

ARCHIVES OF CHINA'S IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS

Confidential Correspondence

Between
Robert Hart
and
James Duncan Campbell
1874—1907

Volume II

Compiled by
Second Historical Archives of China
Institute of Modern History, CASS
Chief Editors
Chen Xiafei *and* Han Rongfang

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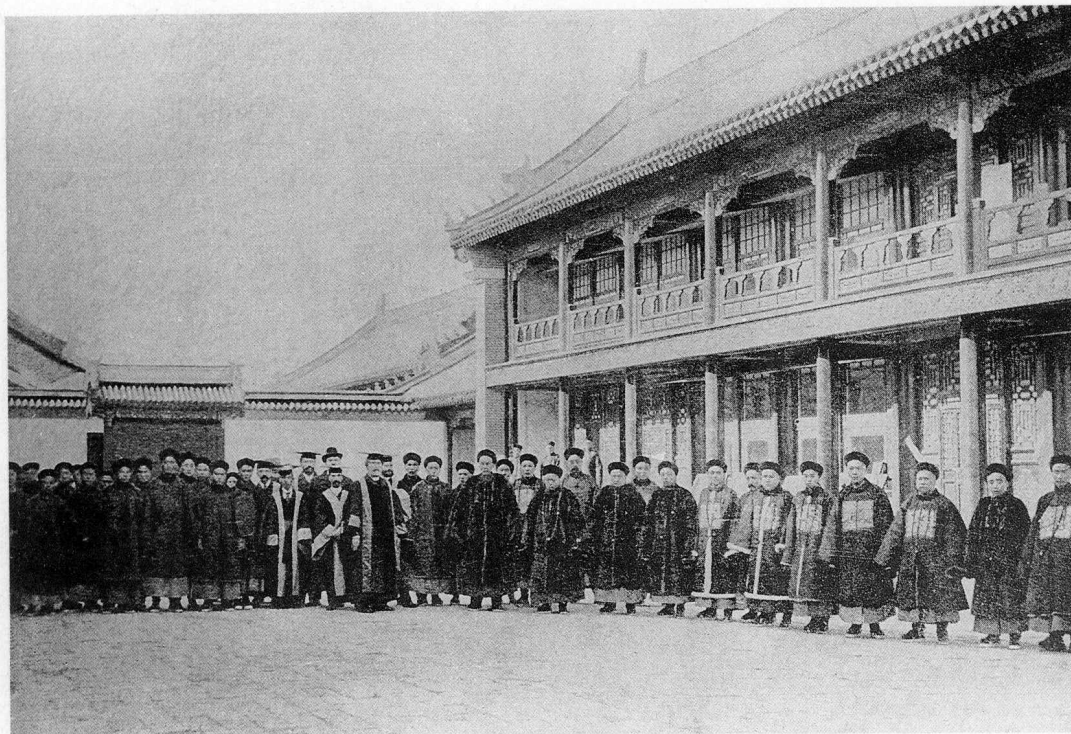
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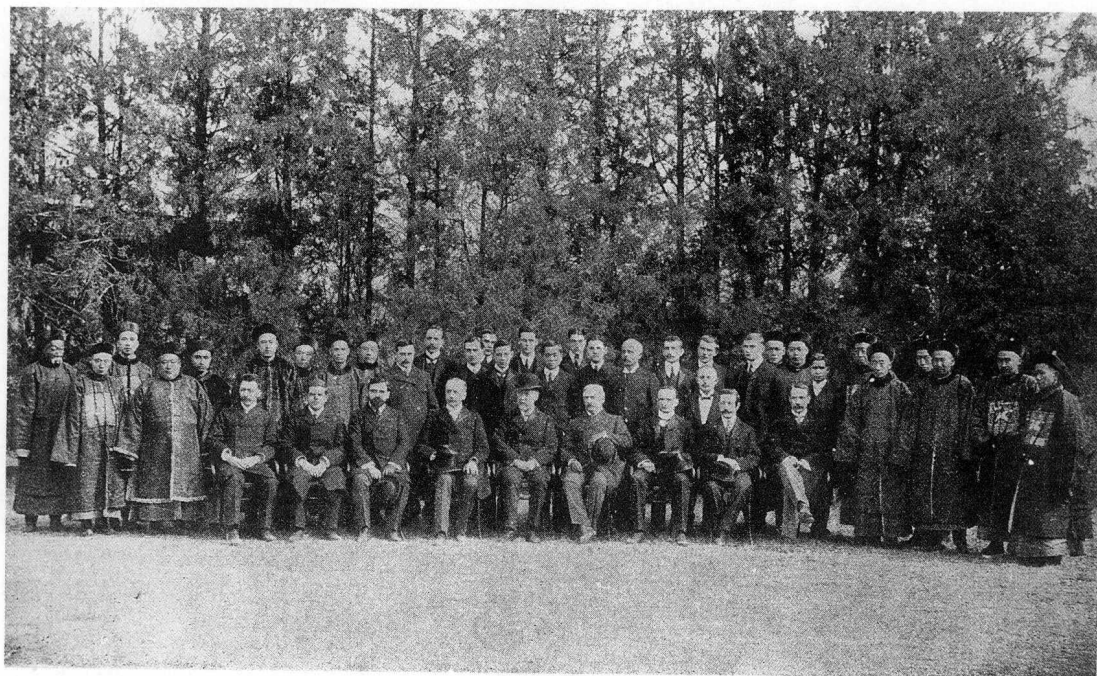


