



A group photograph of the official 'Inspection' of the newly completed railway line to Tientsin by Viceroy Li Hung Chang on 9th October, 1888. From the left of the front row of officials standing on the flat car, are Wu Ting Fang (a.k.a. Ng Choy), Tong King Sing (Tang Tingshu), Chu Yu Chi (Xu Run) and Li Hung Chang (Li Hongzhang). Behind the flat car is a special railway coach constructed at Tongshan workshops for Li Hung Chang. The coach was fitted with a large saloon, a bedroom, lavatory, servants and service rooms. The locomotive used to haul the inspection train was No. 11, which had been delivered in 1888.

以直隶总督李鸿章为首的新建天津铁路官方“检查”团集体照，拍摄于1888年10月9日。站在平板车上的前排官员左起依次为：伍廷芳（又名伍才）、唐景星（唐廷枢）、徐雨之（徐润）、李鸿章。平板车后面的是在唐山工场专为李鸿章建造的铁路客车。客车上布置了一间大型会客室、一间卧室、浴室、佣人房和杂用间。用于牵引该检查列车的是于1888年生产的11号机车。

The whole project was completed within fourteen months with limited train services commencing in August, 1888. This period of railway development was not without opposition to the railway on a number of fronts. At various times, there were organized riots against the railway and, in one instance thousands of dollars worth of damage was done to mining equipment at the Tongshan colliery when a violent feud erupted between Cantonese and northern Chinese workers.

Another severe blow was China's first-recorded serious train accident on 25th March, 1889 when a head-on collision occurred between two trains at Chung Liang Cheng (Junliangcheng). English train driver, M. Jarvis, had waited a long time in the station passing loop and impatiently entered the next section of single track before the arrival of an oncoming train. As a result of this collision, four carriages caught fire and several of the injured people were burned alive. Driver Dawson, driving the other train, survived but the offending driver, Jarvis, one Chinese fireman and seven passengers died in the crash. More passengers died several days later from their burns and injuries. It was alleged by junior staff that Jarvis had been drinking heavily before the crash.