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Spooner, Roy C. 1938-1939

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SPOONER, Roy C.

1927, B. A. University of Toronto
1928, M.A. University of Toronto

1928-31 with the Aluminum Company of Canada

1931-38, West China Union University, Professor of
Chemistry (head of the department)

1938-39 - graduate work in Chemistry, M. I. T.

On appointment to return to West China Union University

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Hotel Bellevue
Boston Massachusetts
25 January 1938

Dear Mr. Spooner:

I am very conscious of having a large number of your photographs, but there will be at least three more bulletins before the year is finished, and I had hoped that I might keep these pictures at hand until the plans for illustrations were complete. You have, however, been very gracious in your assistance with illustrated material, and I must return all of the pictures to you at once if you wish them. Please let me know at your convenience.

I am ever so glad that Mr. Walmsley is pleased to see his view of the glorious summit used as our masthead. We will carry out your suggestion of seeing that copies of all the bulletins reach our friends on the field who can help us to get the kind of pictures and news notes we need.

I am just now running off again to New York, but will be back on Monday, and hope to see you before too long. I was very glad to be a part of the meeting which voted the new Chemistry building for West China.

Cordially yours,

EBM:e

Mrs. T. D. Macmillan

Mr. Roy C. Spooner
Graduate House
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge Massachusetts

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57 Humewood Dr.
Toronto, Ontario
August 1, 1938

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
AUG 1 1938
PRINT OFFICE
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Dear Mr. Evans ;

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the field . It is going to the three deans of Science, Medicine and Dentistry and to Mr. Sewell . I would be glad if you would let me know if my understanding of the finances involved are correct.

My first request re buying journals for the Chemistry Dept. as per Dr. Beech's gift is for volumes 1 -8 inclusive of the Journal of Chemical Education . These cost \$5.00 a volume and can be secured from this address.

Business Manager
Journal of Chemical Education
20th and Northampton Sts.
Easton, Penn .

Please ask them to forward to me and I will be responsible for either taking them myself or sending them with friends . Kindly mention that these are for a university so as to secure benefit of any reduction that they may grant .

I would be greatly favoured if your office could keep me in touch with any special news that comes back home . If you have any bulletin of things concerning the Christian colleges, I would like to receive it . I also greatly appreciated your courtesy while at the Board of Governors meetings .

Yours Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner
Roy C. Spooner

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RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
AUG 3 1938
JOINT OFFICE

The enclosed copy of the letter to the Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, dated August 1, 1938, is being forwarded to you for your information. The letter contains a copy of the letter to the Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, dated August 1, 1938, and a copy of the letter to the Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry, dated August 1, 1938.

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Very sincerely,
[Signature]

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57 Humewood Dr.
Toronto, Ontario
August 1, 1938

Dear Leslie, Bill, Dan and Ashley;

This letter will not begin to cover the many various aspects of the Board of Governors' meetings. I know that Robby has already written. But there were several things that especially interested me.

1. Attendance; Five of us from the university were there, Peterson, Liljestrang, Robby, Meuser and myself.

2. Policy Report; the Board had appointed three committees to consider policy and to bring in a report. All had met but had nothing to suggest. Dr. Wallace spoke of the need for this work to be done and requested that copies of the field Policy Report be secured for their guidance. The Board found itself with no measuring stick by which it might judge the urgency of the appeals for the new buildings, the hospital, the chapel, the pharmacy, the chemistry building, etc. The present method of allowing individuals to find the money for a building and then give permission to build is highly unsatisfactory. Our needs should be listed in order of urgency and so guide the promotional work of the university. But the field was asked for all possible information dealing with the present situation, and plans for the future. Dr. Armup has not seen this report and naturally this has its effects. I would suggest that a statement be prepared, summing up the high lights of the Policy Report, telling the reaction of the General Faculty to it, describing the positive steps taken to carry out some recommendations and then suggest plans and policy for the next five years. Such a report would really put the problem of the future of the university, its financial support, squarely before the Board. It would greatly strengthen the hands of the members of the Board who are really keen about the university but who at the present time, have not the information to meet the attacks of the more pessimistic members.

3. Budget for 1938-39; frankly I had not previously appreciated the limited resources of the Board. Even taking advantage of the 4:1 exchange rate this year, the Board from its income has not enough money to meet the \$60,000 granted. It is necessary to depend upon some \$6000 which will come from the Emergency Appeal for 1938-39. However, any sum secured over and above this \$6,000 should be available for use at CURRENT rate and take care of any deficit incurred on 1938-39's budget.

4. Emergency Appeal for 1937-38; last year some \$17,000 was allotted to us. Of this money there is at present a balance on hand of \$10,000. This is anticipated by Mr. Evans being used to take care of any deficit on 1937-38. At present figures are not complete, but this sum at current rates, should ensure that we close 37-38 with a slight balance.

5. Large Balances on Hand in U.S.A.; apart from the \$10,000 balance mentioned in (4), Mr. Evans showed another \$10,000 on hand which has been appropriated but has not yet been drawn. Our repeated requests for more money and yet not using all that has been given to us, caused the Board to ask some questions. However, Mr. Evans explained this by saying that the Bursar was deliberately using up money now in China and that this feeling of abundant resources was only temporary until full figures are sent home.

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6. Emergency Appeal for 1938-39 ; the Associated Boards are making a real effort to raise money. Last year some \$300,000 was raised for the eleven colleges represented. West China secured \$17,000. -- a rather low figure when you take into consideration the very strategic importance of work in Chengtu. This is only about 5%. For 1938-39 the preliminary askings are as follows.

Cheeloo	32,000	Fukien	17,000
Ginling	25,000	Hwa Chung	?
Hwa Nan	?	Lingnan	35,000
Nanking	58,000	Shanghai	22,500
WCUU	17,000 ±	Yenching	56,000
Shanghai unit	37,000	Group as a whole	35,000

Total is \$ 338,000

In inquiring about the details of West China's askings, I found out that at the time of the preliminary meeting, the information had not come from the field and so Dr. Beech and Mr. Evans had gone over the information available and picked out the following items.

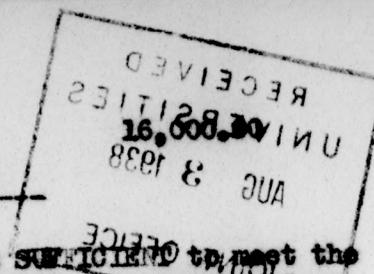
1. Increase in cost of work due to enlarged budget caused by influx of students	7,893.75
2. Extra cost of maintaining refugee students as underwritten by B. of Governors but unpaid	3,000.00
3. Extra grant from B. of Governors	2,500.00
4. Special request by Natural History group	750.00
5. Request for grant to maintain 60 beds in the Hospital at \$200. each	3,000.00
	<u>\$17,143.75</u>

(for 1937-38 West China askings were \$20,064 and allocations to date total \$18,800)

Some of the specific requests from other universities which are interesting are as follows.

