

Participating in the World Expo

In 1915, Zhang Bishi and other outstanding industrialists in the national business community formed the China Tour to the United States Industrial Group, which participated in the San Francisco Panama Pacific International Exposition (predecessor of the Expo) and inspected the American economy.

On April 7, 1915, a total of 17 members of the Chinese Beauty Industry Group gathered at the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce. Zhang Bishi, who was 74 years old, was elected as the group leader, Huang Yanpei (a patriotic and democratic educator in modern China) as the secretary, Nie Qijie (a prominent figure in the Chinese business community) as the deputy group leader, Yu Rizhang (an English secretary of Li Yuanhong and a follower of Sun Yat sen) as the honorary translator, and Zhu Liqi (a Chinese industrial tycoon) as the accountant.

Two days later, the weather will be sunny. Everyone will gather at the Xinxing Port in Shanghai and take a cruise ship to set sail. Such an important matter has naturally attracted attention from various sectors in China, from politicians and business leaders, to media reporters and ordinary people, everyone has boarded ships to bid farewell to the industrial group. After waving goodbye to each other, Zhang Bishi, the richest man in Southeast Asia, led a delegation to cross the ocean and embarked on a more than 2-month sea journey.

Three days after departure, the cruise ship arrived at Nagasaki Port in Japan. The industrial group has long heard that the Japanese business community is lobbying in the United States to obstruct the Chinese delegation from participating in the expo, so they have taken precautions. Everyone only bought some daily necessities at the port, and the cruise ship continued to move forward after replenishing fuel and fresh water. When it arrived at Mensi Port in Japan on the 13th, the weather was unfavorable and it started to rain heavily. Everyone looked out from the window of the cabin, and it was raining profusely, as if one could feel the cold outside the cabin. Everyone was drinking hot tea on the ship while discussing some related matters of the trip. On the 14th, after the industrial group arrived in Kobe, a local journalist came to interview. At the strong invitation of over 4000 overseas Chinese businessmen, the industrial group made an exception and disembarked for the first time to gather with overseas Chinese. Compatriots at home and abroad were enthusiastic and excited about this exhibition in the United States. On the 16th, when the cruise ship left Yokohama, there were strong winds and heavy rain. Along the way, they heard news of the European war and negotiations between China and Japan, which made everyone's emotions even more agitated. On the 20th, it rained and cleared up, and for the following week, the weather was very sunny, just like everyone gradually adapting to the mood of sailing life.

On May 3rd, the Chinese tour industry group arrived in San Francisco, USA on the Pacific Company cruise ship. Mr. David, Special Representative of the President of the United States to the Tax Department of San Francisco, Mr. Wei Shan, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Far Eastern Affairs, Mr. Paul, Representative of the Commercial Bureau of New York, Representative of the Ministry of Works and former Acting General of the Department of Commerce, Mr. Dan Shi Maier, Prime Minister of the

Western American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. George Buck, Prime Minister of the Panama International Exposition, Mr. Moe, Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Luo Wei, and representatives from various sectors of the United States went to the pier to welcome the delegation. They were escorted by a caravan to the hotel, and the delegation was warmly welcomed by the US government and Chinese and foreign businessmen. On May 4th, the Chinese tourism industry group visited the Panama Games, and the Prime Minister of the Panama Games held a luncheon at the venue to welcome the industry group. On May 6th, overseas Chinese from the United States invited an industrial team to participate in the Panama Tour. In the afternoon, the Chinese Association hosted a banquet and a tea party at the venue, while in the evening, representatives from various countries (excluding Japan) attended the Panama Tour.

On May 9th, the industrial group left San Francisco and went to various ports along the eastern United States for inspection. During the inspection of Washington, the industrial group was received by US President Wilson and hosted by Secretary of State Bennett. During the inspection in New York, he was welcomed by the Mayor of New York and attended a welcome banquet attended by over 700 guests from the US Department of Commerce and industrialists.

The industrial group led by Zhang Bishi traveled to 28 states in the United States for two months, covering a distance of 10740 miles. They participated in the Panama Pacific International Exposition and inspected over 200 factories, farms, commercial ports, schools, and more. Wherever the industrial group went, they received warm welcome and hospitality from the US government, business community, people, and overseas Chinese, composing a brilliant chapter of friendship. Zhang Bishi was also praised by Americans as the "Rockefeller of China".

It should be said that Zhang Bishi, at an advanced age, led a delegation to represent China in the World Expo and inspect American industries, which is a remarkable event and a memorable history. It is precisely the founder's strong patriotism and sense of responsibility to serve the country through industry that inspires generations of people in Changyu to continue moving forward.....