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LEGAL ADVISER
JAN 20 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

November 23, 1938.

Reference Bangkok's Political Report for September, 1938.

I think you will wish to note the following items in this report:

1. According to the program announced in the press, the King will arrive at Koh Si Chang on board the M.S. Meonia of the East Asiatic Line on November 15 whence he will proceed to Bangkok on board H.M.S. Sri Ayudhya in the company of the members of the Council of Regency.

2. The outstanding political event of the month was the dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives by Royal Decree issued on September 11, 1938, as the result of a disagreement between the government and the elective members of the Assembly over a question of procedure. New elections are to be held in November.

3. The Government continued to take repressive measures against anti-Japanese boycott movements sponsored by local Chinese.

4. Work on the project to improve the Bangkok port area commenced during September.

5. And if you have time for an amusing story

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of September 1938.

Respectfully yours,
Edwin L. Neville
American Minister

From: American Legation, Bangkok, Siam.

Edwin L. Neville
American Minister

Enclosure:
1. Political Report.

Date of completion: October 21, 1938.

Date of mailing: (air mail) October 26, 1938.

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THE

AMERICA

21, 1938.

story, "A Tale about a Tail", on page 15.

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LEGAL ADVISER
JAN 20 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

	Yes	No
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U.S.A.		

Division of
STERN AFFAIRS
V 12 1938
Department of State

Excerpt to FNI-MID, Commerce, Treasury

Excerpt to Treasury Nov. 28 8AM

DEC 19 1938

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I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of September 1938.

Respectfully yours,
Edwin L. Neville
American Minister.

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Bangkok, October 21, 1938.

No. 276

Subject: Political Report for September.

By Air Mail.

LEGAL ADVISER
JAN 20 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

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OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
JAN 19 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Division of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
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Department of State

Excerpts to ONI-MID, Commerce, Treasury

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POLITICAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1938

DEC 19 1938

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 29 1938
A-M/C
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of September 1938.

From: Edwin L. Neville, American Minister.

Respectfully yours,

Edwin L. Neville
American Minister

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

Enclosure:
1. Political Report.

Date of completion: October 21, 1938.

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Edwin L. Neville
American Minister

Date of completion: October 21, 1938.

Date of mailing: (air mail) October 26, 1938.

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POLITICAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER, 1938

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Bangkok Monthly Political Report, September 1938.

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I. POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Siam.

The instrument of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the United States and Siam was received from the Department of State on September 21, 1938. A slight delay occurred in effecting the exchange due to the illness of the Siamese Foreign Minister, Sir Jordan Greeby, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. Minister. The exchange of ratifications took place on October 1, 1938. (Please refer to despatch No. 269 of October 4, 1938.)

The President's Appeals to Avert a European War.

The President's appeals to Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy to avert a war in Europe were given large publicity in the local press, both English language and vernacular. They received not only a very favorable reception but were commonly believed here as having had great weight in turning the course of events in Europe toward a peaceful solution of the difficulties which threatened the peace of the world. (Please refer to despatch No. 267 of September 30, 1938.)

II. POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

Nothing to report.

III.

Dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives.

The outstanding political event of the month was the dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives

by

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by Royal Decree issued on September 11, 1938. The Legation's despatch No. 252 dated September 16, 1938, contains a report of this event.

III. INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The King.

The thirteenth birthday of King Ananda, September 20th, was observed by the usual official ceremonies. The diplomatic corps and consular representatives were received by the Council of Regency at the Chakri Palace. The congratulatory address on this occasion was delivered by the British Minister, Sir Josiah Crosby, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

An exceptional feature of the celebration this year was the holding of a garden party in the Royal Palace on the following day, presided over by the members of the Council of Regency, to which the diplomatic and consular corps, several hundred government officials, and prominent citizens were invited. The last previous function of this kind took place in 1933 before the departure of King Prajadhipok from Siam.

Preparations for the King's return are proceeding apace. The royal palaces are being refurbished and prominent streets in the neighborhood of the palaces are being paved. According to the program announced in the press, the King will arrive at Koh-Si-Chang on board the M. S. Meonia of the East Asiatic Company, on the morning of November 15th, where he will be met by the members of the Council of Regency. He will then proceed to Bangkok on board H. M. S. Sri Ayudhya. Following the King's arrival at Bangkok a series of ceremonies, celebrations, and festivities will be held, the details of which have not yet been announced.

Dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives.

The outstanding political event of the month was the dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives by

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Roundup of Undesirables.

The Criminal Investigation Department and the Police Department commenced an unexpected series of energetic raids on the morning of the 11th September. The roundup was carried out by plain clothes officers who had been detailed for the purpose. The object of the raid was to arrest a number of persons who had been under the surveillance of the police for some time past. Although many wild rumors were circulated after the roundup took place, no disturbances of any kind occurred, and except for grumbles from the ousted Assembly members, the political atmosphere remained serence, at least on the surface, to the end of the month. A few had been released by the end of September. On September 30th about one thousand of the Chinese prisoners were deported to China. It was reported that further batches of prisoners would later be deported.

The roundup gave rise to many wild rumors of Chinese oppression, incipient rebellion, and what not, all of which however appear to be contrary to fact, since there seems to have been no political motive behind the affair other than the officially announced one of clearing undesirable criminal elements.

Marriage of Prince Chula Chakrabongse.

It was reported in the local press (Siam Chronicle of September 10th, and others) that the wedding of H.R.H. Prince Chula Chakrabongse and Miss Elizabeth Hunter, an English girl, would take palce in London in November of this year, and that he would then proceed to Siam to be here during the impending visit of the King. Prince Chula was last in Siam about a year ago. Mention of the visit was made in the monthly political reports for November and

December

H.M.S. Dhonburi.

According to local press reports H.M.S. Dhonburi, a 2,265 ton gunboat built in Japan, and sister ship to H.M.S. Sri Ayudhaya whose arrival was reported in the Monthly Political Report for July 1938, sailed from Kobe on September 11th bound for Bangkok.

Anti-Boycott Activities of Police.

The police continued their activities early in September with respect to the apprehension of Chinese who were suspected of being engaged in boycott and other undesirable activities. Several arrests were announced including a group of eight well-to-do Chinese merchants all of whom were believed to have been involved either in circulating pamphlets illegally or belonging to secret societies whose members had made attempts on the lives of Chinese merchants in the city.

ONI-MID

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Roundup

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Roundup of Undesirables.

The Criminal Investigation Department and the Police Department conducted an unexpected series of energetic raids on the opium dens in Bangkok on the night of September 12th to 13th in the course of which over 5,200 persons, mostly Chinese, were arrested and held on charges of vagrancy, violation of the Aliens Registration Act, activities in secret societies, etc. The announced object of the raid was to rid Bangkok of a large number of undesirable characters who had long been disturbing the peace of the community, more particularly in recent months in connection with boycott activities.

Examinations of the prisoners proceeded rapidly. A few had been released by the end of September. On September 24th about one thousand of the Chinese prisoners were deported to China. It was reported that further batches of prisoners would later be deported.

The roundup gave rise to many wild rumors of Chinese oppression, incipient rebellion, and what not, all of which however appear to be contrary to fact, since there seems to have been no motive behind the affair other than the officially announced one - a clean up of undesirable criminal elements.

Marriage of Prince Chula Chakrabongse.

It was reported in the local press (Siam Chronicle of September 15th, and others) that the wedding of H.R.H. Prince Chula Chakrabongse and Miss Elizabeth Hunter, an English girl, would take palce in London in November of this year, and that he would then proceed to Siam to be here during the impending visit of the King. Prince Chula was last in Siam about a year ago. Mention of the visit was made in the monthly political reports for November and December

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December 1937.

IV. COURSE OF LEGISLATION

The Assembly.

Censorship. Prior to its dissolution on September 11th, as described in the previous section, the Assembly held three sessions, on September 3rd, 9th and 10th. The session of the 3rd was taken up with continued secret discussion of the Buddhist church administration Bill, concerning which nothing has been made public. At the session on the 9th, three Government sponsored bills were accepted in principle. The first involved amendment of the Business Taxation Act, the second had to do with the acquisition of land in Chonburi for the construction of a new mental diseases hospital; and the third was an amendment to the Licenses Act, whereby the fee charged for an application to change a surname was to be reduced from twenty to ten Baht. No other business of importance was transacted.

It was the session of September 10th which produced the fireworks. The first categor, (elective) members insisted on voting for a liberalisation of the rules governing the introduction of the annual budget, against the wishes of the Government, and at a time when Government supporters were scarce in the Assembly chamber. The following day the Assembl, was dissolved by Royal Decree. A more detailed report of the affair is contained in despatch No. 253 of September 16, 1938.