Cheeloo ; scholarships and other financial aid to students	\$5,000.
College of Arts & Science	7,500.
Medical College	8,000.
Ginling ; to restore salary cuts	4,500.
to replace decreases in Govt. grants	3,600.
rural service station in Szechwan	5,000.
anticipated shortage in annual budget	5,000.
Nanking ; special assistance to students	7,500
for university hospital to permit continued operation	25,000.
Shanghai ; library books and equipment (with understanding that any purchases be for the benefit of the joint group in Shanghai for duration of the period of special cooperation .	2,500.

Yenching ; general administrative and operation



Members of the Board wondered if this asking was ~~SUFFICIENT~~ to meet the needs of West China . I felt that it certainly was not . I remembered my first year class which had sky-rocketed from 60 students to over 100 . For one year certain readjustments could be made so that the additional expense involved in teaching 40 students was at a minimum but contemplating this same programme over a period of two or three years, equipment, supplies, additional teachers would have to be secured , and all would cost money . My experience in chemistry was duplicated in many other classes . In addition, the great amount of additional executive work warranted increased junior staff . However, the reply to this point of view was that no specific details had come from the field . If the field sends in their lists , then the Associated Boards will be glad to change their figures.

askings — I have given you all the information that I was able to secure. If you feel that these do not meet our needs, I would suggest that the Cabinet check over our emergency requirements and ask for the money . Please note the word emergency . Askings for regular work are out . But any special temporary needs caused by the war situation are legitimate. Estimate that the promotion costs are about 25% on money received .

Some of the suggestions that came to me in discussion with Beech and Mr. Evans are .

1. to take advantage of unique opportunity offered for religious work among refugee students, — appointment of down-river Chinese professor to strengthen our Dept. of Religion .
2. To make up certain 30% discount on all government grants for year.
3. Scholarships for needy downriver students
4. Increasing figure of \$7,000 now asked for to \$17,000 to cover increased cost in work . Give specific details even though approximate. as — 50 Cheeloo medical students, cost per medical student \$500/yr. Credit tuition as \$65. Leaving debit of \$435 . Multiplied by 50 is \$20,000 and at current exchange \$ 4000. USA. You have the 38-39 budget there in front of you and can pick out these heavy additional costs.
5. ~~Capital~~ Cost of buying additional capital equipment to handle increased enrollment .
6. Bringing our junior staff, teachers and clerks up to a more adequate standard and releasing senior men for personal work with students.
7. money to build a new dormitory for 1938 freshman class forced out by refugee students occupying space in dormitories .
8. library books with understanding that sushbooks be used by the joint group at Chengtu for duration of their stay there.

I feel that especially number 6 above would have strong support. People marvel at the way that the university with a small budget and limited personnel is able to do so much work . Dr. Wallace spoke of the possibility of physical breakdown of some of the men on the field due to the amount of work being carried.

The next meeting of the Emergency Appeal Com. is Sept. 15th . I would suggest that the university write or cable to Garside giving full advice. Send your list also to Dr. Anderson , Beech , Endicott and all mission secretaries. All that they need is the facts . Their sympathy and support are ours but unless we make our needs known , nothing can happen.

are

August 4, 1938

Mr. Roy C. Spooner
57 Humewood Drive
Toronto, Canada

Dear Mr. Spooner:

Your letter of August 1st at hand, together with the copy of the communication to the field staff members in China. For the most part, I would say you have made an honest presentation of the facts which might be modified somewhat in a couple of instances.

For instance, your No. 4 "Emergency Appeal for 1937-38" - in this case the actual emergency relief funds total \$17,800.00. Expenditures authorized are as follows:-

Appropriated for Building	\$5,000.00
From the Rockefeller Foundation	7,500.00
To Cover Cost of Campaign	7,063.37

This, in fact, actually produces an overdraft of emergency funds of \$1,763.37. As the field has been notified of this situation, surely the Treasurer will understand that the money cannot be spent twice.

No. 5 "Large Balances on Hand in U.S.A." - The other \$10,000.00 to which you allude, to be exact was carried in Accounts Payable and was available for the field at any time, but drafts against last year's budget have come to hand, and they are charged against whatever appropriation is designated on the draft. Since the first of the fiscal year, a number of these drafts have been charged against last year's balances. The actual amount we have charged against these accounts, since the first of the year, is \$3,360.72. Consequently, the \$10,000.00 is decreased by that amount before deducting the above payments. The following are the items carried in Accounts Payable June 30th:-

Hodgkin Memorial Appropriation 1936-37	400.00
June 30, 1938 Income on Scholarships	8.80
" " " Income on Hodgkin Memorial Fund	460.23
" " " Balance H.Y.I. 1937-38	
Appropriation	4,250.00
" " " Balance Current	
1937-38 Budget	4,210.29
" " " Balance Emergency Relief	
Fund	10,736.64
	<u>\$20,065.96</u>

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Mr. Roy C. Spooner

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8/4/38

I believe no other comments are necessary regarding the other points listed in your communication.

To revert to your letter to the undersigned. As requested, we are placing an order for the Journal of Chemical Education to be taken out of the book appropriation set aside by Dr. Beech.

We should be very glad to put you on our mailing list for any special news, and are sending you several pamphlets regarding the work of our China Colleges.

From time to time, while you are here, I trust that you will keep in touch with us.

With sincerest regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

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SPOONER
Graduate House
M. I. T.
Cambridge, Mass.
Sept. 26/38

Dear Miss Ewing: -

Thank you for the manuscript. You really did a good job to do it as well as this. I have made some corrections mostly to make it flow a bit ^{more} smoothly. I have added a title which every manuscript needs.

When I summarised 6 points as being the major events. I think that points 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 should all start a paragraph as do 4, 5, and 6 in its present form.

Also on page 6 - after "It is indeed a tragic loss" - the next word starts a new Paragraph.

Double-spaced is better I think with abundant room on all sides. If I could secure 3 copies - that would be sufficient. Please ^{also} give one copy to Mrs.

Mac Millan for her use. Sincerely Roy C. Spooner
if you want me to prof. read again I shall be glad to do so.

