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Shanghai Arsenal Ship yard,  
commenced in 1865, and known  
as the Kiangnan Arsenal. Since  
that time it has principally been  
managed by Cheng-tā-louye, and  
Feng-tā-jen. By instructions of  
Tseng-kwo-fan Vice roy, for the pur-  
pose of building war vessels, and  
transports, with their required steam  
power and fittings complete, also  
cannon large & small, boat howitzers,  
rifles, shot, shell, and all kinds of  
ammunition, including powder man-  
ufactory. They have completed and  
launched seven (7) men of war, consist-  
ing of five (5) gun boats, & two (2) frigates,  
as follows—

- No 1. Gun boat, 500 tons, 90 horse power, 5 guns.
- No 2. Gun boat, 800 tons, 100 horse power, 3 guns.
- No 3. Gun boat 650 tons, 120 horse power 5 guns.
- No 4. Gun boat, 650 tons, 130 horse power, 5 guns.
- No 5. Frigate 2500 tons, 400 horse power, 20 guns.

No. 6. Gun boat, 700 tons, 150 horse power, 6 guns.

No. 7. Frigate, 2500 tons 400 horse power, 20 guns.

One sailing transport will be launched next week of about 700 tons. They have turned out several thousand cannon, and many thousand rifles, mostly Enfields, which have been distributed throughout China. They are at present changing Enfield rifles into Snijders breech-loaders. The exact number of arms that have been manufactured here, I will bring you in my report. The powder works are turning out about 300 lbs. per day, besides large quantities of metallic cartridges. Several thousand tons of pig-iron have been contracted for, for making cannon, shot, & shell. Over two thousand (2000) workmen are at present employed in this Arsenal.

There is a dock, capable of docking any of the naval vessels of China.

There is also at this port 2 private docks capable of docking any of the naval or merchant vessels visiting at

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this port, and there are facilities here for building, and repairing vessels as economically & expeditiously, as at any port in the world.

The Arsenal has on hand lumber and iron enough for, and suitable for building several more vessels; but from present indications, this Arsenal has not the required practical management that the Foochow dock-yard has. Its situation is so exposed that it would be very easy for your vessels to destroy it in a few hours, as it is all within range of your smallest cannon, and there will be no objection made by the representatives of the Treaty Powers to your steaming up the river past the Foreign Settlement, to the Arsenal three miles up the river. A few shells exploded about the workshops will frighten all the workmen from the place, then you can quietly take possession either to burn or

or obtain, & fortify for your future use

Two miles farther up the river you will find the powder works entirely unprotected and very easy of access. At Woosung the No 1 Frigate has been lying at her moorings for some time; 50 men might board and take possession at any time during the night. This Frigate is a truly magnificent vessel, will steam 12 miles per hour; can carry a crew of 500 men, and is well armed with Krupp's guns, and when well officered & manned is capable of doing as much fighting as any vessel of her class in any country; at present she has neither Admiral, Capt. Navigator, competent Engineer, or fighting crew, and with very few exceptions, this lack of officers will apply to every ship flying the Chinese flag. All these naval vessels are officered & manned by the different Viceroy's who have the vessels in charge, and these officers & men look to the Viceroy for promotion; and as the Peking Gov<sup>mt</sup> has no regularly organized navy or competent Admirals as yours and all other navies have, the present position of the navy is much as yours was before the prince

surrendered their <sup>vessels</sup> to the Mikado's gov<sup>mt</sup>.  
Until the naval vessels of China are properly  
officered & manned with the required discipline  
in its navy, it can never whip the navy of Japan,  
or enforce the laws of its own country in case  
of rebellion.

Besides the vessels of the Foochow  
Navy yard and of the Shanghai Arsenal  
there are six (6) other gunboats which have been  
purchased from time to time by the different  
provinces and have been constantly employed  
as armed transports & revenue vessels in the  
middle & northern provinces. In addition  
to these, there are seven (7) purchased gun-  
boats under the control of the viceroy of  
Canton. The above constitute the navy  
of China making in all thirty two (32)  
armed gov<sup>mt</sup> vessels, which are under the  
control of the different viceroys, and all  
orders emanating from Peking have to be  
given by the viceroys and thro' them to the  
Admirals instead of orders direct as do all

other nations. In case you are to have a fight  
your first order should be to surprise and  
seize these ships which can easily be done,  
then take them immediately to Nagasaki to  
complete their armament and fit out; then  
return and blockade the ports of Tientsin,  
Shanghai, & Foochow, destroy the junk fleet  
and China then will be at your mercy.  
You will be able to then dictate your own  
terms as to the amount of sycee you will  
demand from China for her future good  
behavior. All this can be done within  
a few months if it is necessary to be done at all.

To His Excellency

Okuma Shigenobu.

Shanghai, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 1874.

Report upon Wang-  
kai Arsenal about

Shih's yard

29<sup>th</sup> October 1894