1910). (Doctoral dissertation, Fudan University, 2004).

Bai, Xin Liang (白新良) (Ed.). (2002). *Zhong-Zhao guanxishi: Ming Qing shiqi* (中朝關係史-明清時期, History of China-Korea relations during the Ming-Qing period). (Chptr. 10). Beijing: Shijie Zhishi Chubanshe.

century, and *Qingji Zhongrihan Guanxi Shiliao* (Sources on the Relationships between China, Japan, and Korea during the Qing Period).³ These books constitute the two most important sources on Sino-Korean relations during the so-called “port-opening period” and provide a wealth of information on Chinese diplomatic bodies and institutions. However, thus far, they have never been used as primary source materials in a study on this period. This study, therefore, is the first comprehensive attempt to chronicle the Chinese diplomatic presence in Korea during the post-Sino-Japanese War years.

II. China’s Korea Policy in the Post-Sino-Japanese War Period and the Establishment of a Diplomatic Legation

On June 17, 1894,⁴ Imperial Resident of Korea Yuan Shikai notified the Joseon government that he was returning to China and that his duties would be temporarily transferred during his absence to Trade Commissioner Tang Shaoyi. On the same day, the Joseon government received notification from Tang Shaoyi that he would serve as the acting Imperial Resident of Korea during Yuan Shikai’s absence.⁵ However, on June 21, barely four days after Tang Shaoyi took office, the Japanese army attacked the Chinese Legation, forcing the legate and his personnel

³ Cheongan (清案). (1970-1971). In Korea University Asiatic Research Center (고려대학교 아세아 문예연구소) (Ed.). *Guhanguk oegyo munseo* (舊韓國外交文書, Diplomatic papers of Old Korea) (Vol. 8-9). Seoul: Korea University Press.

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料, Sources on China-Japan-Korea relations during the Late Qing period). (1972). In Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History (中央研究院近代史研究所) (Ed.). *Zhongguo jindaishi ziliao huibian* (中國近代史資料彙編). Taipei: Academia Sinica Institute of Modern.

⁴ All dates are given according to the lunar calendar, and corresponding Gregorian dates are provided between the parentheses, when necessary.

⁵ Cheongan (清案) 2. June 17 of the 31st year of Gojong’s reign (Document No.1827); Cheongan (清案) 2 (p. 320). June 17 of the 31st year of Gojong’s reign (Document No.1828, p. 320).

to take refuge in the British Consulate. On July 4, Tang Shaoyi returned to China via the Port of Tianjin. Before taking flight, he put in a request to the Acting Consul General of Great Britain for the protection of Chinese merchants and their assets in Joseon.⁶

The Qing government, however, did not feel at ease about leaving a large number of Chinese merchants—some 4,000 of them—in Joseon territory in the care of the British Consulate. Thus, the following year, on October 15, 1895, Tang Shaoyi was sent back to Joseon under the unofficial title of Zongshangdong (General Trade Councilor). Then, another year later, on October 16, 1896, Tang Shaoyi was promoted to Consul General so that he would be vested with the authority to negotiate a Sino-Korean trade protocol with the Joseon government. However, the Joseon government, which had declared void the Sino-Korean Land and Maritime Trade Regulations (朝清商民水陸貿易章程) shortly after the end of the Sino-Japanese War, refused to acknowledge the diplomatic authority of the Consul General. Therefore, despite the fact that Tang Shaoyi was stationed in Joseon, under the varyingly officious titles of General Trade Councilor and Consul General, the legal authority over the protection of Qing merchants was still held by the Consul General of Great Britain.

The Joseon authorities wished to dispatch Korean envoys to China in order to negotiate a bilateral treaty in China. They put in a request to this effect with the Qing government through Tang Shaoyi, although his title “General Trade Councilor” carried no official authority. In order to stop Joseon from dispatching envoys to China, Tang Shaoyi proposed the appointment of a consul general to Korea. The consul general would

⁶ Kwon, Seok-bong. (권석봉) (1984). *Cheong-Il Jeonjaeng ihu-ui Han-Cheong gwangye yeongu* (1894-1898) (청일전쟁 이후의 韓淸關係 연구(1894-1898), Korea-Qing China Relations during the Post-Sino-Japanese War period (1894-1898)). In *Cheong-Il Jeonjaeng-eul jeonhuhan Hanguk-gwa yeolgang* (청일전쟁을 전후한 한국과 열강, Korea and foreign powers around the time of the Sino-Japanese War) (pp. 192-201). Seoul: Academy of Korean Studies.

have the authority to negotiate a trade protocol with Korea. The idea was that unless Joseon first signed a treaty with China, the latter would not receive envoys from it or exchange diplomatic documents with it. Therefore, it was following Tang Shaoyi's suggestion that the Qing Chinese government promoted him from Zongshangdong to Zonglingshi and re-dispatched him in this new capacity. However, realizing that Qing China now had to respond to Joseon's demand for a bilateral treaty in one way or another, Tang Shaoyi made a new suggestion to his government. He advised that before Korea sends its envoys, China should dispatch a delegation carrying official state documents. At the time, China was mulling over the means and process of concluding a modern treaty with Joseon, which had once been its vassal state. Regarding the matter, Tang Shaoyi proposed that China, the larger state, should dispatch its envoys to Korea (Joseon changed its name to Great Han Empire (Daehan Jeguk) in October 1897) before Korea sends its delegation to China. This was based on precedents that had been set by Western powers. The Chinese government heeded Tang Shaoyi's suggestion and sent its envoys, carrying an official state missive, to negotiate the bilateral treaty with Korea on its behalf. The two governments signed the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce on August 7, 1899 (September 11, 1899 according to the Gregorian calendar) and resumed diplomatic relations.⁷

Article 2 of the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce provides for the stationing of Chinese diplomats and the establishment of a Chinese legation in Korea. The article stipulates that one country may

⁷ For further reading on Korea-China relations in post-Sino-Japanese War years, see Lee, Eun-Ja (이은자). (2009). *Gaehang-gi juhan Jungguk gonggwwan yeongu*: Cheong-Il Jeonjaeng ijeon sigi(1883-1894)-reul jungsim-euro (개항기 주한 중국 공관 연구-청일전쟁 이전 시기(1883-1894년)를 중심으로, Chinese diplomatic presence in Korea during the "port-opening period": The pre-Sino-Japanese War years (1883-1894)). In *Gaehanggi juhan oeguk gonggwwan yeongu* (개항기의 제한 외 국공관 연구, Studies on foreign diplomatic presence in Korea during the "port-opening period"). Seoul: Northeast Asian History Foundation.

station a legate in the capital of the other country and establish a consulate or other diplomatic missions in areas where bilateral trade is authorized. In other words, the article enabled the official dispatch of legates and consuls between the two countries. Meanwhile, Article 5 of the same treaty accorded consular jurisdiction to both countries.⁸ This was a major departure from the Sino-Korean Land and Maritime Trade Regulations of 1882. Under the 1882 agreement, Chinese trade commissioners to Joseon were not appointed by the emperor but by the Minister of Beiyang and were stationed in Hanseong and other open ports. Joseon trade commissioners to China, on the other hand, were appointed by the king and were stationed in Tianjin only. The agreement was also unequal concerning the jurisdiction granted to trade commissioners. Whilst Chinese trade commissioners enjoyed consular jurisdiction within Joseon territory, the same power was denied to Joseon trade commissioners in China. In other words, although both countries could send trade and commerce commissioners to each other in areas designated for open trade, there was clear inequality in terms of the appointment of consular diplomats and their rights and power within the host country.⁹ In effect, the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce was the first written agreement between the two countries stipulating “equal” terms for both countries’ diplomats or diplomatic missions.

⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. July 20 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No.3617, pp. 5227-5234).

National Assembly Library Legislative Research Bureau (국회도서관 입법조사국). (1965) *Gu-Hanguk mal joyak hwichan* (舊韓末條約彙纂, Compendium of international treaties and agreements from Late Joseon to the Great Han Empire Period) (Book II, pp. 369-389).

⁹ Lee, Eun-ja. (2009). op. cit.. pp. 145-147.