D. L. E.

MEETING THE CRISIS AT WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

I have just returned from China, and I am convinced that university work in China today is the great adventure, and that today, university work in China offers a supremem opportunity for Christian service. The situation can be illustrated by referring to an address recently given in Chengtu by a young plant-pathologist on the staff of the University of Nanking. He had recently come as a refugee teacher from Nanking to Chengtu. As he got off the bus in front of the university gate, he saw the sic Chinese characters which translated mean West China Union University. As he looked at these the tears came into his eyes as his imagination caught their significance. The first two characters, Hwa Hsi meaning West China signify the place where the new China of the future is now coming into being. As a result of Japanese aggression, tens of thousands of China's educated classes have fled westward braving the conditions of refugee travel, taking their chance on the hardships which they would encounter in the West. All have suffered eagerly rather than stay in East China under the dominance of the Japs. This group of students, teachers, foreign returned students, government officials all have brought with them new ideas, new visions concerning the new China which they wish to see coming out of the wreck of the old. And West China, the three great border provinces, iz the place where this transformation is yo come into being.

The second 2 characters, Hsieh Ho meaning union, typify the spirit that is manifest throughout China today. Japan has forced China to become united At West China Union U. from its very inception, union has been the keynote as missionary societies from 3 countries and of 5 denominations have cooperated ~~ee-mi~~ its growth and development. Union is certainly a contribution that is Christian in its inception and carrying out.

The last 2 characters, Dah Hsuo meaning university, denote the place to which China looks for its future leaders. Universities in China

have made for themselves a notable place in Chinese life and culture, fitting as they do into the old tradition of respect for the educated classes and looking to them for national leadership. Surely from these institutions after the war will come graduates, men and women, trained to serve and willing to dedicate themselves to the up-building of new China.

Someone has called this great movement the "trek of the literati". It is to be remembered that only some three hundred years ago the province of Szechwan was desolated through the coming in of the robber, Chang Hsien Chung. He swept in and changed a beautiful populous province into a wilderness. The scholars of the province were summoned to the capital to write an examination. On arrival, they were forced to walk under a rope four feet high. Those who were unable to walk by without stooping were taken out and executed, and it is said that at one time over twenty thousand scholars were slain, leaving only two, who by reason of their immaturity, were able to pass under the rope and so save their lives.

Szechwan was then repopulated by bringing in people from other parts of China and to the present day is far from being homogeneous. This present "trek of the literati" must be seen against this background to appreciate its significance for the future of West China.

What has happened to West China Union University during the last year? In 1936-37 our university was composed of three faculties; arts, sciences, medicine and dentistry, with a student enrollment of about four hundred. Their staff and equipment at that time was just adequate to handle the work involved. In the fall of 1937, just a few weeks after the outbreak of war, we opened not knowing what to expect. The first change was the order from the government educational offices to admit as many students as we possibly could, to take in those students who were not able to go down river to study at out-of-the-province institutions and to admit refugee students from those institutions which had been forced to close or move as a result of the fighting. This we were glad to

do, although it entailed a great deal of additional executive and administrative responsibility. Students coming in had training which differed from the type that we were offering and to fit these students into our curriculum meant further readjustments. Shortly afterwards, we were asked if some of the other Christian colleges either in whole or in part could move to our campus and continue their work there. We extended a very hearty invitation to this group to come along and that we would do all that we could for them. Among this group were the University of Nanking, Ginling College, the Medical School of Cheeloo University, the Biological Department of Soochow University. In addition, the great National Central University which was moving from Nanking to Chungking asked if their medical and dental schools could share our campus. These we also welcomed. As a result of this reception of refugee students and other universities, our campus student enrollment has increased from four hundred students to over a thousand with a corresponding increase in staff. The physical difficulties that this increase during a period of some six months involved can readily be imagined.

As one looks back over the year, it is easy to pick out three outstanding characteristics. The first is cooperation. During the year both host and guests realized that the way out lay in the fullest cooperation, in the complete laying of cards on the table by both sides, and in whole-hearted appreciation and sympathy with the other persons' point of view; and then, in the view of the actual conditions to go ahead and plan what could be done. For instance, we in the chemistry department, upon the arrival of Dr. Dai, head of the Chemistry Department of the University of Nanking, immediately sat down and discussed what courses were to be taught during the term. We gave him a list of the classrooms and laboratories which were in use. Some of his students wished to take our courses, and some of our students wished to take their courses. In addition, the National Central University asked us if we would teach a course in Organic Chemistry for them and to this we were glad to be able to agree. Equipment was

used by both universities. What we did not have, they did; and what they did not have, we did. So there was evidenced a real sense of cooperation between the various groups.

The second notable characteristic that developed was the response to the challenge presented. The down-river group saw their experience of China heightened and broadened by their coming to this remote interior province, so backward in many of its features. A new vision of what needed to be done by the universities in order to transform China was captured and taken hold of by this group. Our own group were stirred by the way that this band of refugee students and faculty had maintained their esprit de corps and sense of community, and who on arrival without one moment's delay began the organization of their teaching program. We were also greatly impressed by certain features of their teaching and administrative activities which we felt we could very well borrow and make use of. So on both sides there was gain and growth in this new adventure of cooperation.

The third notable characteristic is the attitude of the students. No words that I can use can sufficiently express my admiration for two things about our students. The first is the absence of all hate of the Japanese people. There is an utter lack of any mob hysteria, such as was only too prevalent in our own countries during the early period of the Great War. Chinese students are determined to resist Japanese militarism, but there is no hatred in their hearts for the Japanese people suffering under the rule of Japanese militarists. Perhaps this is explained by the fact that in Szechwan since the time of the republic, there have been more than 400 battles fought between Chinese militarists, resulting in much of the present backward condition. The second is the attitude of consecration to their scholastic work with the realization that through their studies, their education, they may go out and serve the new China. This is a very unique feature of the present-day student.

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During the past year some of the major events have been as follows: First, a working union of all mission hospitals in the city of Chengtu has been accomplished. In Chengtu, there have been four hospitals, three medical and one dental. Although for some years there has been a hospital board which has coordinated their work, still the need of the present day situation with an increase in the interne-staff from twenty students to forty, and with a prospect that this number would increase from year to year with the development of the medical schools on our campus, was very apparent. The unique thing about this union is that the director is Dr. Cheer, dean of the government medical school. This could only be made possible by the confidence that is felt in the character and statesmanlike ability of this Christian doctor.