Robert Hart's residence in Chaihuolan Lane

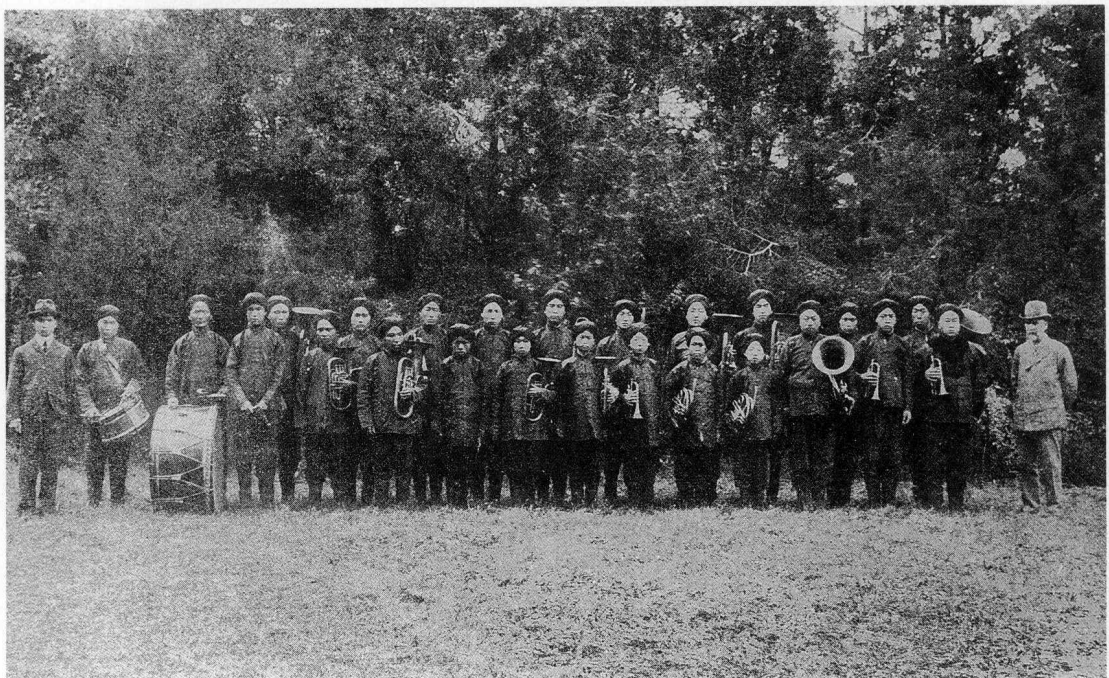
Mrs Robert Hart (Hester Jane Bredon)



Robert Hart feasts German envoy (*centre*)