III. Term of Consul General Tang Shaoyi (1897-1899)¹⁰

1. The Appointment and the Consul General's Rights and Responsibilities

On October 15, 1895, the Chinese government dispatched Tang Shaoyi to Korea as General Trade Councilor. This was per the suggestion of Yuan Shikai, the former Imperial Resident of China in Joseon. To justify the need for stationing a Trade Councilor, Yuan Shikai invoked two reasons: firstly, Qing Chinese merchants in Joseon, who numbered up to 4,000 at the time, could not be adequately protected by the British diplomatic mission, which is unfamiliar with Chinese customs and practices. Secondly, China needed to collect a loan of some 200,000 nyang (traditional Korean unit of currency) that it had extended to Joseon. The loan consisted, in part, of the money China had advanced for diplomatic envoys' expenses, and in part, of loans provided by Lunchuan Zhaoshangju, a Chinese steamer company. Yuan Shikai proposed the title "General Trade Councilor" for the post. The principal duties would be to oversee trade affairs involving Chinese nationals, serve as the mediator vis-à-vis the British Consul General concerning any issues requiring negotiations with the Joseon government, collect loan payments, and report to the Qing government on any major developments.¹¹ The Chinese government accepted Yuan Shikai's suggestion and chose¹² Tang Shaoyi as General Trade Councilor on the basis of his long years of

¹⁰ His term began when the Consul arrived in Joseon and not when he was appointed to the post. Similarly, his term ended upon his departure from Joseon

¹¹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. September 19 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No.3028, pp. 4516-4517).

¹² *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. October 15 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No.3078, p. 4563).

service in Joseon and familiarity with the local language and practices. Tang Shaoyi's first post in Joseon was in 1882 as the assistant of Paul George von Möllendorff, then Vice Consul General of Germany in Tianjin. He was recommended by Ma Jianzhong to accompany the German diplomat on a mission at Joseon's maritime customs office. Yuan Shikai soon took notice of his diplomatic skills and proficiency in English and made Tang Shaoyi his right-hand man in Joseon affairs. After serving as the English translator at the Hanseong Legation, Tang Shaoyi was later appointed Yongsan Trade and Commerce Commissioner and sat in for Yuan Shikai during his absence. When Yuan Shikai returned to China with the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War, Tang Shaoyi became the Acting Imperial Resident.¹³ By the time he was appointed Zongshangdong, Tang Shaoyi had behind him thirteen years of foreign service experience in Joseon.

Soon after he was appointed Zongshangdong, on October 16, 1896, Tang Shaoyi was promoted to Consul General. The Consul General appointment, as aforementioned, was suggested by Tang Shaoyi himself. The new title was to empower Tang Shaoyi to negotiate on behalf of the Chinese government on a bilateral treaty demanded by Joseon. It was also to prevent Joseon from taking the initiative of sending its diplomatic delegation to China before China sent one to Joseon. In his new capacity as Consul General, Tang Shaoyi entered Joseon on December 18 via the port of Incheon. He stayed in Incheon for ten days, taking care of some matters related to Chinese merchants. He arrived in Hanseong, the capital

¹³ Li, Enhan (李恩涵). (1973). Tang Shaoyi yuwan qing waijiao (唐紹儀與晚清外交, Tang Shaoyi and Chinese diplomacy during the Late Qing period). *Jindaishi Yanjiusuo jikan* (近代史研究所集刊, Bulletin of the Institute of Modern History) (4th installment, pp. 53-63).

Lee, Gu-yong (이구용). Joseon-eseoui Dang Soui-ui hwaldong-gwa geu yeokhal - Cheong-Il Jeonjaeng jeonhugi-reul jungsimeuro (조선에서의 당소위의 활동과 그 역할-청일전쟁 전, 후기를 중심으로, The diplomatic activities of Tang Shaoyi in Joseon: Around time of the Sino-Japanese War). In *Namsa Jeong Jae-gak baksa gohui ginyeom dongyangsa nonchong* (남사정재각박사고회 기념 동양사논문총, Asian History Papers to commemorate 70th birthday of Doctor Jeong Jae-gak) (pp. 399-416).

city, on December 28.¹⁴ As Consul General, he had been granted full authority by the Chinese government as its official representative. Nevertheless, in the absence of a formal Joseon-China treaty, Joseon could not recognize Tang Shaoyi as China's diplomatic agent. Aside from his main duty of protecting the businesses and assets of Chinese merchants in Joseon, Tang Shaoyi also acted on their behalf, via the British Consul, in negotiations with Joseon authorities and litigations.¹⁵

Another important duty of Consul General Tang Shaoyi was responding to Joseon's demands in the bilateral treaty negotiations in a manner befitting China's position as the suzerain state. His basic stance was that in response to Joseon's demands, China needed to dispatch a delegation carrying state documents—before Joseon sends its delegation to China—for the negotiation and conclusion of a bilateral treaty. Following Tang Shaoyi's suggestion, the Chinese government dispatched Xu Shoupeng as its Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. As for Tang Shaoyi, he returned to China on September 8, 1898 upon his father's passing. This was prior to Xu Shoupeng's arrival. On September 12, Tang Zhaoxian succeeded Tang Shaoyi as Acting Consul General.¹⁶

2. Organization of the Chinese Diplomatic Mission in Korea

When Yuan Shikai proposed to his government the dispatch of a trade

¹⁴ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. October 23 of the 22nd year of Guangxu (Document No.3367, pp. 4970-4971).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. February 11 of the 23rd year of Guangxu (Document No. 3388, p. 4988).

¹⁵ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. February 11 of the 23rd year of Guangxu (Document No. 3388, p. 4988).

¹⁶ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. September 26 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3544, p. 5167).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 5. October 10 of the 15th year of Guangxu (Document No.1730, pp. 2872-2873)

councilor (Zongshangdong), he suggested that although paid through the foreign services budget, the wages and compensation for the trade councilor and his staff be set at higher rates than was customary. This was in consideration of the fact that these foreign service personnel were risking their safety as Japanese forces were stationed throughout Joseon due to the ongoing Sino-Japanese War.¹⁷ The cabinet minister in charge of external affairs approved dispatching a trade councilor. However, he disallowed related expenditures to be taken from the foreign service budget. He reasoned that a shangdong was not a regular diplomatic envoy, and thus, expenses related to the post should be covered by loan payments collected from the Joseon government.¹⁸ Wang Wenshao, the Minister of Beiyang, accepted the decision by the Foreign Ministry without objection. He reported on the number of officers to be dispatched to Joseon and their wage and compensation schemes. According to Wang Wenshao's report, in the case of the Hanseong Consulate, the personnel included one consul, one clerk, one Japanese interpreter, one Korean interpreter, and two office assistants. Meanwhile, for Incheon and Yongsan consulates, the consul was provided a staff comprising one clerk and three assistants. For the consulates of Wonsan and Busan, where there were comparatively fewer Chinese merchants, only one clerk and one assistant each were dispatched.¹⁹

The organization and size of diplomatic missions to Joseon were determined in accordance with a set of guidelines established in July 1883 by Li Hongzhang, known as “Banli Chaoxian Shangwu

¹⁷ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. September 19 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No. 3028, pp. 4516-4517).

¹⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. October 4 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No. 3051, p. 4540).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. October 15 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No. 3079, p. 4564).

¹⁹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 7. October 15 of the 21st year of Guangxu (Document No. 3078, pp. 4563-4564).

Zhangcheng” (Rules on Handling Trade Affairs in Joseon). According to these procedural guidelines, the commercial attaché general could have a staff of two officers, two clerks, one English translator, one Korean interpreter, and six office assistants. Meanwhile, a commercial attaché was allowed to have one clerk, one English translator, one Korean interpreter, and up to three office assistants.²⁰ The staff dispatched to assist Tang Shaoyi, although smaller in size than the maximum allowed in “Banli Chaoxian Shangwu Zhangcheng,” generally met the basic personnel requirements for an office of commercial attaché stipulated in the guidelines. Even if the expenses for this office did not come from the regular foreign service budget, the Chinese government provided Tang Shaoyi with staff in accordance with its official guidelines.