Second, an actual start has been made on putting up the buildings for our new Union hospital right on the University campus. At the present time students do much of their work on the campus which is on the outside of the south gate of the city of Chengtu. Their hospital work is scattered over the four mission hospitals located in various places in the city. This scattering of the teaching institutions has resulted in a certain lack of coordination and wastage of time and energy and it is a great joy to realize that the dream of these twenty-five years, this new union hospital, in a year or so will become an actuality.

Third, from the Davidson Fund has come the initial grant of one thousand dollars gold to develop religious group activities among our own and government students. As an initial venture in this during the summer, two seminars have been held at a Buddhist temple on Mt. Omei. Mt. Omei is one of the five sacred Buddhist mountains in China. The first seminar was a group of students and staff, Christian and non-Christian, who under the leadership of Dr. Dryden Phelps studied Sharman's recent book, "Jesus as Teacher." In addition, they have put an hour a day on the study from a Christian viewpoint of the "Doctrine of the Mean", a Confucian classic. Following this seminar, another took its

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place under leadership of Mr. Earl Wilnot, using as its material "Jesus in the Records". This was primarily a group to train leaders to conduct discussion groups during the winter among Christian and non-Christian students. These two seminars should lead to a very interesting development in group study during the coming winter on our campus.

Fourth, some years ago there was a very virile and strong educational association which coordinated the work of the various Christian middle schools in the province. As a result of the evacuation of 1926 and the consequent decrease in the funds available for Christian education, it was allowed to lapse. However, during the past summer, a successful conference of those interested in high school work was held in Chengtu with an attendance of some sixty-two delegates including nineteen of the twenty-six principals of Christian middle schools. A permanent Chinese secretary was appointed and this move should prove a great strengthening of the work that is so vital to the continued supply of well-trained Christian students for our universities.

Fifth, during the summer, several biological field expeditions have been sent out to secure material for our biology department and for the Smithsonian Institute and the American Museum of Natural History. We are hoping that this type of cooperation by the science departments and American scientific societies may be continued to their mutual advantage.

Sixth, it is impossible to minimize the serious loss to our work caused by the resignation of Dr. Harold Anderson. He leaves in order to take the position of executive secretary for the complete medical work of the Church Missionary Society. His recall at this time raises the question as to whether a full understanding of the realities of the situation on the field has been fully appreciated by the home constituency. The opportunities for Christian work, for medical work, and educational work have probably never reached the present high point in West China; and the Andersons combined in themselves a very high degree of ability for all these. It is indeed a tragic loss!

For this present academic year it is difficult to foresee just what the situation is going to be. One thing is certain, that there will be the challenge of great opportunities and also of great difficulties. The difficulties will be many; there will be the problem of how to secure the needed equipment and supplies for all our science departments. Before the war chemical supplies were ordered direct from abroad. This involved a minimum delay of a year between ordering and receiving the shipment. At the present time the difficulties have increased for all freight must go from Hongkong by boat to Haiphong, then by rail through French Indo-China to Kwenmin, the capital of the province of Yunnan. From this point there is an eight-day overland trip by truck to Chengtu through a mountainous region along roads which are far from ideal. It can be readily understood that in a time of feverish war activity, it is not only difficult to bring freight over this route but also very expensive.

In addition there will be the multitudinous problems raised by a further coordination of all the university work on the campus. Work during the past year was of a temporary nature, but this year a much more permanent basis will have to be found for continued development of activities on the campus. It is not known how many students have so far registered, but the number is likely to increase. This will entail further crowding in the teaching buildings and dormitories. At the present time, our classrooms are being run on a very full schedule. One class goes out and another comes in, and this continues from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. Equipment is hopelessly inadequate to meet the needs of this increased enrollment. It was impossible for the University of Nanking to bring more than half of its equipment to Chengtu and in some departments even this was not realized. At the present there is a general scarcity of supplies and equipment which could be considered as essential. In addition, the host university is faced with a special difficulty. During the past few years, it has gone through a very rapid expansion. As a consequence, it

is badly under-staffed, especially in the junior ranks. The administrative load is carried by those who in addition have a heavy teaching schedule. The meeting of the war conditions has increased the administrative and executive load almost to the breaking point, and it is an absolute necessity that some measure of relief be found for the present staff. This situation directly affects the maintenance of personal contacts of the staff with the students, on which the whole fabric of our Christian background is based. Students are impressed not so much by sermons and addresses as by the personality and character of their teachers. Faced with this opportunity of directly touching the lives of the picked students of China, it is essential that a teacher should be able to have leisure and time to take advantage of it. This, by no means, is to be construed that this phase of our work is being minimized at the present time, but rather that it is the greatest opportunity that we have and all possible efforts must be taken to strengthen and to promote it.

During the past year, without the support and help from the emergency appeal, the situation would have been desperate. For this present year, we are confidently expecting continuance of support in order to enable us to take full advantage of the great opportunity that is ours. China is faced with the necessity of recreating, transforming, her entire culture. The base for this gigantic effort will be in West China and the leaders will come from our present-day students. It is an opportunity that cannot be overlooked; its possibilities must not be lost sight of; and every effort must be bent to fully meet the challenge that is presented to us.

September 23, 1938

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November 16, 1938

Mr. Roy Spooner
Graduate House
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Spooner:

Mrs. Macmillan has handed me a memorandum from your letter of November 15th enclosing a draft from the field for \$50.00 which we are crediting to a special account in your name.

The first eight volumes of the Journal of Chemical Education were ordered and sent to the field. I am wondering if we slipped up on that and they should have gone to you. If my memory serves me correctly, they were to be sent directly to China.

Upon instructions of Dr. Beech, these were charged to the Atherton Library Account and not to your personal account.

We have not received any definite word from the field regarding the new Chemistry Building. It has occurred to me that I have heard this mentioned in a rather emphatic way and come to find out it was brought up at the Board Meeting, but, as very little detail was available, no action was taken. No other information has been received. Neither have we received any word regarding the scholarship for Johnny Kao or (Kao Yeh-lin). There are always possibilities for securing aid of this nature, although the applications must be filed considerably in advance.

Incidentally word has just been received that Mr. Albertson is on his way to America. Presumably the accounting has been left in the hands of Miss Priest, although quite naturally a nominal treasurer will be named by West China.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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West China Union University



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

Graduate House
M.I.T.
Nov. 21, 1938

ack 11/25/38

Dear Mr. Evans ;

Thank you for your letter of November 26th . I am glad to hear that the eight volumes of the Journal of Chemical Education have been bought and are on their way . I remember asking that they be sent to me so that I could put them in my personal baggage and thus convey them safely to Chengtu . The trouble was that I did not put my instructions in writing and so make it plain . However, the Chinese Post Office is quite an institution and we shall expect that the journals sooner or later shall arrive in Chengtu .

