

FRANCE

AGREEMENT IN REGARD TO A CONCESSION TO BUILD A RAILWAY FROM
TONGKING TO YUNNAN, THE LEASE OF KUANG-CHOU-WAN, AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE

(April 10, 1898)

M. DUBAIL, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE TSUNG-LI YAMEN

Peking, 9th April 1898

In pursuance of our interviews, and in execution of the formal instructions of the Government of the Republic, which has furnished me with special powers, I have the honour to ask your Highnesses and your Excellencies to acquiesce in the following terms designed to draw closer the bonds of friendship and neighbourliness which unite the Chinese Empire to the French Republic:—

1st. The Chinese Government grant to the French Government, or to the French Company which the latter may designate, the right to make a railway from the frontier of Tongking to Yun-nan-fu; the Chinese Government having no other responsibility (*charge*) but to furnish land for the road and its dependencies. The route (*tracé*) of this line is actually surveyed (*étudié*), and will be fixed later on in agreement with the two Governments. Regulations will be jointly made.

2nd. The Chinese Government, in consideration of its friendship for France, leases the bay of Kuang-chou-wan, for 99 years, to the French Government, which may establish a naval station and coal depot there. The boundaries of the Concession will be fixed hereafter by agreement between the two Governments, after examination on the spot. The question of rental will be arranged later on.

3rd. When the Chinese Government organizes a definite Postal Service and places a high functionary at its head, it proposes to call for the help of foreign officers, and declares itself willing to take account of the recommendations of the French Government in respect to the selection of the Staff.

I beg your Highnesses and your Excellencies to be good enough to acknowledge receipt of this despatch by an identical letter which will constitute the agreement of our two Governments. The two documents will serve as a Convention.

G. DUBAIL

THE TSUNG-LI YAMEN TO M. DUBAIL, &C.

(PEKING,) *10th April, 1898*

On the 9th April, 1898, we received from Your Excellency the following despatch:

[Despatch quoted as above]

As it is said in the despatch which you addressed to our Yamen that these three requests are destined to draw closer the bonds of friendship which unite us, we are able to acquiesce in them. China and France ought to strengthen the good relations which exist between them, and avert forever any cause of conflict.

It is our duty to address this answer to Your Excellency, in order that you may transmit it to your Government.

[Signatures of the President and Members of the Tsung-li Yamen]