As mentioned earlier, the Chinese government promoted Tang Shaoyi to Consul General on October 16, 1896. The Chinese Foreign Ministry announced that an annual funding of 30,000 nyang in silver coins would be provided to the Consulate General from the foreign service budget and in accordance with “Banli Chaoxian Shangwu Zhangcheng.” The Foreign Ministry cited that 30,000 nyang had been the average annual expenditure in Hanseong and other Joseon ports for 1885-1886.²¹

According to a report by Tang Shaoyi, personnel were assigned in accordance with “Banli Chaoxian Shangwu Zhangcheng” to the Incheon, Wonsan and Busan Consulates to handle trade affairs. The Yongsan

²⁰ Wu, Ru Lun (吳汝綸) (Eds.). (June 21 of the 9th year of Guangxu). Li Wenzhong gong quanji (李文忠公全集, The complete works of Li Wenzhong). In *Jindai Zhongguo shiliao congkan xubian* (近代中國史料叢刊續編, Compendium of modern Chinese history sources continued). (Vol. 70, Zougao (奏稿, Report to the emperor); Vol. 46, pp. 1430-1431). Taipei: Wenhai Chubanshe.

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 3. June 25 of the 9th year of Guangxu (Document No.741, pp. 1172-1175).

Lee, Eun-ja (이은자). (2009). op. cit., (pp. 148-151.)

²¹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料). November 17 of the 22nd year of Guangxu (Document No.3375, p. 4975).

Bureau of Trade and Commerce thus became redundant and was shut down. Meanwhile, the Yongsan-Mapo Investigator was appointed to carry out the activities and responsibilities of the Mapo Investigation Bureau with the help of two assistant officers from the Hanseong Consulate General. In other words, the Yongsan Bureau of Trade and Commerce, created during the term of Yuan Shikai, was abolished. The new Consulate General absorbed some of its duties, while other went to the Mapo Investigation Bureau, renamed the “Yongsan-Mapo Investigation Bureau.”²² <Table 1> below lists the personnel information of the Consulate General of China as provided in the report by Tang Shaoyi:²³

<Table 1> Chinese Consular Personnel during the Term of Consul General Tang Shaoyi (1897)

Job Title	Hanseong Consulate		Incheon Consulate		Busan Consulate		Wonsan Consulate	
	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)
Head Clerk	1	300	1	200	1	200	1	200
Head Clerk	1	50						
Clerk	2	36	1	36	1	36	1	36
English Translator	1	100	1	80	1	80	1	80
Japanese Interpreter	1	30	1	25	1	25	1	25
Korean Interpreter	1	15	1	12	1	12	1	12
Office Assistant	8	27	3	27	2	27	2	27

²² For more information on the Yongsan Bureau of Trade and Commerce and Mapo Investigation Bureau created during the term of Yuan Shikai, see Lee, Eun-ja (이은자). (2009). op. cit., (pp. 165-175).

²³ All information related to the organization of the Chinese Consulate during the term of Tang Shaoyi was obtained from *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8, March 22 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3480, pp. 5104-5110).

Yongsan-Mapo Investigator	1	70*					
Total (38)	16		8		7		7

* The amounts include official expenses.

Tang Shaoyi’s report does not cite the names of the individual staff members, specifying only their total number and remuneration. According to the information provided in <Table 1>, the Consulate General under Tang Shaoyi comprised 38 staff members. Prior to the Sino-Japanese War, under Trade Commissioner Chen Shutang (1883-1885), the Chinese trade bureau had a staff of 42. Hence, the Chinese diplomatic mission during Tang Shaoyi’s term as Consul General did not significantly differ in size from that of the trade bureau during Chen Shutang’s term.²⁴

IV. Term of Legate Xu Shoupeng (1899-1901)

1. The Appointment and the Legate’s Rights and Responsibilities

Korea used to be China’s “vassal state.” As had been briefly mentioned earlier, late Qing China, faced with a rapidly-changing international political environment, was searching for a new and more modern way of relating to its regional neighbors—i.e., its former tributaries. Hence, it decided to follow the Western examples suggested by Consul General Tang Shaoyi. In establishing diplomatic ties with their former colonies, the Western powers took the initiative and sent their diplomatic delegations first. Thus, the Chinese government decided to dispatch an envoy to Korea and have him deliver the official state statement. The

²⁴ For more information on the organization of the Chinese Trade and Commerce Bureau during the term of Commissioner Chen Shutang, see Lee, Eun-ja (이은자). (2009). *op. cit.*, (pp. 154-161).

envoy chosen to negotiate new diplomatic ties with Korea was Xu Shoupeng. Regarding the dispatch, the Qing authorities had two issues to resolve: one was Xu Shoupeng's official title, and the other, the statement he was to carry with him.

On June 26, 1898, Xu Shoupeng was appointed “Zhuzha Chaoxianguo Qincha Dachen” (Imperial Inspector Minister in Joseon²⁵). According to the imperial order issued on that day, Anhui Inspector Xu Shoupeng was bestowed a third-grade post (*sanpin jingtang houbu*; 三品京堂候補) of Imperial Inspector Minister in Joseon. Meanwhile, Tang Shaoyi, in a document dated July 12, 1898, recorded his visits to various foreign diplomatic missions and related a conversation he had had with J. Mcleavy Brown, the Tax Commissioner General of Korea. Brown, according to Tang Shaoyi's report, remarked that the expression “Zhuzha” (駐紮) in the title “Zhuzha Chaoxianguo Qincha Dachen” literally means “stationed (in Korea).” He pointed out that in the absence of a China-Korea treaty of amity and commerce, the use of this expression betrays China's belief that Korea was still China's vassal state. He went on to comment that China's determination to send an envoy to Korea before the latter sends one to China first was consistent with China's understanding of how a large state should interact with a smaller state. He also warned Tang Shaoyi, saying that Korea might not necessarily welcome China's envoy unless he brought with him an official state statement. Tang Shaoyi's report suggests that Russian, Japanese, French, and German consuls were very interested in the affair, particularly concerning whether Xu Shoupeng's post would be that of a minister plenipotentiary, the terms “Zhuza” and “Chaoxian(Joseon),” and the type of official diplomatic document the latter would be carrying.²⁶

²⁵ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3502, p. 5135).

²⁶ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. July 12 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3520, pp. 5145-5150).

In the absence of a diplomatic treaty between two countries, the international practice was for the envoy negotiating such a treaty to assume the role of a plenipotentiary representative of the respective government. Only after the signing and ratification of the treaty that the governments involved could set up diplomat missions in one another's countries. In this case, however, the expression "Zhuzha" in the title "Imperial Inspector Minister in Joseon" implied that Xu Shoupeng was already a diplomat stationed in Korea. This, in turn, suggested that Qing China did not acknowledge Joseon as a fully independent nation. This fact did not escape the notice of foreign diplomats in Korea, who accordingly questioned the appropriateness of Xu Shoupeng's title and were curious to know what type of a diplomatic document he would be carrying.²⁷ The Chinese government was not indifferent to these reactions from the diplomatic world and issued an order dated September 1 of 1898, changing the title of Xu Shoupeng to "Minister Plenipotentiary."²⁸

Brown and foreign diplomats in Korea, as mentioned earlier, were also keenly interested in the type of the official statement the Chinese government would be sending via Xu Shoupeng. This was indeed a matter of concern for the Chinese government. On July 9, 1898, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent an urgent telegram to Tang Shaoyi, asking him whether Great Britain, Japan, Russia, and other countries referred to the Korean monarch, in their letters to the Korean government, as "His Majesty (*Da Junzhu*)" or "His Imperial Majesty (*Da Huangdi*)." Tang Shaoyi, in a letter dated July 12 addressed to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, pointed out that the missive Xu Shoupeng brings to Korea would have to follow the precedents set by countries that had already

²⁷ Kwon, Seok-bong (권석봉). (1984). op. cit., pp. 88-90.

