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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

January 8, 1931

Mr. Arthur L. Carson,
R.F.D.No.3,
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 18. I am very glad that you sent it along even though it was buried for a time.

It is good to know that your work is progressing and that there is hope that your report for the Institute may be ready sometime during the month of January. If and when the presentation of this report brings you to the city we hope you will have an opportunity to see us.

Reisner just yesterday arrived in New York City after a few weeks on the Pacific Coast. He starts off to China on the President Lincoln sailing from San Francisco January 30, so his stay in the East this time will be very brief. As you know, he expects to be back in the States again in the spring.

The last Cheeloo Bulletin states that Dr. Butterfield had just arrived on the Campus for a few days. He was planning to go on to Nanking, but I believe he hoped to return to Cheeloo a little later on for a more protracted visit. I certainly hope you will get out to China while Dr. Butterfield and Mr. Reisner are still there. If the three of you could get your heads together with regard to the set up of the work at Cheeloo it would be of tremendous value. I have no doubt that you could do just as good a job of planning alone, but it would be of a great deal of value to secure the added interest and support of Dr. Butterfield and Mr. Reisner which would come from their having had a direct share with you in planning such a program.

We hope you will find it possible to get started to Cheeloo within a few months now; but even more important than an early start is the necessity of your getting there in the end. The sooner the better, but better late than never.

With all good wishes, I am

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Carside

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SHANTUNG

University of Nanking
Shantung Christian University

January 27, 1951

Mr. Arthur L. Carson,
R.F.D. No. 3,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Ddar Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 25, and also the copy of a very interesting chart which you have prepared showing the work of the University of Nanking.

In accordance with your request, we are sending Mr. Anderson a check for \$5.40 and are sending Mr. Sheldon a check for \$2.45 covering work they have done in preparing this chart for Mr. Reiser's use. Since you have already sent copies of the chart to Mr. Reiser I understand it will not be necessary for us to carry out the request in his memorandum of November 20 that we send one copy of the chart from our office. If any further copies of this chart are required we can have photostatic copies made from the copy you have sent us.

I have been very much interested in studying the chart. I am not qualified to make any suggestions as to any change either in form or content. I note you did not include Cheeloo as one of the institutions cooperating with Nanking. While it is quite true that most of the cooperation between Cheeloo and Nanking is still on paper rather than an actuality, I believe that a small beginning of this cooperation has already been made, particularly in connection with the work Stanley is doing. I am sure that you studied all parts of the field carefully in preparing your chart and that you considered this small beginning was not sufficient to justify at this stage the inclusion of Cheeloo as one of the cooperating institutions. I do hope, however, that within a year or two such a chart would show that Cheeloo is doing some very effective work along these lines.

I am glad to know that your work is progressing; and that you will soon be able to give your undivided attention to finishing up the thesis and winding up your preparations for departure. You will remember that there is still \$500 coming to you from the pledges made by Dr. Milliken and Mr. Cochran last year to help you on your way. Will this \$500 enable you to get started for China with all obligations met?

I am pleased to have your comments on Salisbury. Mr. Reiser has been very much interested in him and has been hoping that he might get out to Nanking. However, so far as we are able to see at present, the only possibility of his support at Nanking would lie with the Cornell-in-China group.

Mr. Carson-2

1-28-51

If this group should not find it possible to send Salisbury out to Nanking there is a possibility that we might secure his appointment by the Presbyterian Board to fill one of their vacancies in the quota at Cheeloo. Of course we would need to have some request from the field proposing such an arrangement before we could bring the matter officially before the Presbyterian Board. You will probably be able to find out whether there is any likelihood of Cornell-in-China supporting Salisbury at Nanking. If there is little prospect for such support, do you think that we should take up with the powers that be at Cheeloo the question of whether we should ask the Presbyterian Board to consider Salisbury as one of their quota at the University.

What I have said with regard to the Presbyterian Board's assuming the support of Salisbury, might also be applied to Tisinger. In Tisinger's case a somewhat larger obligation would be involved because of the fact that he is a married man with a family. However, this is compensated for by the fact that he has already had experience in China.

Last week I spent a few days with Margaret at Trudeau and found her getting on fairly well. She still has some rather trying months ahead, and sometimes gets very much depressed. You and Mrs. Carson know her intimately enough to understand how she reacts to such a situation. The news I have had from her during the past few days indicates that she is not getting on quite so well as usual this week. I hope, however, that her present troubles are of quite a temporary nature, and that within a few days she will begin to feel much better.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Carside

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SHANTUNG

February 5th, 1931

Dear Carson,

I have just noticed that I made one misstatement in my letter of January 27th that is probably causing you some concern. In that letter I mentioned that there was \$500.00 still due you on the special grant made possible by Mr. Cochran's and Dr. Milliken's gifts last year. As a matter of fact, there is \$900 still due you. To date we have received \$1,500.00, of which \$1,000.00 came from Dr. Milliken, and \$500.00 from Mr. Cochran, but you have drawn only \$1,100.00 of this amount, leaving a balance of \$400.00 cash on hand, together with \$500.00 yet to be received from Mr. Cochran.

Recent letters from Margaret indicate that she is getting on better and is feeling more cheerful. Jean had quite a cold for a few days but is about back to her normal state of inexhaustible pep.

I trust that the Carson clan is thriving.

Cordially,

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SHANTUNG

INDEXED

Shantung Christian University

February 19, 1951

Mr. A. L. Carson,
R.F.D.#8
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Carson:

Some days ago we received from Mr. W. Seward Salisbury his application papers for appointment to the work at Nanking or Cheeloo. I believe that Salisbury's initial interest in China was the University of Nanking, and certainly Cheeloo would not make any bid for him if he is desired by Nanking and if there is any possibility of his being appointed there. However, Reiser told me that the only possibility of securing Salisbury for Nanking would be for the Cornell-in-China group to provide his support. Confidentially, I think Reiser considered that it is rather unlikely that the Cornell-in-China group would be able to provide for Salisbury's support at any time in the near future though he hoped that such arrangements might be made. You will be in a position to estimate pretty accurately the prospects of Salisbury's appointment under support by the Cornell-in-China group.

At the present time the Presbyterian Board has several vacancies on the staff at Cheeloo, for some of which they are not making any cash contribution in lieu of staff. It is greatly to the interest of the University to fill without delay at least those vacancies for which the University is not now deriving any benefit. I do not know whether the powers that be at Cheeloo would approve the appointment of a second Presbyterian representative in connection with the ruralized program of the University. But if Salisbury seems to be the man who could best assist you in building up this department of the University's work, it may be worth while for us to explore the possibilities further.

Our first step would be to send a cablegram of inquiry to the University to discover whether they would approve the appointment of a second Presbyterian representative in this field of work. If and when we secured the field's approval of such a procedure we could take up with the Presbyterian Board the possibility of Salisbury's appointment.

You are in the best position to judge whether Salisbury is the man the University needs. Do you think that he would fit in with the requirements, and has he the necessary qualifications in training, in experience, in Christian character and purpose, and in potentialities for future growth?

Do you know of anyone else whom you would prefer to Salisbury

1013

A.E. Carson-2

2-19-51

in connection with such a possible appointment, and who you think would be ~~as~~ acceptable to the Presbyterian Board and the University.

I am sure you are burning the midnight oil these days in your effort to clear up your work at Cornell and get started back to China. I hope that a reply to these questions I have just raised will not interfere too much with your progress.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Gauside

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SHANTUNG

Ithaca, N.Y.
February 22, 1931

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Garside:

What you write about Salisbury interests me greatly.

It happens that he also called me shortly after your letter came, and we have arranged for a conference Thursday. I am not going to the University before that date, but I shall undertake to find out as much as possible about him then, and likewise shall look into the possibilities of the Cornell-China Club doing something. Personally, I am inclined to think the latter body could not be depended upon for regular support. They might do something for a year or so, but have no regular source of funds, and the interest and effort of the members is likely to fluctuate a great deal from year to year. However, that is easily found out, at least to the extent of knowing their present plans.