From letters from the field I had understood that both the matters referred to in my letter, the new Chemistry Bldg. and the scholarship for John Kao had been urgently recommended this fall . But the difficulty is, to whom did they write ? In any case, I am bringing the matter again to their attention and hope that in the meantime you will do what you can to bring the matters before all interested . It may seem foolish to talk of putting up a new building in the very spot which the Japanese have now begun to bomb . But bombs or no bombs, support must be forthcoming for the work of the group of colleges out there . And if Ginling, Nanking, Cheeloo and the rest of them are to stay in Chengtu indefinitely as now appears likely . a new building seems a necessity .

The scholarship for John is in the same class , but is even more important . I am a great believer that personalities are more important than anything else around an institution . John , is the future head of our Chemistry Dept. and is a Chinese with drive and go . He is a keen scholar and earned nothing but brightest recognition when at Yenching . In addition he is a student of Dr. Stubbs, the founder of our chemistry department who was killed on the campus in 1930 . As such he has a real loyalty to the school . He wants to come to Michigan , study for three years and take his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. I am doing all that I can to impress Dr. Beech with this need, but his eye is focussed on the new hospital and he sees everything else as secondary .

In addition I have some money with which to buy some books for the department . I can buy them at the cooperative at 10 % discount . But can I do better by asking you to buy for me direct from the publisher ? I would like to have them with me in Boston during the winter for my occasional use , but they will go back with me next fall and be put in the university library .

I also will be asking you to pay some more journal bills shortly to be charged against the Atherton Library Acct. as per Dr. Beech's request to you . I have to buy some back numbers which we need to complete our chemistry files , plus a few books .

6 copies were mailed 11/26/38 → I have not yet received a copy of the second issue of China Colleges bulletin , I shall to have several copies when they come out . And if any serious news comes about bombings in Chengtu , could you let me know ? Please ?

Sincerely
Ray C. Spooner

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November 25, 1938

Mr. Roy C. Spooner
Graduate House
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Spooner:

Your letter of the 21st is at hand and I am sorry the order for the Journal of Chemical Education was not properly handled.

I must apologize for a more serious blunder for which I was not entirely responsible at the time. I thought I had checked with every source of information available in the office regarding the new Chemistry Building and wrote you on Wednesday. I find, however, that on November 21st Mr. Garside wrote a letter to Dr. Beech regarding the procedure to be used for funds for the Science Building. On the 17th a letter was also written to Messrs. Robertson and Dsang acknowledging an appeal from the field for the Chemistry Building. If you so desire, we can send you copies of this correspondence and, as a matter of fact, I will send you a copy of Mr. Garside's letter of November 17th to China, also a copy of his communication to Dr. Beech.

We have again checked on the request for a scholarship for John Kao.

Answering your question regarding books - when single orders are placed, we use a wholesale house where shipments can be made of several books in a package, thereby saving postage, the usual discount being around ten per cent. If several books are ordered from one publisher, we send it direct and usually secure a much larger discount, ranging from fifteen to thirty per cent. When your list is made up, if you will let me have same, we will secure estimates and let you know the cost.

We note that some other journal bills chargeable against the Atherton Library Account will be forthcoming at a later date.

We are sending you several copies of the second current issue of the China Colleges' Bulletin.

Please do not fail to write, if we can be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

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November 17, 1938

Dr. Lincoln Dsang
Mr. H. D. Robertson
West China Union University
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Dr. Dsang and Mr. Robertson:

Let me acknowledge receipt of your important letter of October 8th. In this you transmit the request of the Board of Directors to the Board of Governors and Chancellor Beech that an immediate appeal be made for funds for the erection of a chemistry building. Your letter and the supporting documents clearly reveal the urgency of the need for this building. But just how much can be accomplished at this time in securing the necessary funds is a matter which will have to be given very careful study. As you know, both the West China Governors and the Associated Boards are focusing their efforts this year on securing the emergency funds for current purposes which are required to keep the work going forward during the fiscal year 1938-39. For any other institution than West China, it would obviously be out of the question even to consider a special appeal for any type of building funds. Even though we recognize that the situation in West China is unique, it will at best be very difficult to undertake anything more this year than is already being done.

The matter will be brought to the attention of the next meeting of the West China Executive Committee, and any request that it makes will be taken up by the Executive Committee of the Associated Boards.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ B. A. Garside

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November 21, 1938

Dear Dr. Beech:

I have your letter of November 15th commenting on the S. O. S. from West China asking that we help in raising special funds for a Science building.

The proper procedure for bringing this request before the committees in the Associated Boards responsible for the allocation of emergency funds is of course for the West China Executive Committee to take action submitting this request with its endorsement. I believe the date for the next meeting of the Executive Committee has not yet been set, but that it will probably meet sometime early in January. If you feel that any earlier action on this request from West China should be taken, we might follow any one of several courses:- (1) Call an earlier meeting of the Executive Committee. (2) Call a meeting of the West China Finance Committee to deal with the item. (3) Have Dr. Anderson send around a letter to all members of the Executive Committee asking them to approve by mail vote a request to the Associated Boards for this special help.

Any request to the Associated Boards should of course set forth in careful detail the amounts needed for this undertaking.

Very cordially yours,

/s/ B. A. Garside

Dr. Joseph Beech
1644 Greenleaf Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

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WILL SPEAK FOR CHINA COLLEGES



Prof. Roy C. Spooner of the West China Union University, shown here with the baby giant panda which he brought to the Bronx zoo, will address the Boston Committee for the China Colleges Friday night.

EDUCATORS IN CHINA TO RELATE PROGRESS

Prof. Spooner, Who Brought Back Panda, to Speak Friday

Prof. Roy C. Spooner of the West China Union University, who brought a baby giant panda to the United States, a Chinese government commissioner and two representatives of the faculty of the University of Nanking, will speak Friday night in the Hotel Commander, Cambridge, at a dinner meeting of the Boston committee for the China colleges.

Speakers who will discuss the relation of the program of higher education in China to national morale and to future rehabilitation include Leonard Hsu, special commissioner from the government of China to the United States; Oliver J. Caldwell and Miss Imogene Ward of the University of Nanking. Dr. Mildred H. McAfee, president of Wellesley College, will preside.