Mao, Haijian (茅海建). (2002). Wuxu bianfa qijian Guangxudi duiwai guanniande diaoshi (戊戌變法期間光緒帝對外觀念的調適, The changing external perception of Emperor Guangxu during the Hundred Days Reform). In *Lishi Yanjiu* (歷史研究, Historical research) (p. 48)

²⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. September 1 of the 24th year of Guangxu 24 (Document No.3534, p. 5160).

established diplomatic treaties with Korea. He cited that this is how China could avoid running into problems with Korea as well as third-party countries. After much back-and-forth, the Qing authority issued the final version of the letter on August 24. In the final version, “His Majesty, the King of Korea” was replaced by “His Majesty, Emperor of Korea.”²⁹

Xu Shoupeng’s trip to Korea, scheduled for October 21, 1898, was put off for nearly two months to December 11 due to the chaos raging in the Korean capital when a rally held by a nationalist group (Dongnip Hyeophoe) got out of the hand. Xu Shoupeng left Shanghai on December 11, arrived in Incheon on the 13th, and reached Hanseong on the 14th.³⁰ On December 15, the day after his arrival in the Korean capital, the Chinese envoy plenipotentiary requested the Foreign Ministry for an audience to deliver the letter from his government. Along with the request, Xu Shoupeng enclosed a draft version of the letter from the Chinese government. The letter began with the sentence “Da Qingguo Da Huangdi Jing Wen Da Hanguo Da Huangdi Hao” (The Great Emperor of the Great Nation of Qing hopes this letter finds the Great Emperor of the Great Nation of Korea well).³¹ The significance of this wording can hardly be exaggerated: the two heads of state are given equal titles, hence, the two states are being treated equals as well. On December 17, Xu Shoupeng sent the Korean Foreign Ministry a list of the members of the delegation accompanying him. Then on December 19, he sent along a duplicate of the imperial letter of investiture appointing him Minister Plenipotentiary. On the following day, the Korean Foreign Ministry

²⁹ Wang, Wanwei (compiled), Wang Liang (edited) & Wang Jingyuan (proofread). (1987). *Qing Ji Waijiao Shiliao* (Primary sources on Chinese diplomatic history during the Qing dynasty) (Vol. 134, Sections 6 & 7, p. 2225). Beijing: Bibliography and Document Publishing House.

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. August 24 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3527, p. 5156). Mao, Haijian. op. cit., pp. 48-49.

³⁰ Gwon, Seok-bong (茅海建). (1984). op. cit., pp. 101-106

³¹ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. January 26 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1834, p. 323).

notified Xu Shoupeng when he was to have an audience with the Korean emperor. The Foreign Ministry also sent along a reply to Xu Shoupeng's earlier letter.³² At 2:00 p.m. on December 21, the Korean government received Xu Shoupeng and his delegation according to Western protocol for receiving foreign diplomatic envoys. The Korean emperor, attired in Western-style dress, shook hands with Xu Shoupeng and received the letter from the Chinese emperor. When Xu Shoupeng and his delegation paid their parting respects to the emperor, the emperor responded with his own parting words and again shook hands with them. Xu Shoupeng and the delegation withdrew from the room with their heads bowed.³³

With the official letter from the Chinese government delivered, the two countries could now move on to the actual negotiations of the bilateral treaty. The two countries reached an agreement by early August, and the Korea-China treaty was signed on August 7, 1899 (September 11, 1899 according to the Gregorian calendar).³⁴ The copies of the final version, ratified by both emperors, were exchanged on November 12 (December 14 according to the Gregorian calendar). On the same day, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a telegram to its Korean counterpart to notify the latter of the appointment of Xu Shoupeng to Chushi Han Guo Dachen (Minister to Korea), saying that it would follow up with a formal letter to this effect.³⁵ With this investiture, Xu Shoupeng became the first Chinese Legate to Korea. On December 18 (January 18 of the 4th year of Gwangmu), the November 21, 1899 letter of investiture by the Qing

³² *Cheongan* (清案) 2. January 28 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1836, pp. 324-325).
Cheongan (清案) 2. January 30 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1840, pp. 329-330).
Cheongan (清案) 2. January 31 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1842, pp. 330-331).

³³ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. January 24 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No.3591, p. 5200).

³⁴ For further reading on the circumstances surrounding and the process of the conclusion of Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce, refer to Gwon, Seok-bong (권석봉). (1987). *Han-Cheong tongsang joyak-eui chegyeol* (한청통상조약의 체결, The signing of the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce). *Dongbang Hakji* (동방학지), 54-56.

³⁵ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. December 14 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1939, p. 367).

emperor appointing Xu Shoupeng to the post of Imperial Minister to Korea (Chinese Legate to Korea) was delivered to the Korean emperor.³⁶

On December 5, 1900 (January 24 of the 5th year of Gwangmu), Xu Shoupeng went on a short trip to Beijing, and Xu Taishen, a 2nd-grade deputy, sat in for him. Xu Taishen took office as the acting Legate on December 18 (February 6 of the 5th year of Gwangmu).³⁷ Shortly after, on December 28, as the war with the eight-nation coalition army drew to an end, the Qing government placed Xu Shoupeng in charge of negotiating a peace treaty.³⁸ After this mission, Xu Shoupeng was appointed Zuo Shilang, a senior Foreign Ministry post. About six months later, on June 2, 1901, Acting Legate Xu Taishen was appointed Chinese Legate to Korea.

To sum up, Xu Shoupeng, after arriving in Korea in December 1898 with the mission to establish a commercial and diplomatic treaty, was officially appointed Chinese Legate to Korea in November 1899 and occupied this office until December 1900. The Qing government thought highly of his diplomatic flair and skills and put him in charge of handling the peace treaty negotiations on the heels of the Boxer Rebellion, quashed by the Eight-Nation Alliance. Subsequently, he was removed from his office in Korea and appointed the Zuo Shilang of the Foreign Ministry. This promotion attests to the Chinese government's appreciation of Xu Shoupeng's competence as a negotiator he had demonstrated with regard to the Sino-Korean treaty and in his subsequent dealings with the Korean government as the inaugural legate of China to Korea.

³⁶ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. January 18 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No.1965, p. 378).

Cheongan (清案) 2. January 20 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No.1966, pp. 378-379).

³⁷ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. January 24 of the 5th year of Gwangmu (Document No.2100, p. 481).

Cheongan(清案) 2. February 6 of the 5th year of Gwangmu (Document No.2104, pp. 482-483).

³⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料). December 28 of the 26 year of Gwangmu (Document No.3710, p. 5341).

2. Organizational Restructuring

As the Qing government prepared to enter into a new bilateral treaty with Korea, one thing requiring urgent attention was the existing Chinese Consulate General. As mentioned earlier, shortly before Xu Shoupeng arrived in Korea, Consul General Tang Shaoyi returned to China upon the passing of his father. After Tang Shaoyi left Korea on September 8, 1898, Tang Zhaoxian became the Acting Consul General on September 12. In a letter to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, dated December 3 of the same year, Xu Shoupeng, based on a report by Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, proposed to temporarily suspend the consular mission in Korea to save costs as the consulate lacked sufficient funding for its upkeep. He also pointed out that the consulate had no real power to intervene in litigations involving Chinese nationals as its diplomatic status was not recognized by the Korean government.³⁹ Heeding Xu Shoupeng's advice, the Chinese Foreign Ministry decided to withdraw all diplomatic personnel from all consular offices in Korea, including Incheon, Busan and Wonsan, until a bilateral treaty was concluded between the two countries and new consulates could be opened. Only Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian was left behind to serve as the liaison officer between the Chinese and Korean governments. The Chinese Foreign Ministry justified its decision, saying that in the absence of an official bilateral treaty, the diplomatic status of the Chinese mission was not recognized by the Korean government, depriving the latter of the right and ability to protect Chinese merchants in Korea. To boot, the upkeep of the consular mission cost as much as 3,000 nyang in silver coins monthly.⁴⁰

³⁹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. December 3 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3579, pp. 5191-5192).

⁴⁰ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. December 7 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3583, p. 5195).

However, Xu Shoupeng changed his position once he arrived in Korea. In a report dated February 18, 1899, Xu Shoupeng recommended that the Chinese Foreign Ministry not pursue its decision to withdraw Chinese consular personnel from Korea, citing five reasons. First, there were large numbers of Qing Chinese merchants in Hanseong and Incheon, with a high level of trade in both cities. Sino-Korean relations had undergone significant changes since the Sino-Japanese War, and thus, litigations between Koreans and the Chinese had increased. This had led to the frequent deportation of Chinese nationals from inland regions by the Korean government, which meant more paperwork for the Chinese consulates. Second, the British Consulate was only nominally in charge of protecting Chinese nationals until the conclusion of a treaty between Korea and China. The British Consul did work with Korean officials regarding matters pertaining to Chinese nationals. As for lawsuits between Korean and Chinese nationals, however, documents written in Chinese had to be handled by Chinese officials. Third, there was a need to educate Chinese merchants to increase their compliance with the Korea-China Trade Protocol by Tang Shaoyi, and more specifically, to teach them not to gamble, get into fights, or sell opium so as to avoid running into trouble with Korean authorities. Fourth, the British Consulate, which did not use to have a heavy workload because of the very small number of British nationals residing in Korea, was becoming overburdened by work related to the protection of Chinese merchants. It was therefore recommended that Chinese officials remain in Korea, as their assistance was vital for the British Consulate to adequately carry out their new tasks and duties. Otherwise put, Chinese nationals needed somewhere to turn to until a bilateral treaty was concluded between Korea and China. Fifth, before the Sino-Japanese War, the Chinese believed they were citizens of a great country and looked down on Koreans. Koreans had been harboring a desire for retaliation since the end of the Sino-Japanese War, and Chinese nationals in Korea had to be vigilant and needed protection against anti-Chinese

actions or crimes.