My acquaintance with Salisbury is limited, but he impresses me very favorably. He has an exceptionally pleasing personality, and has had some valuable experience in extension work in this state, in addition to his college courses in agriculture and economics. Among other lines, he has been in Extension Entomology and Plant Pathology, which is one of the promising fields of rural service for Cheeloo. How much he could do as resident instructor in the University, I do not know. I should think his strongest hold would be in extension service. That, of course, would involve learning the language, and all that goes with a permanent appointment. Tisinger worked with Salisbury during the Farmers' Week, and recommends him very highly, and an enthusiastic and level-headed worker. I imagine his personal qualifications are O.K., and the question would be one of how well he would fit into the whole situation at Cheeloo.

I shall write again after I see him.

You speak of burning the midnight oil- in the words of our darkey friends, "I aint a dojn nothing else but". Either I shall be through in the course of a few weeks with the first copy of this thesis, or I shall be worn out. At least, it is moving now. I hope it will not be long before I can wind up things at Cornell. What will be involved in satisfying the folks at the Institute of Social and Religious Research, I am in no position to say.

We certainly hope that family of yours is coming along nicely.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Pearson

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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

February 26, 1931

Mr. A. L. Carson,
R.F.D.#5,
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 22.

Glad to have your preliminary comments with regard to Salisbury, and will await with interest further word from you after you have had a chance to explore a little further the various lines you are planning to follow up.

We would also be glad to have some further word from you as to whether there are other possible candidates who might go out to Cheeloo to cooperate with you in the ruralized program. The question is not only whether Salisbury is a good man for this job, but rather, whether he is the best man available.

Glad to know that the thesis is coming along. I certainly hope that it is finished before you are.

From time to time I receive some inquiry from Cheeloo as to how your plans are coming on and when the University may hope to welcome you to its midst. I always reply by "reporting progress", but tell them that you will require a little longer time here in finishing up your manifold obligations. It would be very fine indeed if you could get out to the field while Butterfield and Reisner are still in China. Even though you arrive too late to confer with these two august gentlemen I know you would be glad to have a few months on the field to prepare for your work next year, before you actually launch out on this work with the opening of the autumn semester of the University.

^e Yesterday I returned from four days with Margaret in the Adirondaks. She has improved greatly since I visited with her in January. However, it will still be two or three months before we can hope to have her with us again.

With all good wishes to the Carson clan, I am

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Casside

BAG-H

1017

SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

March 11, 1951

Mr. Arthur L. Carson,
R.F.D.#3
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Carson:

I have your letter of March 7.

We will let Salisbury's case rest until we have had some word from Cheeloo.

Glad to know that your affairs in Ithaca are now rapidly clearing up. We are enclosing herewith a check for \$100 as requested. We hope that when your final process of clearance is completed you will be able to start out to China in a sufficiently sound financial position to avoid too much worry, skimping, and sacrifice after you get into the work at the University. Please keep us fully informed of how your problems along these lines are working themselves out.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Garvise

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SHANTUNG

Ithaca, N.Y.
R.F.D. No. 3,
March 7, 1930 1931

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Garside:

Your letter about Salisbury is at hand. It seems that the matter may well rest for decision upon the reply from the University. He would appear to be a very promising candidate, indeed, and one that may make a great contribution to the work in China. On the other hand, I would not push it against the wishes of Mr. Davies and the people at Cheeloo. Eventually, I shall expect that there be several foreigners engaged in the agricultural work at the University, and it is time to start things moving, but it is probably more important to keep the whole administration of the University moving along with us.

I had a second interview Thursday with Salisbury, which did little more than confirm what I have already written. Beyond that I have had little in the way of additional information.

Several weeks ago you were kind enough to remind me that you were still holding a balance of the special financial grant upon which I might draw. I wish this were not necessary, but under the circumstances it seems the only way out. I did not write at the time in direct reply, for I wished to first see my way out of the maze in which I am entangled. While I can set no dates, it is now rapidly clearing up. There is the final chapter to write in the thesis, and of course, the usual revisions but I think I have rounded the corner, and that it will move rapidly. In the meantime, my obligations have piled up to the place where they are rather embarrassing. If you feel in a position to advance another hundred, it will enable me to pay off the most pressing bills, and relieve my mind a good deal. Eventually, the outlook is fairly good to clear things, but I can not liquidate anything here until I am through.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Carson

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SHANTUNG

R. F. O. No. 3
Ithaca, N. Y.
March 30, 1931

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Garside:
your letter with the enclosed
check for one hundred dollars arrived promptly.
your assistance is greatly appreciated.

The possession of so much money was
apparently too much of a shock, for Edith
went to bed with an attack of influenza the
day your letter came, and I followed a few
days later. We are both completely recovered,
but have lost a week or so of time.

However, the thesis is finished except
for a few additions and the final proofreading
off. How much longer it will hold us depends
upon how much revision is necessary. I
shall let you know the prospects as soon as
I can foretell them.

Sincerely yours,
A. S. Larson.

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SHANTUNG

Ithaca, N.Y.
R.F.D.No.3
April 22, 1931

Mr.B.A.Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Garside:

The thesis has finally been finished, at least in preliminary form, and is now circulating among the members of my committee. In fact, it has been in their hands for several weeks. The major member has given it his approval except for minor alterations. It will probably be sometime next week before it is finally returned, and then it will take several days to put it in shape for final copying. It is long, and has too much in it for a thesis. I have been taking every opportunity to cut out material, but it will still be a big undertaking to have it copied. Even if I can find a typist who will work at it steadily, it will require more than a week. The regulations at Cornell call for the finished copy to be deposited at the Graduate School Office five days before the final examination. All of which means that the best I can do is to finish here sometime in the middle of May. Barring accidents, that would appear to be a fairly reasonable expectation.

This is a long explanation, but I feel obligated to keep you informed as to our movements.

1023

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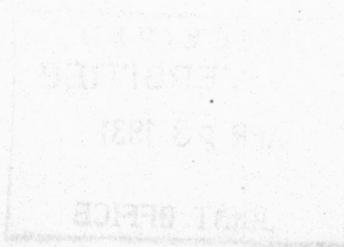
Just as soon as the thesis is copied, I shall forward a copy to the Institute. After completing the requirements here our next step will be to come to New York, and find out where we stand with the Institute, and with the Presbyterian Board. At that time we shall also look forward to a consultation with you. From what I have written above, it would appear that this will probably be in the latter half of May.

Do you have any intimation as to when the Board may restore us to the pay-roll? At the present time, I do not even seem to rate a clergy certificate. It is an awful life, but I suppose there is no one to blame but myself. I do not know where we would be without your backing. Probably looking for a job somewhere. As it is, although I must confess to some misgivings about taking the family to China, I am personally anxious to get to Cheeloo at the earliest opportunity, and we are planning to sail as soon as we can wind up things here. Sorry it has taken so long. I only hope that the work I have done in the meantime will be of some value to the cause.

How is Mrs. Garside? We are very much concerned about her, but are looking for good news.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Carson



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Just as soon as the thesis is copied, I shall forward a copy to the Institute. After completing the requirements here our next step will be to come to New York, and find out where we stand with the Institute, and with the Presbyterian Board. At that time we shall also look forward to a consultation with you. From what I have written above, it would appear that this will probably be in the latter half of May.

Do you have any intimation as to when the Board may restore us to the pay-roll? At the present time, I do not even seem to have a clergy certificate. It is an awful life, but I suppose there is no one to blame but myself. I do not know where we would be without looking. Probably looking for a job somewhere. It is, although I must confess to some misgivings about taking the family to Chicago, I am personally anxious to get to Chicago at the earliest opportunity, and we are planning to sail as soon as we can wind up things here. Gerry has taken so long. I only hope that the work I have done in the meantime will be of some value to the cause.

