

Gong Zhaoyuan strongly recommends Zhang Bishi

In the late Qing Dynasty, the Qing government encouraged overseas Chinese to invest in agriculture. Because Zhang Bishi was already a well-known figure among overseas Chinese at that time, the court wanted to try its best to win him over. In the 16th year of the Guangxu reign of the Qing Dynasty (1890), Gong Zhaoyuan, the envoy of the Qing Dynasty to England, went on a mission to Europe and America to seek ways to make a prosperous country. While passing through Nanyang, he passed by Penang Island and specifically visited and intended to test Zhang Bishi. Gong Zhaoyuan said, "Why did the red haired people make the commerce of Nanyang prosperous and prosperous?" Zhang Bishi replied, "We passed it on to each other." Gong also asked, "Where did wealth come from?" Zhang Sui replied, "When the land is at its best, we observe the changes of the times. When people abandon us, we take others; when they are humble and humble, they strive to win. People are diligent and frugal, and they choose their own time." When Gong Zhaoyuan listened to Zhang Jun's wealth making skills, he exclaimed, "You are not a person in the business world, but a genius in the world." Is China now poor and weak, saying 'return to save the motherland' Zhang Bishi replied, "I have had this aspiration for a long time!" Later, Gong Zhaoyuan recommended Zhang Bishi to the court and sent a letter to Li Hongzhang, strongly recommending him.

Zhang Bishi was appointed as the first Consul of Penang by the Qing court, and later promoted to Consul General in Singapore.