The Elections

IV.

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IV. COURSE OF LEGISLATION

The Elections.

The Assembly.

Prior to its dissolution on September 11th, as described in the previous section, the Assembly held three sessions, - on September 3rd, 6th, and 10th. The session of the 3rd was taken up with continued secret discussion of the Bhuddist church administration bill, concerning which nothing has been made public. At the session on the 6th, three Government sponsored bills were accepted in principle. The first involved amendment of the Business Taxation Act; the second had to do with the acquisition of land in Nondaburi for the construction of a new mental diseases hospital; and the third was an amendment to the Surnames Act, whereby the fee charged for an application to change a surname was to be reduced from twenty to ten Baht. No other business of importance was transacted.

It was the session of September 10th which produced the fireworks. The first category (elective) members insisted on voting for a liberalization of the rules governing the introduction of the annual budget, against the wishes of the Government, and at a time when Government supporters were scarce in the Assembly chamber. The following day the Assembly was dissolved by Royal Decree. A more detailed report of the affair is contained in despatch No. 253 of September 16, 1938.

The Elections

November 26th has been set as the date of the elections for the Assembly. Candidates for election must register between October 1st and 15. The various Changvad (provincial) Governors have been instructed to see to the necessary voting arrangements. The Ministry of Public Instruction has prohibited the use of schools for electioneering purposes.

There appears to be much less interest in the coming election than in the previous one, and fewer candidates are expected to register because of the expense of carrying on two election campaigns in such rapid succession, the previous elections having taken place less than a year ago. It is estimated that the expenses of the election to the Government will be in the neighborhood of Bht 200,000.

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GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

(a) Of more than one year's	13,906,947
(b) Others	49,500,000
2. Cash at call in pounds Sterling	59,277,025
3. Baht coins	43,372,064
Grand Total	166,056,036
Currency notes in circulation	145,652,498

Shipment of Government Silver Coins to the United States.

As reported in telegram No. 26 of September 26th, the Siamese Government shipped 52,436,000 silver one Baht coins to the United States on the M. S. Fionia which sailed from Bangkok on September 25th. The silver coins were consigned to the National City Bank of New York and are to be refined in the United States for sale as bullion to the Treasury Department. The proceeds of the sale are later to be used for the purchase

of

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V. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

Treasury Balance.

The Treasury Balance on August 31st, as given in the Government Gazette of October 10th, stood as follows:

	Baht	Compared with the end of July, 1938.
In Siam	17,374,975	Minus 998,648
Abroad	36,827,688	Minus 43,664
Total	54,202,663	Decrease F,042,312

Currency Reserve.

The Siamese Currency Reserve at the end of September was as follows:

1. Sterling Securities:		
	(a) of more than one year's maturity	13,906,947
	(b) Others	49,500,000
2. Cash at call in pounds Sterling		59,277,025
3. Baht coins		43,372,064
Grand Total		166,056,036
Currency notes in circulation		145,632,498

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VI. GENERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS. (Commerce)

of gold bullion to be held on deposit for the account of the Siamese Government.

Trade of the Port of Bangkok.

The trade of the port of Bangkok showed a huge favorable trade balance in August, disclosing the inclusion of the silver coin shipment which has been mentioned under section V. Imports were slightly lower in August. Comparative statistics follow:

Total trade			
September	7,968,482	3,[illegible],383	- 390,[illegible]
September	3[illegible]		824,082

The Government's attitude in surrounding the sale of the silver with a cloud of mystery has given rise to much local speculation in the press and otherwise. However, there appears to be nothing more behind the transaction than a desire to realize a good price on unwanted silver coins and to establish a corresponding gold reserve in a safe place in the United States.

[illegible] of the Department of Commerce Economic Affairs, issued on October 11th, 1938, 333,270 metric tons of rice were exported from Siam during the period January 1 to August 31, 1938, as compared with 645,720 tons during the same period in 1937. Total exports during August 1938 were 117,530 metric tons, compared with exports of 71,417 metric tons in August 1937. The destinations of these shipments were the following:

	Destination
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	

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VI. GENERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

Trade of the Port of Bangkok.