How is Mrs. Gerslager? We are very much concerned about her, but are looking for good news.
Sincerely yours,

Arthur K. ...

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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

April 23, 1931

Mr. Arthur L. Carson
R.F.D.#5
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 22. It is certainly good news that the thesis has finally been finished and is now passing through the last stages of examination by members of your committee and final revamping. We hope that another fortnight or so will find it entirely completed and off your mind.

It is even better news that you hope you will be able to wind up your affairs at Ithaca soon after the middle of May. We appreciate the fact that you and Mrs. Carson will both need some weeks of rest and quiet before you start back to China; and you will also have a great many busy days winding up personal affairs and preparing for return to the Orient. This would mean that you could not hope to start for the field until sometime in June. That would bring you to Shantung in July, which would be about the worst time of the year anyone could possibly arrive. It might be wiser, therefore, to stay here a little longer and get started back sometime in July, arriving in Shantung early enough in August to get things well organized before the work starts in September.

These are merely my own guesses as to your probable schedule. How far are they at variance with your own ideas and plans? I have made some informal inquiries in the Presbyterian Board as to how you should proceed in getting back on the Presbyterian pay roll, and what might be hoped for in the way of financial assistance before your journey to China actually begins. I understand that as soon as your return to the field is definitely settled you will be entitled to secure a clergy certificate. Just how far in advance of your sailing date the Presbyterian Board will agree to place you on the pay roll would have to be a matter for negotiation. I hope that they might be persuaded to resume your salary for a couple of months before you start for China, but one could not place too much assurance on such a guess. Of course, your first move will be to write to our friends in the Presbyterian Board reporting the state of development your plans have reached, and informing them of the date when you will be able to place yourself again in the hands of the Board. I see no harm in your stating frankly in your first communication the present status of your finances and your hopes for whatever assistance the Presbyterian Board may be able to give in advance of your date of sailing.

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A. Carson - 2
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If there is anything we can do to facilitate your negotiation with the Presbyterian Board we will be happy to do so.

You and your good lady have certainly had a strenuous uphill pull during these last few years, but we hope that both of you will feel when you get back on the field that it has been worth while.

Margaret continues to improve. During the last two and a half months she has gained about eighteen pounds in weight so she is getting to be quite a plump young lady. We will have to hock the family jewels to buy her a new wardrobe when she leaves the infirmary. She has been feeling more optimistic during the last few months though she has been bogged down in the slough of despond again during the last week or so. She has certainly been having her ups and downs with the downs predominating, but perhaps from now on the law of averages will get in its work by increasing the percentage of ups.

Give our best regards to Edith and the young folks.

Cordially

B. A. Garside

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SHANTUNG

INDEXED

Shantung Christian University

May 2, 1951

Mr. Arthur L. Carson,
R.F.D. 3,
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Carson:

We have just received from Mr. Davies a cablegram reading as follows:

"SALISBURY IMPOSSIBLE."

This is no doubt in response to correspondence we sent Mr. Davies in March suggesting the possibility that Mr. Salisbury might be appointed to the Cheeloo staff as one of the quota of the Presbyterian Board. It will probably be some weeks before we receive any further word by mail.

Will you please pass on to Mr. Salisbury with whatever diplomacy may be required this information that Cheeloo will probably not be able to arrange for his appointment? As soon as I have had more definite word from the field by letter I will write to him.

Very cordially yours,

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B. A. Carside

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SHANTUNG

Ithaca, N.Y.
R.F.D.No.3,
May 5, 1931

Dear Garside:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which has been written to Dr.Fenn. I shall not take time to add anything to it except to acknowledge the receipt of your note regarding Salisbury. It will be a disappointment to him, but there is no use thinking about that now. I shall be interested to know why they turned him down. He is undoubtedly a unusually promising candidate. The only question in my mind has been whether he would fit into the situation at Chaeloo. I would just as soon know a little more about the conditions there before taking the responsibility for recommending an appointment, but that means no chance to know the candidate who might be chosen. Perhaps Salisbury may't still be available a year later, if it seemed wise to push the matter then.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. Carlson

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SECRET

London, N.Y.
N.Y. U.S.C.
May 6, 1931

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which
has been written to the Board. I shall not discuss
anything to it except to summarize the main points
of the letter. It will be a long letter, but
I shall try to summarize it as briefly as possible.
He is particularly a very good person, and
it is a great pleasure to have him in the
into the situation of the Board. I shall
show a little more of the situation in the
taking the responsibility for the situation
but that is not a matter for the Board to
be of course. I shall be glad to discuss
a year later, if it is possible to do so.

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Ithaca, N.Y.
R.F.D. No. 3
May 5, 1931

Dr. Coustenay H. Fenn,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Dear Dr. Fenn:

Your kind letter of March 28th was greatly appreciated.

It begins to look as if we were finally reaching the place where definite plans should be made for the future. This month and probably the first part of June will have to go into finishing my work at Cornell, and ~~adjusting~~ our personal affairs. Assuming that we meet with no unexpected obstacles here, there remains one further question, that of ~~possibly~~ needing to revise my study for publication. It is now being typed as a thesis, a copy of which will be sent to the Institute of Social and Religious Research for examination. What they may want me to do is a question which can only be answered after they have had a chance to look over the thesis. I am, of course, anxious to make any reasonable requests for revision. We shall doubtless know about that ~~something~~ the present month.

The middle of the summer is not a good time to arrive in China with a family, and it would seem that the sailing date should be sometime in July. I am writing to Miss Aber on this point.

We shall, of course, have to visit relatives and supporting churches, before leaving the country. It is also essential that Mrs. Carson have a chance to relax from the severe strain of the past year. She has had to carry very heavy burdens and make serious sacrifices. What she would like to do is to get away from Ithaca, where there are constant demands upon our time, and attend some summer school where there is work in Religious Education, or related subjects. We may be able to attend some of the sessions of the Conference for Outgoing Missionaries, but this is not just what she needs. If I were a little more sure about my own time I would try to find an opportunity to teach a course on rural and agricultural missions at some summer school for rural ministers, where there is also work in religious education. There is not much chance to locate anything of this kind in our present uncertainty, but we are hoping to find some place where Mrs. Carson can gather a little rest and

inspiration for a few weeks during June or July.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Garside in order that he may be informed of our progress. The medical office has sent us the blanks for the examination required of departing missionaries. I am wondering if the new medical secretary has anything to add in the way of instruction. Perhaps you would call his attention to our situation. I have not been in touch with that office since Dr. Wylie left. It would seem wise to have the medical examinations cared for in Ithaca just as soon as we can find time.

May I also raise the question as to what arrangements the Board may have in mind regarding our salary? By assembling all of our resources we shall probably be able to clear off accumulated obligations, but it will be rather difficult to make preparations to return to China, without some support while we are getting ready. I am ~~also~~ wondering what we shall do about outfitting ourselves. We shall have to buy clothes before we go anywhere. Mrs. Carson has just refused an invitation to speak before a group of supporters at the church in Endicott, largely because her clothes are worn out. We shall doubtless manage to take care of such needs if we are able to go to China at all, but there is still the question of furnishing a place to live after we get there. Our goods, which were stored at Weihsien, were all sold when it looked as if the station would be looted by the Southern army, at about enough to pay for the freight home ~~for~~ a few personal belongings. I realize that our position is a peculiar one. The Board has already done a good deal for us, and I am not inclined to ask for any special consideration. It will help us, however, in making our plans, to know what procedure they may consider reasonable under our present circumstances.

We shall be ~~grateful~~ for your attention to the questions raised by this letter, and shall try to keep you informed as to our plans.

Very sincerely yours,

Arthur H. Carson

SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

May 7, 1931

Mr. A. L. Carson,
R.F.D.#3
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your note of May 5, to which attach a copy of the letter you wrote Dr. Penn the same day.