After invoking the above reasons, Xu Shoupeng proposed the reorganization of the Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea. First, he proposed the temporal withdrawal of the consular personnel in Wonsan and Busan—two cities that lacked a British consulate and where Chinese presence was minimal. Second, he pointed out the the Hanseong and Incheon consulates handled complicated work and were visited by Chinese nationals residing in other Korean ports cities and towns. Therefore, Xu recommended keeping the Consul General and Trade Commissioner in Hanseong and Incheon, respectively, along with their staff. Third, Xu suggested that Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian be kept at the post for the time being and be remunerated 300 nyang in silver coins. Official expenses and other miscellaneous expenses were to be capped at 150 nyang in silver per month. The Consul's two personal assistants, Ge Shiyan and Tang Entong, were each to be paid a monthly salary of 60 nyang in silver. As for the Incheon Trade Bureau, Trade Commissioner Tang Ronghao was to be remunerated 200 nyang, with the total expense for the office capped at 120 nyang in silver and the wage of his personal assistant Liang Zhao at 42 nyang. Wonsan Commissioner Wang Yuyuan, because of his knowledge of local trade conditions, was to remain for some time even after the consulate closed down and be paid a monthly salary of 60 nyang. Xu concluded that the total cost of maintaining consular presence, including staff wages and official expenses, would amount to 992 nyang per month. This amounted to monthly savings of around 2,000 nyang in silver, which in turn would mean annual savings of some 20,000 nyang. This way, Xu maintained, the Chinese government could save on expenses and Chinese merchants in Korea could benefit.⁴¹

⁴¹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. December 7 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3583, p. 5195).

Xu Shoupeng’s report to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, dated February 18, 1899, described above, provides the names of at least a few of the Chinese consular personnel stationed in Korea during the term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian. The details concerning consular staff listed in the report are summarized in the table below:

<Table 2 > Chinese Consular Personnel during the Term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian (1899)

Job Title	Hanseong Consulate Incheon Consulatee				Busan Consulate Wonsan Consulate			
	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Acting Consul General / Commissioner	1	300	Tang Zhaoxian	Houxuan Xundao	1	200	Tang Ronghao	Houxuan Zhixian
Personal Assistant	1	60	Ge Shiyan	Houxuan Zhixian	1	42	Liang Zhou	Jiansheng
	1	60	Tang Entong	Houxuan Zhixian				
	(1)	60	Wang Yuyuan *	Shiyong Xiancheng				
Total <6(7)>	3(4)				2			

The Chinese Consulate General in Hanseong consisted of one Acting Consul General and two personal assistants to the Consul, while the Incheon Trade Bureau comprised one Trade Commissioner and one personal assistant to the Commissioner. The Busan and Wonsan Trade Bureaus were closed down, following Xu Shoupeng’s suggestion, leaving only Wonsan Trade Commissioner Wang Yuyuan to serve as an assistant to the Consul General in Hanseong.⁴² Hence, during the term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, there was a dramatic downsizing of the Chinese consular staff—from 38 during Consul General Tang Shaoyi’s term to six (or seven) officers as of February 1899.

⁴² *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. February 20 of the 26th year of Guangxu (Document No.3678, p. 5307).

3. Organization of the Consular Mission

Xu Shoupeng was the Chinese Minister Plenipotentiary dispatched to Korea for the conclusion of a treaty of amity and commerce. Upon the treaty's conclusion, he was appointed the first Chinese Legate to Korea. Xu Shoupeng and his staff had a momentous task at hand given that they were negotiating an equal treaty with one of its former tributaries. His staff, therefore, must have comprised trained and experienced diplomats who were well aware of their mission's historic importance. In what follows, we will discuss the professional background and credentials of each of the members of the delegation led by Xu Shoupeng.

In August 1898, Xu Shoupeng appointed Xu Taishen and Zhou Runzhang as the 2nd-grade deputy and the 3rd-grade deputy, respectively, for the diplomatic mission to Korea. He chose Wu Kan and Lu Qingshou as his personal assistants.⁴³ One month later, in September, he selected Li Zhong, a graduate of the Tianjin Naval Academy, and Zhang Jiaju, a graduate of the Gaoyu Zhou Science Academy, as students accompanying the delegation; and appointed Ren Kecheng and Wu Yuncheng as the mission's clerks.⁴⁴ In November of the same year, Xu Shoupeng added two more personal assistants to the delegation, Wu Zhanjing and Huang Zuyi. Wu Zhanjing had previously been stationed in Joseon for two years under Wu Zhangqing, the Commander in Chief of Guangdong Province, and was, therefore, familiar with the inner workings of the Joseon government. Meanwhile, Huang Zuyi was a bright young official whose competence was highly thought of by Xu Shoupeng.⁴⁵ These appointments were followed by that of Zhai Zhongrui

⁴³ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. November 5 of the 24 year of Guangxu (Document No.3568, p. 5182).

⁴⁴ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. September 22 of the 24th year of Guangxu (Document No.3543, p. 5167).

⁴⁵ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. November 5 of the 24th year of

for the post of military official accompanying the mission.⁴⁶

Xu Shoupeng arrived in Hanseong, on December 14, 1898, and three days later, on December 17, he submitted the list of delegates to Korean Foreign Minister Park Je-sun. <Table 3> below lists the names provided by Xu Shoupeng to the Korean government, along with the wage scheme Xu had submitted to the Chinese Foreign Ministry in 1898.⁴⁷

<Table 3> Delegates Accompanying Minister Plenipotentiary Xu Shoupeng (1898)

Job Title	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Minister Plenipotentiary	1	960	Xu Shoupeng	Erpin Xian Houbu Sanpin Jingtang
2nd-grade Deputy	1	200	Xu Taishen	Houbu Zhifu
3rd-grade Deputy	1	160	Zhou Runzhang	Jiaoyu
Personal Assistant to Minister Plenipotentiary	1	100	Lu Qingshou	Xiancheng
	1	80	Wu Kan	Fugong
	1	80	Wu Zhanjing	Houxuan Tongzhi
	1	80	Huang Zuyi	Fusheng
	(1)		Wu Guangpei	Houbu Zhixian
	(1)		Qian Xiyu	Houbu Xunjian
English Translator	1	160	Wu Qizao	Houxuan Tongzhi
Student	1	40	Li Zhong	Houxuan Xiancheng
	1	30	Zhang Jiaju	Fensheng Buyong Buliwen
Clerk	1	40	Ren Kecheng	Houxuan Yunfu
	1	30	Wu Yuncheng	Buyong Xiancheng
Military Officer	1	26	Zhai Zhongrui	Wupin Jungong

Guangxu (Document No.3569, p. 5183).

⁴⁶ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. November 28 of the 24th year of Guangxu 24 (Document No.3577, p. 5190).

⁴⁷ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. January 28 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No.1836, pp. 324-325). *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. August 2 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No.3620, pp. 5235-5242).

Interpreter	(1)		Zhang Jun	Wupin Jungong
Total	16 (13)			

The English translator Wu Qizao was a native of Xiangshan County of Guangdong. In 1875, he went to study in the United States (through a program called “Chinese Educational Mission to the United States” (留美幼童)), and was there for seven years. He accompanied Xu Shoupeng to Korea in August 1898 and stayed on as the English translator for the Chinese Legation. As will be discussed in greater detail later in this paper, Wu Qizao subsequently served as Acting Consul General in December 1902, during the term of Consul General Xu Taishen, and was appointed Chinese Consul in Busan in May 1904. In July 1905, during the term of Legate Cheng Guangquan, he was appointed Consul General in Hanseong.⁴⁸ Wu Qizao, therefore, served in Korea for a total of seven years, from August 1898 (when he came to Korea as a member of Xu Shoupeng’s delegation) to 1905 (when the Chinese diplomatic presence ended with the conclusion of the Eulsa Treaty).

