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CONSULAR BUREAU
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AMERICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL,

Bangkok, Siam, December 3, 1923.

JAN 21 1924

* Not to be disseminated without consulting us.

SUBJECT: Freight Service from New York to Bangkok.

3048

DEPT OF STATE
JAN 21 1924
DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
File No. 611.9
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JAN 18 1924
Division of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS,
JAN 18 1924
Department of State

THE HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

SIR:

800.8890/379

INDEX BUREAU
800.8890

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's instruction of October 22, 1923, enclosing a copy of a letter dated September 26, 1923, from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, inquiring in regard to the reference to "the inauguration of a regular freight service direct from New York to Bangkok via Panama about once a month" in a report of my predecessor, dated May 7, 1923, and entitled "Siamese Export Trade to the United States Still Small".

The service referred to by Consul Dunlap is presumably the service of United States Shipping Board vessels, operated by the Tampa Interocean Steamship Company, which, it is understood, is controlled by the Pacific Mail Company. These boats which come to Bangkok via various Asiatic ports (usually Honolulu, Manila and Hongkong, and sometimes other Chinese and Japanese ports and Saigon), bring practically no cargo to Bangkok but invariably take cargoes of rice, and little else, for Cuba and other islands in the West Indies. After stopping at various Asiatic and sometimes an American Pacific port they pass through the Panama Canal

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to the West Indies and eventually an American Atlantic port.

It is understood that when this service was inaugurated last year - the first vessel of the service arrived in Bangkok on September 18, 1922 - it was intended to make it more or less of a monthly service, if conditions warranted. In fact, however, the service has been less frequent. No other vessels arrived at Bangkok during 1922 and five vessels have arrived so far during 1923 - on January 18, February 25, May 4, September 3 and October 29. As will be seen the service is not a regular one, as the boats only come on to Bangkok when there is cargo for them here and have no regular schedule of call at this port. It is probable that the vessels of the service rarely know at the time of their departure from the United States whether or not they are to call at Bangkok and it is presumably for this reason that practically no American cargo for this port is routed by these vessels. It is also true that their purpose of calling at Bangkok at a definite time is not usually known here long in advance and for this reason they obtain little cargo for the United States but confine themselves almost entirely to rice for the West Indies which is the purpose of their call.

The vessels employed in the service usually range from 4,800 to 5,800 net tons and because of their size are unable to cross the bar at the mouth of the river leading to Bangkok but are forced to load at Kohsichang at the mouth of the Menam Chao Phya.

Reference has been made from time to time to these vessels in the periodical reports on shipping forwarded by this office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Charles H. Albrecht

-885-

Charles H. Albrecht
American Consul.