Dr. George T. Scott is now back at 156 Fifth Avenue though I believe that as yet he has not actively taken over the work of the China Secretary. Due to the fact that Dr. Scott has just returned from Tsinan and brought hom a strong conviction as to the need for strengthening the staff there, particularly in the field of ^{the} ruralized program, I hope that our friends across the street will adopt a sympathetic and generous attitude in dealing with your case. I will try to put in an informal word in your behalf, but I dare not be too officious lest I do more harm than good.

You will remember that you still have some assistance coming to you on the arrangements made a year ago. Let us know when and how we can best assist.

I certainly hope that you and Mrs. Carson will manage to get a fairly prolonged period of rest, during which you will be free from financial worries and pressing obligations of every sort. If you are to be in this section of the world I hope we may have the privilege of seeing you occasionally at least.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Caside

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Ithaca, N.Y.
R. F. D. No 3
May 13, 1931

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

SHANTUNG

Dear Garside:

INDEXED

The other day Professor Bayle showed me a copy of some correspondence in regard to a call for his services at Nanking as a possible alternate for Professor Warren. He wanted to know more about it, but I could not tell him much. Perhaps you have nothing more than the cable gram. It would, of course, be out of the question to get Professor Warren. He is head of the Department, and they are putting up a new building. His son, Stanley, is supposed to go to China this fall. Perhaps the message referred to him, although his going would be quite different from that of the older men. My impression ~~was~~ that Stanley was to take the place of statistical assistant to Buch at the University, in connection with Dr. Condliffe's project.

Professor Bayle would really like to go, but he has no leave of absence coming at this time. He would

MAY 13 1931

doubtless get away for the summer, and perhaps longer. He is a favorite teacher with me, and I believe he would have a real contribution to make in China of a somewhat different nature than some of the other men who have gone. If there were any chance of Professor Boyle going I would make a special plea that Chebo be considered for a share of his services. In the case of the more direct form management specialists, there would be no chance to pry them loose from Buck.

Probably nothing will come of it now, but I am putting my bid in early.

I saw Salisbury the other day. He mentioned that he might be in the city before long, when he may look you up. I explained that you would not have any new information until it came by letter. I also suggested that he might wish to visit the Near East people.

The thesis is progressing, but not quite so fast as I could wish. All I am doing is to edit the manuscript and feed it to the typist as fast as she will take it. The date for my final examination is June 8th. I certainly hope another week will see the thesis practically done.

The mission board has not written. No doubt

MAY 13 1931

they are waiting for Dr. Scott.

Edith's brother and his wife want to buy the farm, we have settled everything, except his raising the money. He wants to try to buy it equipped with what we have here. That will be so much the better, but in the mean time he does not even want me to sell the cow. I was rather hoping to live off the purchase price this month. If we still have a hundred dollars coming from the special fund you mention, I believe I shall ask for it at this time. We could get along, but it is worrying Edith almost sick.

It looks as if we would be able to pull through financially in the end, although I may have to take advantage of that offer of yours again before we sail. That reminds me we have a tentative date on the President Harrison the last part of July. Do you know anything about the boat? We have a choice of that or the Chickaboy Mon.

The only other news is that Ruth has the mumps. She is not worrying much about that, but it adds to Edith's burden, and I hope it had the disease myself. Hope to escape now.

Sincerely yours

A. D. Carson

MAY 13 1931

they are waiting for Dr. Galt.
Little's brother and his wife want to buy the farm.
We have settled everything, except the money.
The money, I had wanted to take to the bank, but
with what we have here, that will be enough for
better, but in the mean time he does not even want
to sell the cow. I was rather hoping to see it
the purchase price this month. If we will have
hundred dollars coming from the sale of the
money, I believe I shall not be far from
We could get a good one, but at present
about it.

The money is
arranged on the 15th, and the
abstracts of that office were
sent. That amount is to be
paid on the 15th. I have
just. The money is being
a check of the 15th. I have
the money. I have
money. It is not over a week
to Little's brother and his
the money.

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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

May 16, 1931

Mr. A. L. Carson,
R.F.D.3
Ithaca, N.Y.

My dear Carson:

I have your letter of May 15.

I am glad to have the additional information you give us with regard to the plans of Professor George Warren, and also your comments relative to Professor Boyle. Our office has absolutely no information with regard to Professor Boyle other than the mention of his name in the cablegram from Nanking. We do not even know what source Mr. Buck had in mind for meeting any expenses in connection with his proposed trip to Nanking. I trust that within a couple of weeks we will have further word by letter. If it were possible for Professor Boyle to get out to China this year it would certainly be great if Cheeloo could make use of his services for a while at least.

If Salisbury is in New York City in the near future I shall be mighty glad to have a talk with him, although, as you have already pointed out to him, there is very little further information we can give him at this time. Perhaps here too an early China mail will bring us more information.

Glad to know the thesis is progressing. I trust that you will cross the finish with flying colors when you have your final examination on June 8. Should we organize a cheering section to sit on the sidelines and root for you?

I am surprised that you have not had any letter from the Presbyterian Board. Dr. Scott has been back for several weeks, but I believe that as yet he has not officially taken over the work of the China office.

It is certainly fine that Mrs. Carson's brother is planning to buy the farm - lock, stock and barrel - with a cow thrown in.

We are enclosing herewith a check for \$100.00. We trust this will help along a bit.

I am not very well acquainted with the President Harrison, but I think you would find it a very good boat. Dr. Diffendorfer of the Methodist Board was commenting just a day or two ago upon the fine accommodations and services of the *Chichibu Maru*.

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A. L. Carson-2

5-16-31

Sorry that Ruth has the mumps. I hope you manage to escape them, for you would be a handsome figure passing your Ph.D. finals with mumps on both sides.

Cordially,

B. A. Carson

BAG-H

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SHANTUNG

Ithaca, N.Y.
R.D.No.2 (formerly No.3)
June 16, 1931

Mr. B.A. Garside,
China Union Universities,
150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Dear Garside:

At last I am able to report progress to the extent of finishing work at Cornell. Although I did not take time to go to the exercises I assume that I was on the list who received degrees yesterday. The thesis was so long that there was some delay in completing the copying and binding, but I sent the copy to the Institute of Social and Religious Research yesterday. What they - or the general public - will think of it remains to be seen. The question of publication likewise belongs to the future.

You can imagine the relief we feel to have completed the undertaking, but there has not been much time to think about it, because of the other problems which have to be faced.

The first, of course, concerns our return to China. While I have serious misgivings about it at times, our obligation to you and to the folks at Cheeloo is such that I feel we must make every effort to go. Just where we stand financially I have not had time to work out. One complication is that our deal regarding the sale of the farm has hung fire because of the would-be purchaser's lack of cash. He is satisfied with the price and anxious to make the purchase, but has been disappointed in his efforts to raise the money. I think it can be worked out, but it makes it rather difficult in the meantime.

I wrote to the Board, and received a reply which intimated that they had already done more for us than was customary, but that they might be able to secure a small grant from the furlough relief fund, and possibly half of an outfit allowance. If we go back, I hope that the latter will materialize, but I can not bring myself to ask for anything more, even if there were a chance of getting it. It seems quite clear that we should manage to adjust our affairs so as to return to China with the help we have already received, or else do something here and pay back what we have received.

While I probably had no right to ~~expect~~ ^{look for anything else,} the expectation that we should pack up to go to China on our own resources was somewhat of a blow. We almost have to have some income during this period. I realize that you would be willing to advance what is left of the special fund which you secured for our benefit, but we must save that for outstand-

1041

JUN 16 1931

ing debts. Under these circumstances we have done what seems to be the best thing, namely, accept an offer to teach in the Michigan State Summer School at East Lansing, from July 23rd to August 1st. This will hurry us away the last of this week, but will pay a fairly good stipend, and still leave us free for August. It will take a week or so to finish packing, but we should be able to land in China by the first part of September, unless our plans are changed altogether. I hope that we shall be able to manage this and that it will bring us to Cheeloo in time for the work of the autumn.

