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paid for them. I was not informed that anyone had paid for the berths or that tickets had been issued, and presumed of course that the berths had simply been reserved in consequence of my telegram and that I was taking up the space and paying for it in the usual way, as would be done in Canada and the United States.

Mr. King desires me to express his regret that you should have been put to trouble in the matter. He, of course, did not know anything of the arrangements which were left to me, and I am indeed sorry that you were occasioned inconvenience. It was clearly the duty, however, of the station clerk, upon my indicating the name and the berths upon the plan, to have informed me that tickets had been issued to your agency for these berths, and not to have sold them over again to me. I might add that later we found that berths had been reserved for Mr. King and the members of the Opium Commission with whom he was travelling, by the Viceroy, and that the station officials appeared to be in a state of great confusion in connection with the whole sleeping car reservations.

I regret again that you should have been put to trouble over the matter, but think you will see from the above explanation, that neither Mr. King nor myself were to blame.

Yours respectfully,

Messrs. Racine, Ackermann & Co.,
Hankow, China.

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