Members of the Boston committee for the China colleges are Dean Harriett M. Allyn, Miss Helen B. Calder, President Ada L. Comstock, Arthur J. Crockett, Dean Wallace B. Donham, D. Brewer Eddy, Miss Eleanor B. Fabyan, Wynn C. Fair-

field, W. Cameron Forbes, Dean Lucy Jenkins Franklin, Jerome D. Greene, Wilder H. Haines, Mrs. Henry I. Harriman, William E. Hocking, Miss Eliza Hall Kendrick, Mrs. Howard M. LeSourd, the Rev. Arthur C. Lichtenberger, Mrs. Harrison F. Lyman, President McAfee, Mrs. T. D. Macmillan, Kendrick N. Marshall, Alton L. Miller, F. W. Padelford, Miss Florence A. Risley, Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, Miss M. Louise Walworth, and Arthur C. Walworth, Jr.

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West China  Union University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

Graduate House
M.I.T.
Jan. 25, 1939

ack 1/26/39

Dear Mr. Evans ;

Exams are just over so I am feeling like doing anything but work ! You know the feeling . They have not been too bad ... I was pretty well prepared and it was just a question of whether I could make a really good grade or not . I imagine that is the position that most graduate students find themselves in .. they are at school to work and hence without the incentive of final examinations would keep up with their work . In fact , final examinations seem to be an anomaly .. save for the fact that they cause you to do general reviewing which gives you a picture of your subject as a whole .

From Dr. Beech last week I heard about the securing of the \$15,000. necessary to build a new Chemistry Bldg. At first sight it seems impossible that such a small sum would be adequate . But the high rate of exchange and the lower costs of Chinese buildings may make this sum enough . However, I am just a bit sceptical .

However, I have run across a book that should be of great value to Mr. Sewell and Mr. Small in the designing of layout of the building While in general , it will have to follow the outline of its predecessor . yet there are many changes to be made in the interior arrangements . The book is

" A Report of the National Research Committee on

The Construction and Equipment of Chemical Laboratories "

Chemical Foundation , Incorp. 654 Madison Ave. N.Y.C.
1930.

cc
JB → I wonder if the office could buy this book . charge it to the ^{Kate} Atherton Fund along with my other purchases of books . and then give it to Dr. Beech to take with him . I am anxious not only that Dr. Beech should see the book , but that he should send it by AIR MAIL to Chengtu when he arrives in Hongkong .. Mr. Sewell leaves in March and I would like him to have at least a glimpse at this , before he leaves .

Send book to Chicago.
One other request .. would you or Dr. Garside send me details of just-who-

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just where the money for the new building is to come from ? I understand that it is being contributed by the various units now at Chengtu out of the amounts to be received from the Emergency Appeal this year .

I would like very much to get down to New York this week-end , but it doesnot look very likely at present .

With best wishes to you in your work

Very Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner
Roy C. Spooner

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Graduate House
M.I.T.
Jan. 25, 1939

Dear Oliver ;

I am keen to hear how your meeting of last night went .. I was down to see Fred Goforth and heard that you had come to Boston for this dinner with the MIT Faculty Group .They are a hard-boiled bunch of scientists who are very friendly and easy to approach , once you really get across . I shall be glad to receive your impressions if you at any time have the energy and leisure to write to me .

Has the Board at MIT confirmed the tuition scholarship for China Colleges ? And is it alright for me to write to the field ? I am going ahead on that basis as Mrs. MacMillan phoned me last week to mention it , not knowing that you had previously told me . And I am now wondering what I can do next ? I talked with Dr. Beech and received the impression that the man with the Baptists who could swing ~~some~~ some aid was Decker . who now is in West China , on his way home from Madras . That is, he may have already left but surely Sewell and Moncrieff and Phelps would have put the situation before him , while he was there .

So I am writing this morning to Chengtu and informing them of what I know . suggesting that they must do their best and between us hope to turn up some money . The new building may mean that if Sewell comes home this spring .. that John will not be able to come back . Or if he comes. then Sewell may stay in Chengtu until I can get there . In the meantime , I take it. we can push ahead and do what we can .

However, in view of this fact, it would be wise to notify the other colleges that this scholarship is available , with the understanding that there is already a tentative acceptor in the person of John Kao . For instance , Lingnam have a chap from their chemistry dept, .. here at Harvard and he might be able to accept it if John didnot come or there are other possibilities . What I want to see, is it used by somebody who can come here. do a good job , so profiting by it and enhancing our reputation .

You mentioned Mr. Alton Miller ... have you any reaction to me asking for an interview with him ? Or will you write to him ?

Exams are over for me.. otherwise I would not be taking this morning off to write letters . It is amazing how a good day's work at the typewriter can clear off a lot of back correspondence that has been bothering your conscience for months . I did pretty well , I think on my exams . They seem a rather unnecessary function in a graduate school to me. but the very size of our school here, makes certain routines difficult to get away from . As long as professors use them as an aid to the end of grading students I don't object but when they become the only yardstick hat is applied. then it's rotten.

Very Sincerely Roy .

I might be down this week. and - if I do. I shall write or get in touch with you.

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January 26, 1939

Mr. Roy Specner
Graduate House
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Specner:

I received your letter of January 19th promptly, and we immediately communicated with the four publishers listed in your inquiry. Copies of the replies are enclosed herewith.

The two McGraw-Hill books marked with a double cross are here in our office. Shall we send same to you? The Williams & Watkins book has not been received.

I have conferred with Dr. Beech about your request for the charges and he is in agreement with your desire to have same charged to the Atherton Fund.

We are seeing that your name is on the list for the China Colleges Bulletin, and trust that you will receive it regularly.

I am also acknowledging your letter of January 25th and note your comments regarding the new Chemistry Building. As a matter of fact, the project is moving much more rapidly than we anticipated would be the case. The four Universities working at Chengtu are asked to collaborate in providing the funds - the building to remain the property of West China Union University when conditions are normal. West China and Ginling College have voted their shares and it remains for Cheeloo and Nanking to follow in line and to have the Associated Boards' Finance Committee approve the use of \$4,000.00 from reserve funds on hand.

You will see, therefore, the project is not by any means definitely settled. It is far enough along, however, to make one enthusiastic over the project and redouble efforts towards the full equipment of the property.

I am enclosing minutes of the Representatives of the Joint Boards which met on last Wednesday.

Apropos to this whole subject, we are following your suggestion and have ordered the book you allude to on "The Construction and Equipment of Chemical Laboratories" and are having it sent to Dr. Beech who will take it with him to China. This will be charged against the Kate Atherton Fund as

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Mr. Roy Spooner

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requested.