A very nice letter came lately from Mr. Davies which increased materially our interest in the university.

You may recall the chart of the University of Nanking which I sent to Reisner during the winter. He was anxious to have the drawing, which I am sending to you under separate cover, along with an extra photostat. I am sure that the Institute will have no objection to your using this.

We shall probably leave here this Saturday or Sunday. If we do not hear from you before then, we can be addressed in care of,

E.L. Austin, Dean of Liberal Arts,
Michigan State College of Agriculture
and Applied Science,
East Lansing,
Mich.

I am sorry it has seemed necessary to tie ourselves up in this way for the summer, the more so that it precludes any chance of that anticipated visit with the Garsides in New York. Perhaps that is still a possibility in August, if you are still to be located in the city. I certainly hope we see you both somewhere before leaving for distant parts.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Carson

1042

JUN 18 1931

Under these circumstances we have done what seems to be the best thing, namely, accept an offer to teach in the Michigan State Summer School at East Lansing, from July 23rd to August 1st. This will hurry us away the last of this week, but will pay a fairly good stipend, and still leave us free for August. It will take a week or so to finish packing, but we should be able to land in China by the first part of September, unless our plans are changed altogether. I hope that we shall be able to arrange this and that it will bring us to Chefoo in time for the work of the autumn.

A very nice letter came fairly from ... which impressed me very much in the ...

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... will probably ... day. It is not ... be ...

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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

June 22, 1931

Dr. A. L. Carson,
C/o E. L. Austin, Dean of Liberal Arts,
Michigan State College of Agriculture and
Applied Science,
East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 16. It is indeed good news that you have now finished your work at Cornell. I trust that all the final formalities were negotiated without any difficulties.

I know that you are quite disappointed at the complications which have arisen in connection with the sale of your farm near Ithaca, but I hope that the difficulties can be ironed out without too much delay.

It is indeed too bad that the Presbyterian Board has adopted a somewhat inflexible attitude toward the special problems which you are now seeking to solve. I sometimes feel that our Mission Boards would risk losing the services of experienced and valuable missionaries whom they could not replace without the expenditure of years of search and training, and many thousands of dollars in actual cash, rather than to bend their rules enough to give a few hundred dollars for special assistance in cases where such assistance is thoroughly deserving and is absolutely indispensable to permit return to the field. I will try to find an opportunity to talk further regarding your problems with our friends across the street, but I am anything but optimistic as to the outcome of such negotiations.

It is a darned shame that you should have to spend most of your summer teaching in the Michigan State Summer School when you are in need of time for a complete rest and for leisurely preparation for your return to China. I thought that at the very least the Presbyterian Board would be able to take over your salary during most of the summer so as to relieve some of the pressure on your finances. Since, however, we must continue to be optimistic, it may at least be said that the experience at East Lansing this summer ought to be of real value to you in your future work. You will undoubtedly make some new contacts there and get some new viewpoints that will be quite helpful later. I do hope, however, that you will have a little time at the end of the summer school before you have to rush away for China.

Remember that we are still holding here in our New York office

1044

a balance of \$200 subject to your request, and that in addition, there is another \$500 due from Mr. Cochran which I am sure he will be glad to turn over whenever it is necessary.

We have received the drawing and extra photostat, and our holding the material in our files awaiting Reisman's return.

All the events of the last few months have emphasized the urgency of the need for you at Cheeloo. Dr. Warnshuis returned from China very much dissatisfied with Cheeloo's inability to visualize the work it should do under the proposed ruralized program, and its almost complete failure to make any start whatever in this direction up to the present time. They will need you at the University just as soon as you can get there. I hope that before you leave we will have the opportunity to talk over some of these things.

During the summer months I am to be reduced to the low estate of bachelorhood for even the daughter has now deserted. She and Margaret's sister are driving out to Oklahoma where they will spend the summer months with Jean's grandmother. However, I am hoping to spend next week at Trudeau, and am also trying to persuade Margaret to allow me to come up for three weeks more during August. I will be around New York City during the first ten days or so of August so possibly I will have an opportunity to see you then.

You do not say very definitely whether or not your family is accompanying you to East Lansing. If they are with you give my best regards to Mrs. Carson and the young folks.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Casside

BAG-H

SHANTUNG

231 Bailey Street,
East Lansing, Mich.
July 12, 1931

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Garside:

Today marks the midpoint of our sojourn in East Lansing. By the end of the month we should be packing to return to Ithaca, where the larger task of packing for China will await us. The experience here has been a very interesting one. After the last few years it seems like a vacation, although it has kept me fairly busy.

I have just written to Miss Aber asking for information in regard to possible sailings in August. Do you know when the University opens? I would like to be there before that date, if it is at all possible. It will take a week or more to complete arrangements to leave Ithaca, and we must also spend a few days with Edith's folks in Englewood. Financially, things are looking better than we expected, with one exception. After all the time we have spent waiting for them to decide, our prospective farm purchasers have decided that they can not buy the place. That leaves us somewhat up in the air. The most hopeful thought is that an old school friend of mine is interested in taking it off our hands so that we can return to China. He is a country minister without much worldly goods but a heart of gold. We have been friends since boyhood, in fact I may say that I had some small part in his entering the ministry. Both he and his wife are interested in missions, and it would really please them to help us to go. The trouble is that they do not have any immediate use for the place. He has some funds which he could invest in it, but with his family of six children it would have to be a safe investment. I have written to him today, and also to another possible purchaser. In the meantime we shall plan to go ahead, with the possibility in the background that it may take us a few weeks longer to settle our affairs, and that we may not be able to realize as much on the farm as we had hoped.

The Institute of Social and Religious Research have accepted my thesis with favorable comment, and have paid me all accounts due me, including the typing of the thesis. The latter was more than I had really expected. I do not know what they shall do about publication, but I have no formal obligations in that direction.

Do you have any information as to when Reisner returns? I hope to see him before we go, and shall also be greatly disappointed if we do not see you. Keep me informed as to your schedule in August.

Very sincerely yours,
Arthur H. Carson

1046

101 Bailey Street
West Lansing, Mich.
July 12, 1931

SHAWTNO

Mr. B.A. Garstide,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Garstide:

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to get some news to you soon.

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John
SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

July 22, 1951

Dr. A. L. Carson,
231 Bailey Street,
East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 12. Mighty find to know that you are getting on well in your work at East Lansing.

We have just received the new catalogue of the Colleges of Arts and Science and find that the University opens on September 1. Under separate cover we are sending you a copy.

I have just been talking to Miss Aber as to progress she is making on your sailing arrangements. Apparently she is figuring on the supposition that you will be sailing the latter half of August or the first of September. We can warmly appreciate the fact that you will have innumerable odds and ends to attend to after you finish your work at Lansing, but we certainly hope that you will be able to get away in time to arrive at the University by the opening of the academic year. There are many things that ought to be done before the year opens but it seems unreasonable to expect you to arrive on the campus much before September 1. If your arrival should be delayed very many days beyond that date it would mean that the plans for the year's work were so far crystalized that it would be impossible for you to do nearly as effective service as could otherwise be given.

I have just received the minutes of the meeting of the Cheeloo Board of Directors held in Tsinan June 16 to June 18, and have been interested to note that a large proportion of the minutes, and obviously a large fraction of the time of the meeting, were devoted to the subject of the ruralization program. The Board comes out quite strongly in support of this program but pleads with the Governors to assist in providing staff and personnel. In a covering letter addressed to Dr. Weir and myself, Mr. Davies writes:-

"For the broadening of the scope of this work we need Mr. Carson at once, and if he is not coming then we must have someone in his place. The Ministry of Industry has already indicated its desire to appoint Mr. Carson 'Chuan men wa yuan' or special counselor. No salary goes with such an appointment but it gives opportunity for wider service."