Robert Hart with colleagues of Maritime
Customs in the garden at his residence

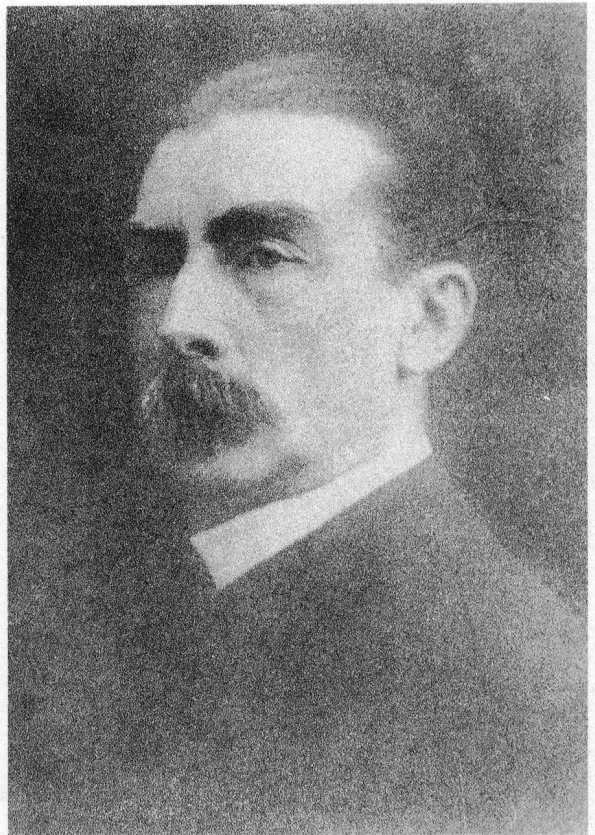


Robert Hart's brass band



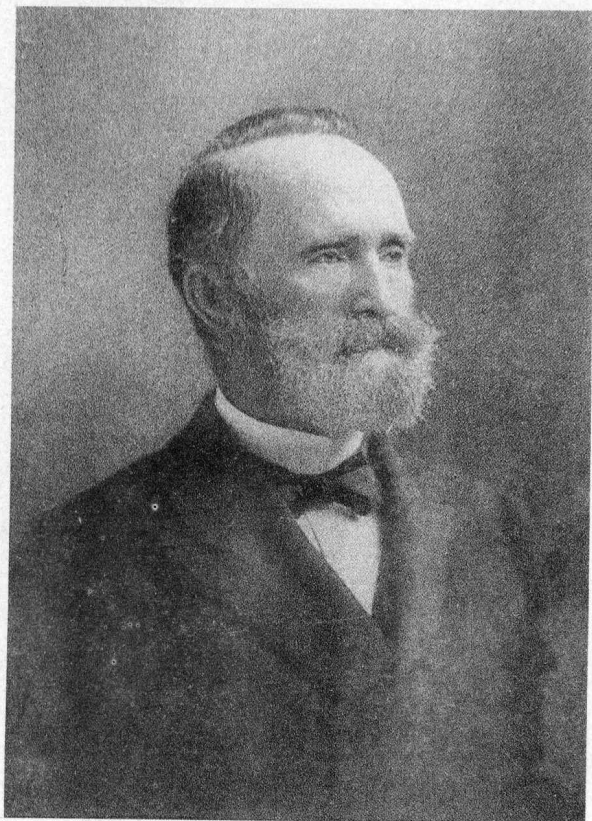
Li Hongzhang (*centre*), R. C. Salisbury (*left*)
and G. N. Curgon (*right*)

Paul King



Halliday Macartney

Rutherford Alcock



W. A. P. Martin

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Lady Hart	}	in Z/145	}	recd. 2 Jan.
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London, 4th Jan., 1884

My dear Sir Robert,

Your telegram No. 107 reached me on Sunday last, the 30th December, and I was rather puzzled what to do. I could not "watch" the Marquis as he and Macartney were at Folkestone; and, to "watch" the F.O., I had to invent an excuse for calling on Sir Julian Pauncefoot. A supplement to my previous Memo. on the Foreign trade with China answered the purpose. I took it to Sir Julian yesterday afternoon, and (as I expected) he asked me in the course of conversation what was my latest news from you. I replied that I had no Tonquin's news, but that, in a telegram dated the 30th December you stated there was a serious difference between the Yamen and Sir Harry Parkes concerning the Canton riot's compensation.¹

Sir Julian said: "Oh! All that has been settled"; and he then went on to explain what had happened.

The sentence on Logan he considered to be most inadequate. It was a most outrageous case and demanded a most severe punishment, not only as an example to the rowdy lot of foreigners in China but as a proof to the Chinese of English justice.

The Yamen had complained of the inadequate punishment, and Sir Harry Parkes had endeavoured to explain that, to an Englishman, 7 years' penal servitude at Hongkong was really a heavy punishment; but instead of 7, Sir Julian seemed to think he ought to have had 20 years, and he said that Logan need not have been kept at Hongkong but deported to some other Colony. The Yamen had contracted their action in the Margary murder, and had declined to consider the Indemnity claims for the property destroyed at Shameen unless compensation was given to the families of the sufferers in the Logan affair. Sir Harry Parkes insisted that there was no similarity between the two affairs; and, in the heat of the argument struck his hand violently on the table.

Upon receipt of a telegram from Sir Harry Parkes, the F.O. wrote to the Chinese Minister at Paris and Sir Julian saw Dr. Macartney. Sir Julian advised that the Marquis should telegraph to the Yamen to smooth matters over; and the F.O. had heard that there was a complete reconciliation between Sir Harry Parkes and the Yamen. The whole matter was now before the Law Officers of the Crown, and they would consider the proposal of the F.O. to grant compensation to the families of the injured Chinese.

Sir Julian asked me if I knew what sort of man Logan was; and I replied that he had been 10 years in the Service and would not have been retained, had he been a bad character — adding that strict enquiries are made into the antecedents of all candidates for employment on the out-door staff. [The German Ambassador was then announced, and I retired, thanking Sir Julian for the information and saying how glad I was to hear that the matter was being settled peaceably.] It is evident that the F.O. considers there had been a miscarriage of justice, and that Sir Harry Parkes has been too hasty.

Upon my return to the office I sent you my telegram No. 205 which you will have received this morning.