The trade of the port of Bangkok showed a huge favorable trade balance in September, due to the inclusion of the silver coin shipment to the United States, which has been mentioned under Section V. Imports were slightly larger in September than in August. Comparative statistics follow:

	Exports - by value		Increase or decrease over 1937.
	1938 Baht	1937 Baht	
September	31,004,220	8,180,138	+ 22,824,082

	Imports - by value		
September	7,968,482	8,359,321	- 390,839

	Total trade - by value		
September	39,072,702	16,539,459	+ 22,533,243

Provincial Trade Commissioners.

The Rice Market.

According to a statement of the Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, issued on October 11th, a total of 1,063,270 metric tons of rice were exported from Siam during the period January 1 to August 31, 1938, as compared with 645,720 tons during the same period in 1937. Total exports during August 1938 were 117,530 metric tons compared with exports of 71,417 metric tons in August 1937. The destinations of these shipments were the following:

Destination	August 1938 Metric tons	August 1937 Metric tons	from January 1 - August 31. 1938 Metric tons	1937 Metric tons
Singapore	37,954	45,020	432,274	296,947
Hongkong	10,337	13,667	281,126	240,263
China	6	34	3,218	3,428
Japan & Formosa	1,960	2,541	25,771	17,744
Netherlands E. Indies	165	80	2,678	1,660
Canada	1,433	6,286	77,135	72,598
West Indies	8,341	1,146	17,539	7,746
Germany	1,286	112	15,637	3,971
United Kingdom	4,496	102	17,526	13,788
Europe		96		27,979
South Africa	1,885	988		16,021
Ceylon	1,818	102	34,867	3,648
India	4,942	2	11,300	35,471
Other Countries	11,176	780	33,700	4,596
	117,530	71,417	1,063,270	645,720

The growing crop of rice will be harvested at the end of 1938 and in 1939 is reported to be doing well and a harvest larger than last year is expected.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has embarked upon a program of establishing so-called Trade Commissioners in each of the Changwats (provinces) of the country. So far ten Trade Commissioners have been appointed. They have been assigned to the Changwats Puket, Chiengmai, Lampang, Phisanulok, Nakon Sawan, Ubandahani, Nongkhai, Nakon Ratchasima, Udon Rajadhani and Surashtradhani. The functions of these officials include the following activities:

1. To represent the Department of Commerce of the Ministry in matters pertaining to commercial business and economic affairs in their jurisdiction.
2. To find products suitable for export.
3. To act as Registrar of boats.
4. To act as Registrar of business undertakings.
5. To enforce the Weights and Measures Act.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

6. To act as purchasing agent for the Ministry.

This program seems to be important and proper as
developed since it is only by some centralized government
effort that the development of the rural areas of the
country and the improvement of the living conditions
of the people can be achieved.

Destination | Total Exports from January 1 - August 31.

	1938 Metric tons	1937 Metric tons	1938 Metric tons	1937 Metric tons
Singapore	57,984	43,029	432,274	296,847
Hongkong	10,337	12,667	291,128	140,263
China	6	34	3,218	3,428
Japan & Formosa	1,960	2,541	25,771	17,744
Netherlands E. Indies	165	60	2,678	1,620
Cuba	7,435	6,386	77,135	72,598
West Indies	8,341	1,146	17,539	7,746
Germany	1,286	112	15,637	3,971
United Kingdom	4,496	102	17,596	13,788
Europe	5,799	906	82,301	27,979
South Africa	1,885	888	18,118	16,021
Ceylon	1,818	102	34,867	3,648
India	4,842	2,664	11,300	35,471
Other Countries	11,176	780	33,708	4,596
	117,530	71,417	1063,270	645,720

However the local business community remained calm and, as
even the growing rice crop which will be harvested at the
end of 1938 and in 1939 is reported to be doing well and
a harvest larger than last year is expected.

Port Improvement Project Commenced.

Provincial Trade Commissioners.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has embarked upon as
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have been assigned to the Changvads Puket, Chiengmai, river
Dambang, Pitsanuloke, Nakon Sawan, Dhandaburi, Nongkhai, Nakon
Panom, Ubol, Rajadhani and Surashtradhani. The amount
of B The functions of these officials include the following
activities ending March 31, 1939, for expenditure on the
port in

To represent the Department of Commerce of the Ministry in matters pertaining to commercial business and economic affairs in their jurisdiction.

2. To find products suitable for export.

3. To act as Registrar of boats.

4. To act as Registrar of business undertakings.

5. To enforce the Weights and Measures Act.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Bangkok Monthly Political Report, September 1938.