Our friends on the field have already delayed their hopes of your arrival so often that they are apt to get still more pessimistic and discour-

1048

Dr. Carson-2

7-22-51

aged about the whole ruralized program if you are not on the ground on the first of September to take up the matter in vigorous fashion.

It is certainly too bad that you are having difficulty in disposing of your farm, but I hope that the prospects you mention will materialize, and materialize promptly enough to avoid any further delay.

Congratulations on the action of the Institute of Social and Religious Work in accepting your thesis "with favorable comment". The "favorable comment" coming from the Institute means a great deal.

The latest word we have from Reiser indicates that he will arrive in the East about August 1.

Please keep us informed of anything we may be able to do that might expedite your departure for China.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Garside

BAG-H

P.S. I am enclosing for your information a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors to which I referred. You will be interested in the actions taken, particularly to those referring to the "ruralization program".

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SHANTUNG

231 Bailey Street,
East Lansing, Mich.
July 27, 1931

Dear Garside:

The enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Davies is self-explanatory.

I am disappointed to know that the university opens so early. unless I could have been there early enough to have helped in the planning, perhaps it will not make so much difference. As I see it, about all I can hope to do this term is to become acquainted with the situation, and I can do that while I am helping out with whatever they have for me to do. By that I do not mean that I intend to drift with the tide, or to allow myself to become overwhelmed with miscellaneous tasks, but a certain amount of the latter ~~is~~ necessary. I feel the first essential is to keep up morale while we find out just where to begin with the rural program. Perhaps this not an ideal state of affairs, but there seems to be no help for it. Even if I had known about the university schedule earlier, it does not seem that we could have done much differently. The experience here has been very profitable professionally for me, and we should gain some financial help from it. Best of all Edith has found what she was looking for in the way of a state religious education association meeting at a camp nearby. She and the family deserted me, and came back like new people. Perhaps it was on account of being away from me, but they are kind enough to lay the credit to the inspiring study and associations of the camp.

We feel ready to tackle China now, and are planning on going, although I do not see yet just how we are coming out financially. Shall know more about that next week.

I have written to Miss Aber that the best we can plan to do is to leave from either San Francisco or Vancouver on the 28th or the 29th of August. The latter is a day later in starting but reaches the destination five days earlier. Otherwise our preference would be decidedly for the southern route. I wish it could be earlier, but we have gone over the matter from every possible angle, and it is almost impossible to leave sooner. For one thing we must visit Edith's family and that will take almost a week. With the physical condition of her parents we can not rush off with less time spent there.

We shall write again from Ithaca. Address us there in the meantime. Our plan is to leave here next Saturday, and arrive there Monday or Tuesday.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Benson

231 Bailey Street,
East Lansing, Mich.
July 27, 1931

Rev. L. J. Davies,
Cheeloo University,
Tsinan, Shantung, China

Dear Mr. Davies:

Your good letter has gone unanswered for several months, largely because of the uncertainty which seemed to surround the future. Although there are still some difficulties in the way, we are definitely planning to arrive in Tsinan early in September. I had expected that the University would open as the colleges do here, in the latter part of that month, but Garside informs me that the date for the opening of classes at Cheeloo is the first. There seems to be little chance of our being there by that time but we shall arrive as soon as possible. In the event that we are not free to leave next month it would seem that we should withdraw from the picture completely so that you may make other arrangements. It has been quite unfair to Cheeloo to be kept waiting so long for our arrival, but we have done our best.

For the past year or more I have been giving my main energies to the study of agricultural missions, which had expanded considerably beyond my original plans. In the meantime, I had to carry part-time positions at Cornell in order to keep from being hopelessly in debt. The mission board has dealt with us as generously as possible, but our furlough allowance was exhausted in 1927. Since that time I have acted as Assistant in the Departments of Rural Education and Agricultural Economics at Cornell, have been secretary of the summer school of agriculture, principal of the week-day schools of religious education in the city of Ithaca, teacher in the George Junior Republic, and for ever a year also acted as pastor of a Baptist church where I lived, in the country district near Ithaca. It has all been good experience, but none of it paid very well, and it was all work of a nature which constantly tempted me to do a great deal more than the salary justified. During all of this time I have been trying to complete the requirements for an advanced degree with the thought of ultimately returning to Cheeloo. There have, of course, been a good many days of discouragement. If we finally arrive on the scene it will be largely due to the unfailing vision and resourcefulness of Mr. Garside.

Another development which has been a great source of encouragement, as well as making more or less demands upon my time is the organization of the Agricultural Missions Foundation. They will probably not have much money to spend for a while, but I think they offer a great deal of promise for substantial support of various kinds in the future.

JUL 27 1931

The study of agricultural missions to which reference has been made is now completed. The manuscript is now in the possession of the Institute of Social and Religious Research. Eventually, I hope it will be published in some form. I may possibly have to be delayed a week longer than I am now anticipating in order to prepare an abstract for that purpose. This June I received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Cornell, majoring in Rural Education, with minors in Agricultural Economics and Plant Breeding. In the meantime, our affairs had become so badly tangled that it was apparent we could not leave before the end of summer. Being also badly in need of funds there seemed no alternative but to accept an invitation to teach in the summer school of the Michigan State College for we shall be here for a week longer. Then we shall return to Ithaca to finish packing, settle certain matters of business, take leave of Mrs. Carson's family, and -- we hope -- start for China. The main obstacle is that of finances. All I wish is to out of debt, and to see some possibility of setting up in housekeeping after we reach Tsinan. Under our circumstances it would seem very unwise to be more heavily burdened. I do not think we ought to look for any special assistance beyond what we have already received. We are planning as carefully as possible, and think that the way will open.

From a common sense standpoint it would seem very unwise for us to go to China again, but the situation at Cheeloo has a peculiar appeal to me, and I also feel heavily obligated to respond to the expectation of those of you who -- patiently or otherwise -- have been waiting for us to arrive to help with the rural work. Although there are many others who could and would carry out the work better than myself, there would doubtless be considerable delay in making another appointment.

In general, I am in agreement with the principles of development for the rural work outlined by the last meeting of the Board of Directors, namely, that the revolutionary changes are necessary. Naturally, I have certain ideas as to what may be the most fruitful lines to follow, but need to study the situation at first hand before committing myself to any detailed plans. I hope that some time can be allowed for this purpose during the fall term. However, I am quite willing to attempt some teaching, although there would seem to be a real danger in building the rural work up too much in terms of academic classes without a basis of investigation or direct contacts with country people. You will understand that whatever teaching I do must be largely in English. My Mandarin was equal to an ordinary conversation when I left Weihsien, but will need much rejuvenation before it would serve for instructional purposes. As for courses, I am reconciled to the fact that this will probably be settled for me before I arrive. Under the circumstances I do not feel like having too much to say about the work of this first term, except that it be in rural fields. My first choice of courses would be under the heading of Rural Education, the second Agricultural Economics or Principles of Rural Development, and the third Rural Sociology. I understand that my original assignment

1053

JUL 27 1931

was to Sociology. At that time I had some intent of spending more preparation in that field, but a great deal of water has gone under the bridge since that time, and I am hoping that I shall not be held rigidly to that department. It would put me in a false position to pose as a technical sociologist, but I have had sufficient experience in rural organization, and enough contacts through related subjects that I would attempt it if such were the general desire, at least, for a time. In that case, my emphasis would be very practical. Personally, I am cherishing hopes that there are still possibilities for the University in Rural Education. I understand mission enthusiasm for formal school work is at a low ebb, but am inclined to believe that is only a temporary state of affairs, and that we still have a contribution to make which the government will be willing to receive.

I was quite pleased to hear through Garside that there had been some suggestion of governmental cooperation with the rural work. Such cooperation is full of endless disappointments but is, it seems to me, the only policy for the future.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Garside, and shall hope that he can keep you informed of our plans. It does not seem wise to set a definite sailing date, but we shall have to decide upon that within a few weeks, probably before this letter reaches you. I hope that you will convey my thanks to Dr. Stanley for his letter of last winter, and assure the rest of your colleagues who are interested in the rural work that I shall be there ready for business by autumn, or shall try to help you find some one who will.