We are very sorry indeed that you are not planning to come down to New York. We would very much liked to have seen you.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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January 26, 1939

Mr. Roy Spooner
Graduate House
Mass. Inst. of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Roy:

You will be glad to hear that the M.I.T. scholarship for John Kao has been confirmed by M.I.T. Of course, when I applied for it I emphasized the possibility that John would not be able to accept, and it is understood I hope that in that event we will be able to switch it to somebody else. However, the letter I received this morning mentions the scholarship as being specifically for Mr. John Kao.

This morning we have been conferring on the matter here at the office, and it is our feeling that we should inform West China of the exact situation and abide by any decision made by the West China authorities. We wish it were possible for us to secure the additional support needed, but we cannot be sure of it and we feel that you people in Chengtu must accept the responsibility. In the event that the Baptist Board or any other friends are able to help out, so much the better; but the problem is one of continuing his salary through the year and of providing sufficient additional funds for his transportation and minimum living expenses in M.I.T. You are probably in a better position than anyone else to determine what additional funds are necessary.

We are planning to get a wire off to Chengtu as soon as we hear from you regarding these details, and we feel that it would be wise for us to ask for a definite decision by February 15th. It is my personal hope that it may be possible for John to accept this fellowship, as I think he would a great success and furthermore he certainly has earned this opportunity.

Rec'd
1/30/39
You probably have already received a letter from Dr. Beech asking you for an itemized list of equipment needed for the new Chemistry building up to \$5,000. In case that letter went astray I am mentioning it again as I am anxious to secure it in order to send it to Dr. Scheel and possibly to your friend Dr. Hauser, with the request that they consider the possibility of furnishing this equipment as a gift from M.I.T. to West China.

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I had a very interesting supper Tuesday night at the Wayside Inn as the guest of Dr. Schell and Dr. Hauser. I should like to congratulate you on the splendid record that you are making in M.I.T. Dr. Hauser reports that you are a brilliant student and he is disgusted at your plan to leave the Institution in June. He feels that you should stay for another year and get your Ph.D. You certainly have made a hit with the old fellow. Incidentally, I think he must be a grand person to work under.

If you come down here this weekend or any other time, please count on visiting us.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Oliver J. Caldwell

OJC:cs

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Graduate House

M.I.T.

Feb. 26, 1939

ack by ojc 3-1-39

Dear Mr. Evans ;

This is a much belated reply to your letter of Feb. 14th . The books mentioned in that letter have arrived safely from McGraw Hill . The clipping enclosed from the Barnes & Noble Co . do not interest me at the present time until we see whether or not they can locate a copy of the book regarding the construction of chemical laboratories .

I have just one other query ... has any word come from the field about this scholarship for John Kao at M.I.T. ? I think Oliver said that it was to be decided by the field by the fifteenth of this month .
H I have not had any direct word from Chengtu as yet about the change in plans that may come about through the building of the new Chemistry Bldg. and I am anxiously waiting to hear , to see if I can be of any special service while in this country .

With best wishes to you and to the other friends at the China Colleges.

*Kao available
Scholarship
2/7/39*

Very Sincerely

*Ray C. Spooner
Pres. Carl Compton*

\$600 M.I.T.

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March 1, 1939

Mr. Roy Spooner
Mass. Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Roy:

Your letter to Evans concerning Kao's scholarship has been turned over to me. We received a cable some time ago from Chengtu worded something like this: "Kao available scholarship", and we therefore assume that he is to be released from his duties to come to this country. I have already written to President Compton to thank him for his generosity, and as far as we are concerned everything is settled.

One point troubles me. When we cabled Chengtu our message read something like this: "\$600 tuition scholarship available Kao". The rest of the message did not elaborate on the nature of the award, and after we had received the acceptance I began to wonder if perchance our message had been misunderstood and they thought it was tuition plus \$600. I hope there was no mistake because Garbide and I worded the message as accurately as we could, devoting considerable time to precise meaning. In any event, we are hoping for the best and have all our plans made accordingly.

I wrote to Dr. Compton asking him for his advice concerning the possibility of circularizing the M.I.T. staff for funds to equip your new building. Yesterday I was disappointed to receive an answer from him which makes it impossible for us to do so. He felt that the staff had been approached by too many agencies and that it would not be wise for us to wear out our welcome. This disappoints me because several men, Hauser in particular, led me to believe that they were quite ready and willing to help us. Now, if you feel that you know Hauser sufficiently well, you might approach him personally. He had received one of our bulletins when I saw him, and he showed it to me asking what he should do about it, and seemed rather surprised that I did not ask him for some money. I refrained at that time because I thought it might be politic to let him stew for a while. If you have any ideas as to how I might be of service

If you have any ideas as to how I might be of service in helping you to make plans for next year, you know that I will be very happy to do whatever I can. I deeply envy you your opportunity to return. If you come to New York at any time, please let me know as we would like to have the chance to entertain you.

Sincerely,

OJC:es

Encs. Original of Chemistry Dept. WCU "Future Plans"
Carbon copy Beech letter to Caldwell, dated 2-6-39.

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going to stay up on 52nd St. but shall be around to see you.
How are things going
We are going to enjoy N.Y. in a way that she has not been
scutt you? But
enjoyed in a decade. You haven't seen Kay &
your family? Remember
alone without the kids - we are quite different.
me to Eugene - when
does she return?

Sunday, March 5, 1939
Graduate House, M.I.T.

Dear Oliver ;

Many thanks for your letter of March first . I am indeed glad to hear about the cable from Chengtu and hope that there is no misunderstanding on their part . Frankly I fear the worst for I can not imagine just where John would secure the balance of the money required . I imagine that either you or Garside wrote at the same time that you wired so that by now , they should have all the information before them . If by any chance that hasnot been done I certainly suggest that Garside write by Air , immediately .

The situation is rather complex in that Sewell is also due for furlough this spring . And with the money for the new Chemistry Bldg. being available it means that both of them cannot leave . So I am anxious that they clearly understand the situation .

I shall speak to Hauser sometime this spring when I have a opportunity .He called me in about a month ago and suggested that I stay over and finish up my Ph.D. work here . I much appreciated his interest in me and his kindness in making such a suggestion .I asked him about Kao at that time ,regarding courses for him to take and he volunteered to advise Kao on his arrival . However, I think that your M.I.T.contacts are most valuable ones and should give you the entre to quite a group here. Would you check to see that the following are on your list . Profs. Wiener, Wildes ,Seaver and a Dr.Eddy . I imagine that Wildes is already on ,as would be Wiener . Eddy ,I havenot met but he was in China for sometime in some government capacity ,I think . Seaver is the Librarian who has been very decent to me .