6. To act as purchasing agent for the Ministry.

Opening of Bamboo Paper Factory.

This program seems to be important if properly developed since it is only by some centralized government effort that the development of the rural areas of the country and the improvement of the living conditions of the rural population can be achieved.

The mill was formally opened for operation with elaborate ceremonies on September 17th by the Minister of Defense, Pholphayuha Senna, in the presence of Chaomuen Luang Pibul Songgram, the German Minister, Wilhelm Thomas (most of the machinery for the mill has been furnished from Germany), and a large number of government officials and others.

It is reported that the cost of the complete mill will be approximately Baht 3,000,000.

The pulp is made from bamboo, the first mill in the world to use bamboo exclusively for this purpose. The contract for the work, as reported in the Monthly Political Report for July 1938, was awarded to the Danish firm Christiani and Nielsen.

The preliminary work includes filling of canals, and clearing of wooded areas and undergrowth, to be followed by a river wall and foundations for the various buildings, storehouses and other structures included in the final plan. The amount of Baht 4,000,000 is included in the budget for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1939, for expenditure on the port project.

Repercussions of European War Scare.

During the tense days toward the close of September when it was feared that war in Europe might break out, some repercussions were felt in local business circles. Commodity prices as well as insurance rates increased. However the local business community remained calm and, as events turned out, there was no further cause for alarm after the close of the month.

Port Improvement Project Commenced.

Work on the project to improve the Bangkok port area commenced during September. The contract for the work, as reported in the Monthly Political Report for July 1938, was awarded to the Danish firm Christiani and Nielsen. The preliminary work includes filling of canals, and clearing of wooded areas and undergrowth, to be followed by a river wall and foundations for the various buildings, storehouses and other structures included in the final plan. The amount of Baht 4,000,000 is included in the budget for the current fiscal year ending March 31, 1939, for expenditure on the port project.

Siamese Insurance Company.

A Siamese insurance firm to be known as the Siam Insurance Company, Limited, was registered with the Partnership and Company Division of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in September. The registered capital is Baht 1,000,000 consisting of 10,000 shares of Baht 100 each. The promoters include H.R.H. Prince Bhanubandhu Yugala, H.S.H. Princess Bichitr Chirabha Devakul, H.S. H. Prince Upalisan Jumbala, and various others.

Opening

The

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Bangkok Monthly Political Report, September 1938.

Opening of Government Papers Factory.

The Monthly Political Report of the Legation for January 1936 contained details of a project to build a paper factory. The foundation stone, as reported in the Monthly Political Report of August 1936, was laid on August 23, 1936, at Kanchanaburi (Kanburi).

VII. ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

The mill was formally opened for operation with elaborate ceremonies on September 18th by the Premier, Phya Bahol Pholphayuha Sena, in the presence of the Minister of Defense, Luang Pibul Songgram, the German Minister to Siam, Dr. Wilhelm Thomas (most of the machinery for the factory having been furnished from Germany), and a large number of lesser government officials and others.

Nothing to report.

IX. EDUCATION AND LABOR MATTERS.

Nothing to report.

It is reported that the cost of the completed mill including the machinery was approximately Baht 3,000,000. The mill will prepare pulp for its own use from bamboo, grown in neighboring forest areas, by the sulphate process. The machinery is designed to produce 10.5 metric tons of bleached bamboo cellulose in 24 hours, from which will be produced 10 metric tons of machine finished and calendered writing and printing paper of good quality.

X.

Siamese Insurance Company.

A Siamese insurance firm to be known as the Siam Insurance Company, Limited, was registered with the Partnership and Company Division of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in September. The registered capital is Baht 1,000,000 consisting of 10,000 shares of Baht 100 each. The promoters include H.R.H. Prince Bhanubandhu Yugala, H.S.H. Princess Bichitr Chirabha Devakul, H.S.H. Prince Upalisan Jumbala, and various others.

The

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The insurance business in Siam has hitherto been carried on solely by foreign companies. Sixty-seven foreign companies are licensed to operate in Siam at the present time. The newly registered concern is the first native concern of its kind. Sep-Chui, a tricycle man, at the Criminal Court. It was alleged that the defendant stole

VII. ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

one string (Sic) from the tail of Phra Savet Boajadejdilok

Nothing to report.