Very cordially yours,

P.S. In reading this over, I see that I have omitted to mention cooperation with the university of Nanking program, especially in Plant Improvement, which would seem to be one of the things we should stress at the present time.

1054

file Carson
came in

Ithaca, N.Y.

R.F.D. No. 2

August 12, 1931

Dear Garcia,

SHANTUNG

Sometimes before the weekend the Carson family are hoping to pull out for the metropolis. It goes without saying that we shall wish to see you, and I shall try to get in touch with you by telephone as soon as we arrive. However, we shall be there until the middle of the week in case you are away for any of this time. This is the vacation season, and if you are away for all of this time we shall hope to see you at some other time before leaving the country. Perhaps we could drive to where you are on our way back from the city.

We must be in Ithaca again next week. For one thing we are all scheduled to go to the dentist's office Sunday, August 20th. I understand that Reiser expects to be at the Country Club Conference during next week, and hope to see him here. I have written to Mrs. Abe to the effect that we would try to catch the boat leaving September 3rd. Wish it could be sooner, but it does not seem possible.

Hastily, Carson.

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SHANTUNG

Cheeloo University,
Tsinan, Shantung, China
October 7, 1931

ack. 11/23/31

Mr. B. A. Garside,
China Union Universities,
150 Fifth Ave., New York, U.S.A.

Dear Garside:

Yesterday the president's office supplied me with the files of correspondence, etc., relating to the rural program at Cheeloo, and I have been going over these rather carefully. I have also had my first opportunity to confer with Dr. Stanley about the situation.

I was especially interested in the report of the informal meeting of Dr. Monroe with the Deans' Committee during January, 1929, and also in the impressions of the work of the university by Dr. Monroe and others as summarized in your letter of May 11, 1931. The main point of this letter which I am now writing is to ask you to do all you can to keep those men who have been urging the rural program from being discouraged just at the time when it looks as if their efforts might bear fruit. To my mind the change in attitude toward rural work in the whole institution has been almost revolutionary, when I compare it with the situation I knew ~~in~~ five years ago. You will bear with me when I say that I have been in a position to study this change. When I was in Shantung before, anything approaching specialized and professional preparation for rural work was almost regarded as a joke. Now I find the idea commonly accepted, at least in theory. Perhaps the greatest danger has been that of expecting to do too much all at once. That, too, seems to have passed, and everyone seems disposed to settle down to a long, hard pull in the direction of more effective rural service. There are many reasons for this new attitude. The very logic of the situation is in itself tremendous -- the vast preponderance of country people, their potential importance to the church and to the nation, and their neglected state. Add to that a realization that there is such a thing as agricultural science and rural professions, and not much more is needed as a preliminary to actual work. However, these elementary ideas are sometimes the most difficult to grasp, especially when the tide of activity has been in the other direction. In establishing a basic philosophy of the kind on which a real rural program can be based, the work done by Dr. Monroe and others has been invaluable. It would be no less than a major tragedy if their support were abandoned just when their ideas are beginning to function.

1058

OCT 7
1931

While it is quite true that the times demand action before the opportunity is lost to Cheeloo to make a contribution toward laying the foundation for rural reconstruction in the province, the needs are so vast that I am not as much worried as some about the field being preempted by other institutions. What we want is effective rural service and a new rural civilization, for the sake of the people in the country and for China as a whole. As Christians we want the church to take an active part in this program, and in so doing save its own soul. To really accomplish results will require all that government and missions can do for many years to come. When and if they pre-empt the field of secular education and agricultural extension, the church still has the vital task of producing a leadership which will help the church to fit into the new day -- an undertaking which we are just beginning to touch in America. The thing to do would seem to be to start a few definite projects, and at the same time carry on a general program of study and discussion of the rural problem. I, for one, am quite well satisfied to have Arts and Science work to continue as now organized. As fast as materials are available and plans are worked out I feel sure that it will continue to "ruralize". Of course, there are several additions to staff which are vitally needed. The one which occurs to me first is that of some one to teach Rural Sociology and Agricultural Economics, preferably a trained Chinese. It would be of great help also if we could secure the services of some substantial leader in Rural Education from America for a year or so. The very presence of such a man on the campus would build up morale, and dispell the unworthy suspicions which seem to cloud the rural profession in the eyes of some of the academic teachers. However, the aim of this letter is not to lay out a program, but to state my conviction that there is still abundant opportunity to carry out the rural program at Cheeloo, substantially along the lines indicated by various advisers.

Throughout the whole program we should keep closely in contact with actual village life, through investigation, service, and extension centers. I see no incongruity between this and a high level of professional effort.

If someone wishes to do something to help us immediately, I can think of nothing more apt to produce results as several hundred dollars invested in the library. There is already a good collection of books on rural life, but important additions need to be made, both in English and Chinese. Then there should be some way of making these publications available for Chinese and foreigners throughout the province. In this way we could render a very real service to the young Chinese who are working in this field, and also to the teachers and pastors in rural stations. If you have any idea that it would be worthwhile, I would be glad to draw up a modest proposal along these lines, as a project fundamental to our development.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur S. Carson

1059

OCT 2 1931

While it is quite true that the times demand action before the opportunity is lost to Greece to make a contribution toward laying the foundation for rural reconstruction in the province, the needs are so vast that I am not so much worried as to how the field being traversed by these institutions. What we want is effective rural reconstruction and a new rural civilization. It is the duty of the country and the Church to take an active part in this movement. We will continue to work for the betterment of the people of Greece and to the glory of God.

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SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

August 5, 1931

Dr. Arthur L. Carson,
R.F.D.#5
Ithaca, N.Y.

Dear Carson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 27.

Sorry we failed to inform you earlier that the University is opening September 1. For several years the Chinese Ministry of Education has required all registered institutions to begin their autumn work on the first day of September. All of our Universities have, therefore, adopted this as the opening date.

Perhaps, however, in view of the desirability of your spending some time getting acquainted with the situation at Cheeloo, and finding just what can be undertaken before you attempt anything too definite, there may not be any serious loss in your arrival on the campus a little late. You must, of course, take enough time to finish up your personal affairs and visit with your people before you set sail for the Orient.

I know Mr. Davies will be very glad to get your letter of July 27. They have been anxiously awaiting some direct word as to your plans.

We hope that all of your preparations are coming along happily. Please let me know anyway we can be of further assistance.

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Larside

BAG-H

SHANTUNG

Shantung Christian University

November 23, 1931.

Mr. Arthur L. Carson,
Cheeloo University,
Tsinan, Shantung, China

Dear Carson:

We were mighty glad to receive your two letters written early in October, and to learn therefrom that you, the Mrs. and the young hopefuls arrived safely on the Cheeloo campus and promptly fitted yourselves happily into the life of the campus.

Margaret and I have talked about the Carson clan quite a bit during recent months; and when I passed on the contents of your letters to her she was keenly interested in all the information you gave as to the arrangements of the Carson menage. In true feminine fashion she recorded her disgust of the masculine sketchiness of your letters on such important matters as, where you stayed for the few days after you arrived in Tsinan while your house was being put in readiness, just what furniture you have in each room, how you have solved the servant problem, and innumerable other vital questions of that sort. She is hoping that Edith will be able to find time to sit down and write a newsy letter that will serve as the best substitute possible under the circumstances for the lively talkfest our two good ladies always had whenever they got together.

We both hope that you will greatly enjoy living in the "Jacot House". You know that Margaret and I spent our last year in China there, and found it a very pleasant place.

What you write as to the attitude on the campus concerning the development of ruralized program is distinctly encouraging. We are having a meeting of our North American Section of the Cheeloo Governors on November 30th, and I will pass along at that time the gist of your comments. We all appreciate the fact that the task you have will not be an easy one by any means, but at least we hope it is a possible one.

