

Changyu Liquor Bureau

Li Hongzhang, Zhang Zhidong, Sheng Xuanhuai, the representatives of the Westernization Movement, once took "learning from the strong skills of foreigners to control them" as the purpose of strengthening the military and governing the country. They have successively established several military enterprises, such as Jiangnan Manufacturing Bureau, Jinling Manufacturing Bureau, Fuzhou Shipping Bureau, Tianjin Machinery Bureau, etc. Faced with the massive import of foreign goods and the control of China's shipping rights by foreign shipping companies, the Westernization Movement believed that it was necessary to compete with foreign merchants for profits in order to achieve the goal of seeking wealth. Sheng Xuanhuai established the railway and the Tianjin Telegraph Bureau with the aim of promoting this trend and gradually gaining power, moving from a strong military to a prosperous country, beginning the development period of Chinese national capitalism. However, at this time, both military and civilian enterprises were established by bureaucrats and compradors, and there was also a saying of "red crowned merchants". Therefore, the appellation of enterprises at that time was basically "bureau" and "institute", which was also one of the distinctive features of the Westernization Movement. Zhang Bishi, the founder of Changyu Company, also used the term "Changyu Wine Bureau" when he founded Changyu Grape Brewing Company.

The Westernization Movement has brought China closer to the world. When Changyu Company was first established, the General Bureau (also known as Changyu Liquor Bureau) was located in Yantai, while the Sub Bureau was located in Singapore and Penang Island. Time flies, the waves of history rush forward, but they also leave regrets, for example, there is not much information about the Changyu Liquor Bureau. However, by chance. In the early 1990s, Mr. Ma, a resident of Yantai, and his friends took a walk on the original Dongshan Grape Garden Mountain and accidentally discovered a stone tablet lying by the roadside. With curiosity, they opened it and found that it was a boundary stone with the six characters "Chang Yu Liquor Bureau Boundary" engraved on it. More than 100 years later, the old boundary stone reappeared, thus confirming the nature of "official supervision and commercial operation" when Chang Yu Company was first established, filling the historical record of Chang Yu as a "liquor bureau".