Wu Guangpei, another member of the delegation listed in <Table 3>, came to Korea in April 1899 and was later appointed Consul General.⁴⁹ Meanwhile, Qian Xiyu, who arrived in Korea on March 16, 1901, worked as a personal assistant to the consul.⁵⁰ Wu Guangpei and Qian Xiyu, as can be noted from their respective timelines, came to Korea after Xu Shoupeng’s arrival. As for Zhang Jun, no record survives

⁴⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. November 7 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3786, pp. 5443-5446).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 9. September 6 of the 30th year of Guangxu (Document No. 4120, pp. 6006-6010).

Cheongan (清案) 2. August 15 of the 9th year of Gwangmu (Document No.2607, pp. 732-733).

⁴⁹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 19 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3604, pp. 5211-5212).

⁵⁰ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 9. April 10 of the 30th year of Guangxu (Document No.4016, pp. 5896-5897).

concerning his appointment. Hence, although Xu Shoupeng submitted a list of 16 delegates to the Korean Foreign Ministry, the actual number, as of December 1898, was only 13.

Let us now take a look at the organization of the Chinese consular mission in Korea during the legateship of Xu Shoupeng. The personnel details, gathered from a 1900 expense statement submitted by Xu Shoupeng to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, are as follows:⁵¹

<Table 4> Chinese Consular Personnel during the Term of Legate Xu Shoupeng (1900)

Job Title	Number of employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Imperial Minister to Korea (Legate in Korea)	1	960	Xu Shoupeng	Erpin Xian Taipusiqing
2nd-grade Deputy	1	200	Xu Taishen	Houbu Zhifu
3rd-grade Deputy	1	160	Zhou Runzhang	Jiaoyu
Personal Assistant to the Minister	1	100	Lu Qingshou	Houxuan Xiancheng
	1	(80)	Wu Kan	Fugong
		60	Ren Kecheng*	Houxuan Yunfu
	1	80	Huang Zuyi	Fusheng
	1	80	Wu Zhanjing	Houxuan Tongzhi
English Translator	1	160	Wu Qizao	Houxuan Tongzhi
Student-Apprentice	1	30	Yao Shikuang	Jiansheng
	1	30	Zhang Jiaju	Fensheng Buyong Buliwen
Clerk	1	(40)	Ren Kecheng*	Houxuan Yunfu
		40	Xu Zhicheng	Wentong
	1	30	Wu Yuncheng	Buyong Xiancheng
Military Officer	1	26	Zhai Zhongrui	Wupin Jungong

⁵¹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No.3732, pp. 5367-5369).

Consular Physician	1	80	Gu Wenxi	Daoku Dashi
Total	14			

*In August 1900, Clerk Ren Kecheng succeeded Wu Kan as one of the personal assistants to the Consul (Imperial Minister to Korea).

Comparing the table above with <Table 3>, we realize that there was no personnel change concerning the posts of legate, 2nd-grade and 3rd-grade deputies, and English translator. As for personal assistants to the legate, Lu Qingshou, Wu Zhanjing, and Huang Zuyi continued to occupy the posts. Wu Kan, however, reassigned in August 1900 to the Incheon Consulate, was replaced by Ren Kecheng, the former clerk. Lu Qingshou, who was reassigned to Jeungnampo as Acting Vice Consul in October 1900, was succeeded by Qian Xiyu, who came to Korea several months later, in March 1901.⁵² Zhang Jiaju, one of the two student apprentices, stayed on, whilst Li Zhong, who had been reassigned to the Jeungnampo consular office in December 1899 as an assistant to the consul, was replaced by Yao Shikuang. Wu Yuncheng and Ren Kecheng, the two clerks, continued to hold their posts until the date of this report, but Ren Kecheng was soon reassigned as a personal assistant to the legate and was succeeded by Xu Zhicheng in October of the same year.⁵³ The Chinese consular mission also added a physician by the name of Gu Wenxi.⁵⁴

To sum up, the Chinese consular mission during the legateship of

⁵² *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. March 19 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3713, p. 5342).

Cheongan 2. December 2 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 2088). p. 474.

⁵³ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. October 23 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3643, p. 5273).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. December 18 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3658, p. 5287).

⁵⁴ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. February 20 of the 26th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3680, p. 5308).

Xu Shoupeng had a staff of fourteen in 1900, including one legate, one 2nd-grade deputy, one 3rd-grade deputy, four personal assistants to the legate, one English translator, one consular physician, two student-apprentices, two clerks and one military officer.

4. Organization of the Consulate General in Hanseong

On June 19, 1899, after the downsizing of the consular mission was complete, Xu Shoupeng notified the Chinese Foreign Ministry of his decision to appoint Wu Guangpei to the post of Consul General in Hanseong. Regarding his decision, he explained to the Ministry the circumstances by which Tang Zhaoxian, the incumbent Acting Consul General, came to occupy the office—to sit in for Consul General Tang Shaoyi during his absence when the latter had to make a sudden trip back to China in 1898. Xu Shoupeng considered the office of Consul General comparable to that of a regional minister in importance, given that the Consul General held final responsibility for the Chinese merchants in Korea, issuing rewards as well as meting out punishments. Xu Shoupeng asserted that this post should be filled by someone thoroughly familiar with Korean society, concerning both its political and commercial aspects. He recommended Wu Guangpei, who had come to Korea in April 1899. Citing his past experience as a consular officer in Japan, the United States, and Peru, Xu Shoupeng expressed his full confidence in the qualifications of Wu Guangpei for the job.⁵⁵ On November 13, 1899 (December 15 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu), one day after the signed copies of the Korea-Qing treaty were exchanged between the representatives of the two countries, Xu Shoupeng officially notified the

⁵⁵ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 19 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3604, pp. 5211-5212).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. September 16 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3638, pp. 5265-5267).

Korean Foreign Ministry of the appointment of Wu Guangpei as the Consul General in Hanseong (with concurrent responsibility over trade affairs in Yongsan and Wonsan).⁵⁶ In March 1901, Wu Guangpei requested a personal leave, and Fu Liangbi succeeded him as Consul General. Regarding the appointment, Xu Shoupeng explained that since Hanseong was a booming trade city, the Consul General to Hanseong needed to be qualified to carry out many duties, including interacting closely with Korean officials and other foreign diplomats. He asserted that Fu Liangbi had the necessary qualifications and credentials.⁵⁷

The Chinese Foreign Ministry allowed a consul to have only one personal assistant and one English translator. However, Xu Shoupeng requested that an exception be made in view of the heavy workload of the Hanseong consular office and authorize one more assistant to the Consul General of Hanseong. Xu Shoupeng's reasoning was as follows: First, given that a China-Korea bilateral treaty had been concluded, Chinese officials must handle all consular affairs, including those previously handled by the British Consulate on China's behalf. There were important issues that required attention, such as the extraterritorial rights of the Chinese diplomatic mission; Second, the Hanseong consulate General would have a heavy workload and would also be responsible for Wonsan and Yongsan; Third, there had been precedents of authorizing extra consular assistants in the Chinese Consulates of New York and San Francisco.⁵⁸ The Chinese Foreign Ministry granted Xu Shoupeng's request, which brought the staff of the Hanseong Consulate General to four: one consul, one English translator, and two assistants to the consul. Based on the above information and the 1900 expense statement

⁵⁶ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. December 15 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1942, p. 368).

⁵⁷ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. March 19 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3713, p. 5342).