I regret very much that the increasingly critical state of our economic depression renders it practically impossible to hope for any increase in financial support from the West for some time to come. A little additional money just at this time would be of tremendous value to you in the working out of your plan. If however, the University can solve a still more difficult problem of effectively

1062

Mr. Arthur L. Carson

November 23, 1951.

-2-

ruralizing its program on the basis of present resources, it will be better in the long run both for the Institute and for this program itself. Meantime we will try to keep our eyes open for any valuable additional resources that may appear on the horizon.

The news dispatches from China have been increasingly disturbing during recent weeks. At the present time it seems that almost anything might happen during the next few days. I hope however, that the oriental genius for getting gracefully out of an awkward situation may once more triumph.

With warmest regard, I am,

Very cordially yours,

B. A. Gaiside

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SHANTUNG

(Received) November 2, 1931

Cheeloo University,
Tsinan, China

ack. 11/23/31

Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Garside:

This letter has been postponed several times in order that we might tell you about the purchases which we are making from the Garsides, but it appears now that these negotiations may have to wait until Mrs. Lair returns from Tsingtao before final consummation. In the meantime, I am sure that you will be interested in our first impressions of Cheeloo.

We arrived here September 25th. The trip was smooth and uneventful throughout, except for the undercurrent of excitement which was apparent throughout China about the Japanese affair, and the tragedy of the Yangtze floods which was felt with special effect in Shanghai. About all we say of the latter was the high water around Nanking. I have not seen a newspaper for several days. This morning when I went to class, the students suddenly disappeared to attend a meeting somewhere, probably in regard to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Other than this Tsinan seems to be comparatively quiet.

My first impression is that of real gratitude that we are here. As you know, none of us were especially enthusiastic about returning to China, but came more from a sheer sense of duty than anything else. I suppose some of our enthusiasm will wear off, but I am conscious now of an unexpected reaction. It seems on every hand that there have been great gains for the Christian cause. Opposition still exists, but the effect on both missionaries and native Christians seems to have been to sweeten and strengthen character. It is very encouraging to see so many people who have made the readjustment, and seem better off than ever. Externally, there may have been severe losses, but the gain in morale over 1925 and the period immediately following would seem to be great.

The Cheeloo campus is undeniably quieter than when we knew it before, but there is a new spirit of confidence and hard work. Best of all are the changed relations with the Chinese. They are living in the foreign houses, taking part in social functions, and carrying real responsibility. The foreigners seem to be better satisfied than under the old regime, and from what I have seen of the Chinese leadership it is sufficient to arouse confidence.

In regard to the rural program, I am glad to find myself in substantial agreement with the administrative officers. It is too soon to speak of details, both because of the short time I have been here, and also because so many people are away. Mr. Davies is in Shanghai for the China Council meeting. He called on us for a short time before we left Shanghai. Soon after our arrival here the new president, Mr.

1064

NOV 2 1931

King Chu went to Nanking in regard to registration. This, I understand, is now progressing in the final stages. Dean Lin has gone away also for a few days, but we have had several conferences with him and Dr. Wang, the head of the Education Department. At the first meeting, I expressed something of the plans I had in mind, and Dean Linn declared that I had taken a great load off his heart. So far as I can see we are heartily in agreement in regard to the necessity of building up a program of service for the rural people. For my part it seems foolish to eliminate the provision for training leaders in the regular colleges of the university who will have an appreciation of the rural problem, no matter what their ultimate vocation. The thing they seem to be afraid of ^{is} some revolutionary change which will lower the standard of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Of course, it is easy to claim that a functional rural training center of a lower academic grade would be preferable to a narrow and traditional curriculum of the old type, but I see no necessity of such an alternative, unless the question is ^{purely} one of financial support. Even then, it will be much easier to secure Chinese support for the regular college course than for an extension program. The most promising course would seem to be work out a three-fold program of investigation and research, extension service, and resident training. Lines will have to be drawn somewhere, but this can be done by limiting the scope of the various projects and concentrating upon the most important features, in cooperation with Nanking as regards the technical agricultural work.

This, as I understand it, is essentially what you have frequently expressed in your own views on the matter. Just as soon as possible we shall work out the plan in greater detail, have it threshed over here, until we are sure that the university is behind it, and that it will stand criticism. Then we must get it before some of the potential supporters in America, as well as those who have been responsible for the stimulation of the rural program. On the whole the situation seems to be working out very well, if only nothing happens to disturb the whole regime in the near future. While there has been unnecessary misunderstanding, it has served to stimulate discussion, and to uncover the very solid reasons why Cheeloo should seriously devote itself to the rural problem. The most important thing that I have to write is that the present leadership of the university, as well as the Theological Seminary, is sincerely interested in carrying out the idea of specialized rural work.

You may be interested to know that we are living in the Jacot house where you once held forth. Our cook is the man who has worked for Dr. Heeren. He says he also cooked for you when you first came. We are purchasing your dishes, and some other things which you will hear about later. I have even acquired your typewriter, but I am not sure that I can legitimately claim it for I have one of my own. These things will be straightened out later, but it makes us think of you very often. Needless to say we wish you were here. Since that does not seem possible it is good to feel that you are back of the university on the other side.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur S. Cannon

1065

NOV 2 1931

The first meeting in regard to registration...
I understand it is now progressing in the final stages...
The new code was also for a few days, but we have had several
conferences with him and Dr. Wang, the head of the education
Department. At the first meeting, I expressed my opinion
that the plan was not in line with the general policy of the
Government and that it would be better to have a more
comprehensive plan. I have since had several conferences
with the officials in charge and we have agreed to have
a further meeting in the near future to discuss the
matter in more detail.

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CHEELOO UNIVERSITY
TSINAN, CHINA

November 24, 1931

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Mr. B. A. Garside,
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, U.S.A.

SHANTUNG

Dear Garside:

INDEXED

It seems to me that I have been rather a faithful correspondent since our arrival in the Orient, but this letter is to gather up several scattered fragments before they may be forgotten.

(1) This morning I sent to the Institute of Social and Religious Research a revised copy of my thesis study, which I hope they can use for publication. The original was too long for this purpose and contained certain material which seemed worth preserving in some form, but which was a little too much to publish. I hope very much that the Institute can print this. It may be that the Agricultural Missions Foundation could render some assistance if the expenses of printing over-run the original Institute grant. I mentioned this possibility to them in my covering letter. Then on the impulse of the moment, I added that your office might possibly be interested in this publication. As I think it over, I feel that this assumption on my part was not warranted, but it is not likely that you will ever hear from them on the subject. They may, however, wish ^{to borrow} the original copy of the Nanking chart which was left, either with your office or with Reisner.

(2) Mrs. Lair has a list of the things which we are desirous of purchasing from you, and you will probably hear from her about it. I might say while I am writing that it is the wish of all concerned that you folks try to set a price on the dinner set, which we have already put to use. In one of the boxes were several Teachers College Records which I appropriated. The memorandum of these by number and date is attached. If you would like to have these I shall be glad to send them. Otherwise, I felt that I would be more likely to use them than anyone else who was here. The typewriter has been moved to our house, but I have not tried to do anything with it yet. I have a portable, but may find good use for the other if I set up an office in the university buildings. We shall send you a report of this later.

(3) The suggestion has come that Cheeloo might be able to make a bid for the services of Professor J. B. Tayler, for work in Rural Economy. We do not wish to steal him from Yenching, but if Cheeloo is to undertake the rural work, there should be placed here those workers who are most directly interested in that field. Professor Tayler has just the kind of contribution which is needed here now. He is in England at the present time, and I know nothing about his plans for the future. I understand he is with the London Mission. I have just begun to make inquiries about him, but am taking this opportunity to suggest that you give us the benefit of any light which you may have as to our chances of securing his services.

Cordially yours,

Arthur L. Carson

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ORIELLO UNIVERSITY
TSINAN, CHINA

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