(White King of Elephants), the only white elephant now kept at the

VIII. ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

The value of one Nothing to report. tail (sic) was estimated at Ticals 20.00. According to local belief, the possession

IX. EMIGRATION AND LABOR MATTERS.

of even one string of the white elephant's tail serves as a

Nothing to report.

charm to prevent any danger from any kind of animal." (Siam Chronicle, September 6th).

X.

"In the case in which Nai Tien Chandr Peng-Chui, a tricycle driver, was recently charged with having unlawfully pulled a hair from the tail of the King's white elephant, at its stable in the grounds of the Dusit Palace, the hair being valued at twenty ticals, the Criminal Court has convicted him under Section 294 (4) of the Penal Code, and sentenced him to six months imprisonment. As he had pleaded guilty, the sentence was reduced to four months.

"Nai Tien was ordered to return the stolen hair to the keeper". (Tai Mai from Bangkok Times, September 8th).

Vocational Schools.

The Siam Chronicle of September 3rd contains a report that seventy vocational schools are to be established throughout the country. The report states further that fifty-two of these schools will teach carpentry. The budget for the

current

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current. X. MISCELLANEOUS. contains a grant of Baht 1,400,000 to A Tale about a Tail. In instruction for the purpose of con-

structing Yesterday morning the Public Prosecutor, represent-

ing the Bureau of Royal Household, filed a charge of theft Domestic Stamp Production.

against one Nai Tian-Chandr Peng-Chui, a tricycle man, at The Siam Chronicle of September 7th reported that the Criminal Court. It was alleged that the defendant stole the Royal Survey Department had purchased a machine for one string (Sic) from the tail of Phra Savet Koajadejdilok printing postage stamps, and that it was negotiating with (White King of Elephants), the only white elephant now kept the Post and Telegraph Department regarding the question at the Royal Palace behind the Ananta Samagom Throne Hall. of printing new stamps. A report in the same paper on The value of one string of elephant tail (sic) was estimated September 16th stated that the Royal Survey Department had at Ticals 20.00. According to local belief, the possession received an order for 100,000 stamps.

of even one string of the white elephant's tail serves as a charm to prevent any danger from any kind of animal." (Siam Chronicle, September 6th) appears in the report (Bangkok Times, September 8th) of the case in which a Nai Tiem Chandr Peng Chui, a money driver of a tricycle taxi, was recently charged with having unlawfully pulled a hair from the tail of the King's white elephant, at its stable in the grounds of the Dusit Palace, the hair being valued at twenty Ticals, at the Criminal Court, has convicted him under Section 294 (4) of the Penal Code, and sentenced him to a six months imprisonment. As he had pleaded guilty, the sentence was reduced to four months. such "Nai Tian was ordered to return the stolen hairs to have been kept" (Tai Mai from Bangkok Times, September 8th).

year the money was devoted to a more worthy purpose, in Vocational Schools.

the opinion of the donors - the purchase of a weapon to The Siam Chronicle of September 3rd contains a report defend their country.

that seventy vocational schools are to be established through- out the country. The report states further that fifty-two 38th Anniversary of these schools will teach carpentry. The budget for the year ended March 31, 1935, was issued in September. current. The report is nicely printed and copies were forwarded to the Department under cover of despatch No. 245 of September

8th

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

current fiscal year contains a grant of Baht 1,400,000 to the Ministry of Public Instruction for the purpose of constructing vocational school buildings.

Domestic Stamp Production.

The Siam Chronicle of September 7th reported that the Royal Survey Department had purchased a machine for printing postage stamps, and that it was negotiating with the Post and Telegraph Department regarding the question of printing new stamps. A report in the same paper on September 16th stated that the Royal Survey Department had received an order for 100,000 stamps.

Army Spirit.

A sign of the times appears in the report (Bangkok Times, September 13th) that the annual swearing-in ceremony of the military cadets who had graduated from the Military School at Bangkok, which took place on September 8th in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army (The Premier Colonel Phya Bahol Bolabayuha Sena), was followed by a presentation ceremony and the annointing of one new light machine gun which had been bought by the subscription of officers and men of the Education Section. Heretofore such funds, representing 3 percent of their salaries, have been devoted to an annual dinner and jollification. This year the money was devoted to a more worthy purpose, in the opinion of the donors - the purchase of a weapon to defend their country.

38th Annual Report of the Royal State Railways.