⁵⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. March 19 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3713, p. 5342).

submitted to the Chinese Foreign Ministry by Xu Shoupeng, we can gather the following details on the organization of the Hanseong Consulate General in 1900-1901: ⁵⁹

<Table 5> Personnel of the Chinese Consulate General to Korea in Hanseong during the Term of Xu Shoupeng (1900-1901)

Job Title	Number of Employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Consul General	1	300	Wu Guangpei	Tongzhi Xian Houbu Zhixian
			Fu Liangbi	Gongshi
Assistant to Consul General	1	60	Tang Entong	Yandashi
	1	60	Ge Shiyang	Zhixian
			Zhang Chengxun	Zhixian
English Translator	1	120	Mo Zhenfan	Zhifu
Total	4			

Wu Guangpei, the Consul General of Hanseong in 1900, was succeeded by Fu Liangbi in March 1901 as has been said earlier. Tang Entong and Ge Shiyang, two assistants to the consul during the term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, continued to occupy their posts into this period. Ge Shiyang, however, was later reassigned to the Busan Consulate, and his post was filled by a certain Zhang Chengxun. Mo Zhenfan, the English translator, is not mentioned in the list of Xu Shoupeng's delegation. Given that the earliest payroll record on him is dated September 3, 1900, it can be deduced that Mo Zhenfan came to Korea and joined the Hanseong consular staff some time around then.

⁵⁹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3732, pp. 5367-5369).

5. Organization of the Incheon Consulate

Xu Shoupeng appointed Tang Ronghao as consul of Incheon, placing him also in charge of citizen services for Mokpo and Gunsan-based Chinese nationals.⁶⁰ Tang Ronghao had been the Trade Commissioner of Incheon during the term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian. Liang Zhao, an officer of the Incheon Trade Bureau, was also reassigned to the Incheon Consulate. Tang Ronghao, upon the completion of a three-year term, took a personal leave of six months (January-July), and during his absence, Xu Taishen, the 2nd-grade Deputy, sat in for him as Acting Consul.⁶¹ In April 1901, the Incheon Consulate added an English translator (He Songkui) to the payroll; his monthly wage was 100 nyang.⁶²

<Table 6> below shows the list of officers at the Chinese Consulate in Incheon as of 1900-1991, along with their respective remuneration as reported in the 1900 expense report submitted to the Chinese Foreign Ministry by Legate Xu Shoupeng.⁶³

<Table 6> Personnel of the Chinese Consulate in Incheon during the Legateship of Xu Shoupeng (1900-1901)

Job Title	Number of Employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Consul	1	200	Tang Ronghao	Zhixian
Assistant to Consul	1	42	Liang Zhao	Bujingli Xian
		80	Wu Kan	Fugong

⁶⁰ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. December 15 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1942, p. 368).

⁶¹ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. February 4 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1982, p. 385).
Cheongan (清案) 2. August 3 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 2036, pp. 429-430).
Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. April 19 of the 26th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3703, p. 5332).

⁶² *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. April 13 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No.3715, p. 5344).

⁶³ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3732, pp. 5367-5369).

English Translator	1	100	He Songkui	Houxuan Xiancheng
Total	3			

Tang Ronghao, who had been the Trade Commissioner of Incheon during the time of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, continued to hold this position after Xu Shoupeng became the legate. Liang Zhao, assistant to Tang Ronghao, also retained his post under Xu Shoupeng. Liang Zhao, however, was reassigned to the Busan Consulate in August 1900, and Wu Kan, a consular assistant, succeeded him to his former post. As an assistant to the Consul of Incheon, Wu Kan received a monthly salary of 80 nyang, which was the same amount he had gotten as an assistant to the legate. He Songkui assumed his post as the English translator of the Incheon Consulate in April 1901. The Incheon Consulate opened in 1900 with only one consul and one assistant to the consul. A year later, in 1901, an English translator was added, which brought the total number of staff members to three.

6. Organization of the Busan Consulate

During the term of Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, the Busan Trade Bureau was temporarily shut down, and the Chinese diplomatic presence was re-established there under Legate Xu Shoupeng in the form of a consular office. As discussed earlier, soon after his arrival in Korea as the Minister Plenipotentiary of China, Xu Shoupeng downsized the Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea to cut back costs. Most notably, he shut down the Busan Trade Office, leaving only the Consulate General in Hanseong and the Incheon Trade Bureau in operation. However, after the conclusion of the bilateral treaty between China and Korea, Xu Shoupeng proposed to set up a consulate in Busan. He drew attention to the large Chinese presence in this trade center of southern Korea—located in close proximity to Japan—and stressed the need to extend protection to Chinese merchants. Once the Chinese government

approved, Xu Shoupeng appointed Fu Liangbi Consul of Busan, putting him also in charge of Chinese affairs in Masan. Fu Liangbi arrived in Korea in late December 1899 and took office on January 6, 1900.⁶⁴ As has been briefly mentioned earlier, Fu Liangbi was subsequently promoted to Consul General in March 1901, succeeding Wu Guangpei, while Xu Xueyi became Consul of Busan.⁶⁵

The complete list of the Busan Consulate staff in 1900-1991 and each member's remuneration, created from matching the above information with the information provided in the 1900 expense statement submitted to the Chinese Foreign Ministry by Legate Xu Shoupeng, is as follows:⁶⁶

<Table 7> Personnel of the Chinese Consulate in Busan during the Legateship of Xu Shoupeng (1900-1901)

Job Title	Number of Employees	Remuneration (nyang)	Name	Rank
Consul	1	200	Fu Liangbi	Gongshi
			Xu Xueyi	Houxuan Jiaoyu
Assistant to Consul	1	60	Zhang Chengxun	Zhixian
		60	Ge Shiyuan	Zhixian
		60	Liang Zhao	Bujingli Xian
English Translator	1	100	Li Zixiang	Zhizhou
Total	2			

⁶⁴ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. December 15 of the 3rd year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1942, p. 368).
Cheongan (清案) 2. January 29 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1975 p. 382).
Cheongan (清案) 2. February 3 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 1978, p. 383).
Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. October 23 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3643, p. 5273).

⁶⁵ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. March 19 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3713, p. 5342).

⁶⁶ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3732, pp. 5372-5373).

The consular post, held by Fu Liangbi in 1900, was assumed by Xu Xueyi in March 1901. The Assistant to the Consul, Zhang Chengxun, was on the Busan Consulate's payroll until March 1900, and was reassigned to the Consulate General in Hanseong in April of the same year. Zhang Chengxun's post at the Busan Consulate was filled by a certain Ge Shiyan, a former Assistant to the Consul of Hanseong. Ge Shiyan, however, only appears on the payroll from April to July. He was succeeded in August by Liang Zhao, a former assistant to the Consul in Incheon. The personnel turnover rate at the Busan Consulate was, therefore, rather high during the one-year period, with three reassignments to the posts of assistant to consul. Li Zixiang assumed the post of English translator in November 1900. Li Zixiang was a graduate of Shanghai Guangfang Yanguan (Shanghai Foreign Language College). He had also graduated from Tongwenguan, an interpretation school. He had previously worked as the English translator for the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco for three years.⁶⁷

7. Organization of the Chinese Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo

Xu Shoupeng appointed the former Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian as the head of the newly-created Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo, also putting under his charge Chinese affairs in the Pyeongyang area. Xu Shoupeng explained that he had decided to set up a Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo and appoint Tang Zhaoxian as vice-consul because of the importance of the port city as a trade center. Jeungnampo, newly opened to international trade, was located in close

⁶⁷ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 9. November 19 of the 29th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3969, pp. 5754-5757).

Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao (清季中日韓關係史料) 9. May 11 of the 30th year of Guangxu (Document No. 4019, pp. 5900-5901).

Cheongan 2. June 19 of the 8th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 2519). pp. 692-693.

proximity to the Chinese port city of Shandong. Xu Shoupeng said that Jeungnampo lacked a British consular presence, meaning that there was no diplomatic authority defending the sizeable Chinese community there. This vacuum needed to be filled, and according to Xu, Tang's extensive experience dealing with the Korean government made him an ideal candidate for the post of vice-consul.⁶⁸

On October 11, 1900 (December 2, 1900 according to the Gregorian calendar), Tang Zhaoxian requested a sick leave, and Xu Shoupeng arranged to have the personal assistant to Legate Lu Qingshou sit in for the latter as Acting vice-consul.⁶⁹ According to the 1900 expense statement by Xu Shoupeng to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the total wage and compensation budget for the Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo was set at 160 nyang. Xu Shoupeng, meanwhile, had Li Zhong, a member of the diplomatic delegation who accompanied him to Korea, serve as the assistant to the vice-consul, as well as the English translator. Li Zhong, a graduate of the Tianjin Naval Academy, followed Xu Shoupeng's mission to Korea in September 1898 as a student-apprentice.⁷⁰ For his service as the personal assistant to the vice-consul and English translator, Li Zhong received a monthly remuneration of 80 nyang. The details regarding the personnel at the Chinese Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo are summarized in the table below:⁷¹

⁶⁸ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 19 of the 25th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3604, pp. 5211-5212).