The 38th Annual Report of the Royal State Railways for the year ended March 31, 1935, was issued in September. The report is nicely printed and copies were forwarded to the Department under cover of despatch No. 245 of September 8th

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

8th, 1938. More particularly, however, it serves as an illustration of the delinquency with which the activities of many of the government departments are made available to the public. * * * * * * * * * *

Floods.

It was reported during September that the floods in northern Siam during the latter part of August caused estimated damage of Baht 14,000 at Chiengmai, Baht 20,000 at Lampang and Baht 19,000 at Chiengrai. Through railway communication between Bangkok and Chiengmai was interrupted for several days as a result of a flood at Uttaradit early in September in the course of which about 500 yards of the main line was washed out.

Note: The present value of the baht (or tical), the

JHC/tse

892.48

Opium

Reference is made to despatch No. 250 of September 13, 1938, transmitting the text of a law amending the Opium Law of B. E. 2472 (1929-30). The new law increases and makes more specific the penalties provided in the old law against smuggling and illegal production and distribution of opium. The law took effect on September 5, 1938, the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

892.114 Narcotics

The Siam Chronicle of September 30th contains an account of the wiles of an opium smuggler, one Nai Thongsuk, who was carrying 100 tamlungs of illicit opium by train to Bangkok. Recognizing an officer engaged in the suppression of the opium traffic seated next to him on the train, he left his package of opium on the seat next to the officer, got out at a station before Bangkok and telephoned the Bangkok police that a smuggler was arriving by train. The unfortunate

officer

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officers and the opium were seized at the Bangkok station.

Bangkok to the Department of State during September

Later the real smuggler was arrested.

Number	Date		Subject
239	Sept.	1	"No Consul" list.
240	"	1	Educational material for the Public Health Service.
241	"	5	Visit of Siamese prison official to the United States.

Note: The present value of the baht (or tical), the basic unit of Siamese currency, is approximately $0.45.

243	"	7	Return from leave of Ramanan Singh.
245a	"	8	Transmitting report of Siamese Government Railways for B.E. 2477.
244	"	7	Inventoriability of electric ceiling fans.
JHC/tse	"	7	Allotment for Miscellaneous Salaries and Allowances, 1938.
246	"	9	Leave of Absence of Edwin L. Neville.
247	"	9	Salaries and allowances of Siamese diplomatic and consular officials.
248	"	10	Siamese Consul General at Manila.
249	"	13	Cost of Living Allowance.
250	"	13	Opium Laws of Siam; Promulgation of amendment.
251	"	13	Semiannual report of expenditures from representation allowance.
252	"	14	Entertainment expenses.
253	"	16	Dissolution of the Assembly of the People's Representatives.
254	"	20	Transmitting Report of the Director General of Customs for B.E. 2460.
255	"	20	Opium Seizures.
256	"	20	Press Interview granted by Colonel Phya Song Suratej.
257	"	20	Forwarding signature cards of Mr. Thomas S. Estes.
258*	"	21	Reply to trade Inquiry of the Victor Adding Machine Company.
259	"	21	Political Report for August.
260	"	27	Birthday of King of Siam.
261	"	27	Washington Post.
262	"	27	Personal Effects of Edwin L. Neville.
263	"	28	Expense of Statutory leave of absence of J. Holbrook Chapman.
264	"	28	Siamese Foreign Office Journal.
265	"	29	Personnel (Siamese) at the Legation in Bangkok.
266	"	29	Transmitting copy of a publication entitled "Rup Projections",
267	"	30	President's Appeal to Germany and Czechoslovakia.

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Telegrams forwarded by the American Legation at Bangkok to the Department of State during September 1938.

24	Sept.	6	Arrival and assumption of charge of Mr. Neville.
25	"	22	Treaty information.
26	"	28	Shipment of silver coin.

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*Combined Office despatch. 245a - Duplication.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Despatches forwarded by the American Legation, Bangkok to the Department of State during September

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241	" 6	Visit of Siamese prison official to the United States.
242*	" 6	Nonimmigrant 3(1) visas issued week of August 28-September 3.
243	" 7	Return from leave of Ramanan Singh.
245a	" 8	Transmitting report of Siamese Government Railways for B.E. 2477.
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245	" 7	Allotment for Miscellaneous Salaries and Allowances, 1939.
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252	" 14	Entertainment expenses.
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