⁶⁹ *Cheongan* (清案) 2. December 2 of the 4th year of Gwangmu (Document No. 2088, p. 474).

⁷⁰ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. November 7 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3786, pp. 5443-5446).

⁷¹ *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No. 3732, pp. 5372-5373).

<Table 8> Personnel of Chinese Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo during the Legateship of Xu Shoupeng (1900)

Job Title	Hanseong Consulate	Incheon Consulate	Busan Consulate	Wonsan Consulate
Vice Consul	1	160	Tang Zhaoxian	Houxuan Xundao
(Acting) Vice Consul		160	Lu Qingshou	Houxuan Xiancheng
Assistant to Vice Consul and English Translator	1	80	Li Zhong	Houxuan Xiancheng
Total	2			

The overall organization of the Chinese diplomatic mission across all its regional offices during the legateship of Xu Shoupeng can be summed up as follows:

<Table 9> Chinese Diplomatic Personnel during the Legateship of Xu Shoupeng (1900)

Job Title	Legation	Consulate General in Hanseong	Incheon Consulate	Busan Consulate	Jeungnampo Vice-Consulate
	Number of employees	Number of employees	Number of employees	Number of employees	Number of employees
Legate	1				
Consul (Consul General/Vice-Consul)		1	1	1	1
2nd-Grade Deputy	1				
3rd-Grade Deputy	1				
Assistant to the Consul	4	2	1	1	1 (doubling as a translator)
English Translator	1	1	1	1	
Student-Apprentice	2				
Clerk	2				
Military Officer	1				
Consular Physician	1				
Total (26)	14	4	3	3	2

The size of the Chinese diplomatic staff stationed in Korea during the term of Xu Shoupeng was cut significantly compared to that of Consul

General Tang Shaoyi's term (see <Table 1>). Under Consul General Tang Shaoyi, the number of Chinese consular officers across all offices—in Hanseong, Incheon, Busan and Wonsan—totaled 38, whereas the corresponding figure under Legate Xu Shoupeng was only 26 for the staff of the Consulate General in Hanseong, Incheon Consulate, Busan Consulate and the Vice-Consulate in Jeungnampo combined.

This is mainly explained by the two interpreter positions (Japanese and Korean) and several office assistant positions that existed during the term of Consul General Tang Shaoyi but were eliminated when Xu Shoupeng took office. Consistent with the practice that had been in place from prior to the Sino-Japanese War, under Consul General Tang Shaoyi, there were four Japanese and four Korean interpreters, one for each of the four consular offices in Hanseong, Incheon, Busan and Wonsan. There were also fifteen office assistant posts: eight at the Consulate General in Hanseong, three at the Incheon Office, and two each at the Busan office Wonsan Office. Interestingly, in the 1900 expense statement sent by Xu Shoupeng to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, expenses related to interpreters and office assistants (locally-recruited staff, errand runners, and others performing miscellaneous tasks) were not treated as remuneration but as “gongshi” (salaries and food). Previously, the Chinese legation employed three Korean interpreters and 28 office assistants, and the Consulate General in Hanseong had two interpreters on their payroll.⁷² What happened during the term of Xu Shoupeng was that to cut cost, Korean (or Japanese) interpreters and office assistants were locally recruited, and hence, not on the diplomatic payroll.

⁷² *Qingji Zhongrihan guanxi shiliao* (清季中日韓關係史料) 8. June 26 of the 27th year of Guangxu (Document No.3732, p. 5374).

V. Conclusion

This paper examined the Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea during the post-Sino-Japanese War period, with a special focus on the terms of Tang Shaoyi (1897-1899) and that of Xu Shoupeng (1899-1901). This study looked at the role played by the mission and the organizational and structural changes it underwent. To reconstruct the timeline of the Chinese diplomatic mission during the given time period, I consulted *Cheongan* and *Qingji Zhongrihan Guanxi Shiliao*, two important primary sources on Sino-Korean relations during the late Qing dynasty.

Consul General Tang Shaoyi was dispatched to Joseon in October 1895 as General Trade Councilor. His mission was to protect Qing Chinese merchants in Joseon at a time when the Chinese Trade Bureau was shut down due to the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War. One year later, in October 1896, Tang Shaoyi was redispached to Joseon as Consul General. The second time around, in addition to protecting Chinese businesses in Joseon, Tang Shaoyi was given the responsibility of handling the request of the Korean government for a bilateral treaty. As there was no formal treaty between Korea and China, Tang Shaoyi was not an official diplomatic envoy as far as the Korean government was concerned. In the absence of a formal Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea, the British Consulate served as China's diplomatic proxy and dealt with government formalities and litigations concerning Chinese merchants. Tang Shaoyi's remuneration as Consul General was based on the compensation scheme of former General Trade Commissioner Chen Shutang (1883-1885). Tang Shaoyi's wages and expenses were charged to the "Foreign Service Expense" account. Tang Shaoyi had a staff of 38 across four offices: Consulate General in Hanseong, Incheon Trade Bureau, Busan Trade Bureau, and Wonsan Trade Bureau. The size of the staff was comparable to that of the Chinese trade mission during the term of Commissioner Chen Shutang, prior to the Sino-Japanese War.

As for Legate Xu Shoupeng, he was the first Qing diplomatic

official dispatched after the conclusion of the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce. Xu Shoupeng initially came to Korea in December 1898 as the Minister Plenipotentiary of China to negotiate the Korea-China treaty. The treaty was concluded in August 1899 after about six months of negotiations. Xu Shoupeng was appointed the inaugural Chinese Legate to Korea pursuant to Article 2 of the Korea-Qing Treaty of Trade and Commerce. Around the time of the bilateral treaty's conclusion, Xu Shoupeng restructured the Chinese diplomatic mission. At the time, the mission was headed by Acting Consul General Tang Zhaoxian, who had taken the helm following the departure of Consul General Tang Shaoyi in September 1898. Xu Shoupeng drastically downsized the personnel to the minimum required to provide protection to Chinese businesses in Korea. He only kept a combined total of six officers at the Consulate General in Hanseong and the Incheon Trade Bureau. As for the trade bureaus in Busan and Wonsan, he shut them down completely.

After the conclusion of the Korea-Qing treaty, there were more changes to the organizational structure of the Chinese diplomatic mission. A new vice-consulate opened in Jeungnampo, adding to the list of four existing offices: Chinese Legate to Korea, Consulate General in Hanseong, Incheon Consulate, and Busan Consulate. The Consulate General in Hanseong had jurisdiction over Hanseong as well as Yongsan and Wonsan; and the Consulate in Incheon, over Incheon, Mokpo, and Gunsan. As for the Consulate in Busan, its jurisdiction extended to Masan. The decision to set up a vice-consulate in Jeungnampo was due to the expanding Chinese business community in this port city, newly opened to international trade and in close proximity to Shandong. The vice-consulate was put in charge of trade affairs in the Pyeongyang area, in addition to those in Jeungnampo. Only 26 Chinese diplomatic officers were stationed in Korea during the legateship of Xu Shoupeng, far below the level during the term of Tang Shaoyi. This was mainly due to the elimination of several posts such as Korean and Japanese interpreters and

office assistants. The Chinese diplomatic mission in Korea did use interpreters and office assistants during the term of Xu Shoupeng. However, they were no longer on the diplomatic payroll; they were recategorized as locally-hired staff whose salaries were charged to the “gongshi” (salary and food) expense account. This was part of an effort to cut back the cost of the upkeep and maintenance of the diplomatic mission.

The organization of the Chinese diplomatic mission under Xu Shoupeng’s successors—i.e., Xu Taishen and Ceng Guangquan—was kept out of the scope of this discussion. Future research can expand on this study by comparing the Chinese diplomatic mission with other foreign diplomatic missions in Korea during the Great Han Empire. Another point of expansion can be a comparative analysis of the Chinese mission in Korea during the late Qing period with other Chinese diplomatic missions in other parts of the world during the same period.

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