I hope to have a few days in April in New York ,with Kathleen .We are

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March 13, 1939

Mr. Roy Spooner
Mass. Inst. of Technology
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Roy:

We were very much relieved to get a letter from Chengtu which indicated that there was no misunderstanding about our cable. When I went back to read over the original wire, it seemed to me that no misunderstanding was possible. I was troubled, as you were, over the fact that it seemed impossible that West China could handle, without assistance, the cost of transportation and of living in this country. However, everything is apparently arranged to the satisfaction of the people in Chengtu, so there is nothing more for us to worry about.

It is too bad you don't take Hauser's advice and stay on and finish your work for a Ph.D. I realize how you feel about getting back to Chengtu, and if circumstances were different I would probably do what you are doing. Nevertheless, I believe that if it were possible for you to do so, you would be increasing your usefulness to a very large degree by staying in Boston for a while. However, that is a personal matter and you are the one best fitted to judge. It certainly is flattering to have a man like Hauser so enthusiastic about your abilities.

When you come down here, you and your spouse probably will have little desire to see any third or fourth parties. However, in case you relent and feel sociable, I wish you would let me know so that we could plan some kind of a joint uproar.

In any event, please give your wife my warm regards. With best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

OJC:cs

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Graduate House
M.I.T.
March 22, 1939

Dear Oliver ;

I thought that you would be interested in this letter , just in from Bill Sewell . It is of course a personal letter , but if any parts of it , you think, would be interesting to Mrs. MacMillan or Mr. Garside or Mr. Evans , you may show it to them .

I am delighted but a bit bothered still about the source of John's financial backing . If you have any comments, let me have them and I shall include them in a letter which will go off in a week's time to both Hongkong and Chengtu . However, through your Boston Baptist friend who is connected with the chocolate industry , do you think there is any hope of some support ? Or have you any suggestions ? I would be glad to do anything that I could to help . I wonder if Mrs. MacMillan has any suggestions? (Kao)

I was interested to see that Dr. Thomson and Bill have been pulling together . I shall hope to continue the co-operation when I get on the field . This evening after reading the latest news, I feel rather pessimistic about the whole prospect for peace during the spring . We have been living on the edge of a catastrophe so long that I thought I had become accustomed to it . But I am not .

Has the office any information about this Chang Chuan mentioned in Sewell's letter ? I thought that I would write to him personally and urge him to take this opportunity , as being one of great importance and future .

If Kathleen and I get down to New York during our spring recess , we shall certainly drop in at the office and say hello . Our plans are very uncertain for all depends upon securing someone to look after the children . But I would give a lot to see that Kay has this bit of a holiday after a very arduous fall and winter . of being home caring for three husky youngsters .

I hope that things are going well with you in your writing work as well as the other activities . I do wish that some way , back to China, would open up for you . Collier will be likely resigning this spring and there might be the chance that our mission would appoint another man to the University . I am going to urge the men on the field to ask for such an appointment and will suggest your name to them , if you so wish . Collier may be returning eventually to China but it will not be for several years at any rate .

Well cheerio for now . Remember me to Imogene if you see her around, and also to Mrs. Caldwell .

{ Please return
Bill's letter before
next week if convenient. } Sincerely
Ray

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M.I.T.
Graduate House
April 25, 1939

Mr. Garside
China Colleges
New York City ;

Recd 5/2

Dear Mr. Garside ;

A letter is just in from Mr. Sewell , written on March 26th from Chungking where he was on his way home on furlough . He reports that at that date, there was still some uncertainty about the question of Kao's scholarship . The cable had come , and had been answered with an acceptance . My letter had arrived with the information that I had knowledge of but that the official word had not come .

Now as I remember , Oliver Caldwell wrote saying that full information had gone to the field and that they had acknowledged receipt of this . I would appreciate if you would clear this up for me and also let me have a copy of that letter so that I can forward it to Sewell in London .

As you will remember I was just as much surprised by the acceptance of this scholarship for Kao as was Oliver . We both knew that there was no money available on the field , either from the Baptists or the University . The explanation is that there was a bit of "face" involved . It was put or looked upon by some of the Nanking people , in the light that if West China could not take advantage of the scholarship, then they certainly could ! And so , not knowing just where the money to pay travel , board , etc. was to come from , the Cabinet accepted. Undoubtedly there were other circumstances behind this action , one of which was the really splendid record that Kao has shown during the last three years in attracting government support for projects of the Chemistry Dept. and the feeling that he was such a valuable prospect for the future.

But there will undoubtedly be a direct appeal from the Cabinet to the Board of Governors for help on this matter . They are doing what they can to contact aid from Chinese sources and may be successful . In the meantime , Sewell has asked me to explain the situation to those at home and on receipt of your letter , I shall write to Dr. Endicott to see what can be done .

You will be interested to know that the Chemistry Depts. of Nanking and West China have worked out a quite complete scheme of co-operation , the details of which are being sent to me . In addition Sewell is doing much of the buying for the two depts. plus Ginling, National Central , etc. while he is home in England . We are planning to buy all of our orders through one purchasing agent and sending everything out on a one consignment basis . This will save hours of time and much energy in the book-keeping concerned, we hope .

I shall be glad to have your reaction to the above situation . I am sorry that it is only today that Sewell's letter arrived, otherwise I could have talked this matter over , last week in New York .

*Yours Sincerely
Ray Spooner*

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West China  Union University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

June 8/39
Cek 6/12

Dear Dr. Garside:

I am enclosing my small expense account for the A.B.C.C. and W.C.U. meetings. I received a very clear insight into the achievements & difficulties of our very complex system under which we try to operate. One does not need to be an "efficiency expert" to be able to suggest many changes.

However, I was greatly impressed by your clear understanding of the problems & personalities involved. I know that it must be disheartening to have each of the Boards in turn, question the amount that they should give to support the Associated Boards. However,

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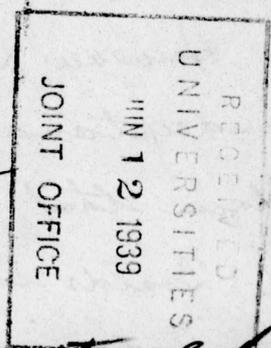
is
it the right way to proceed. always looking forward
to a day of complete co-operation and unity of
spirit that will enable the colleges to soar
to a new level.

I return to the field having a much greater
sympathy & understanding for the work of the A.B.C.C.
and its staff and I shall do my best to cause
field and home to work in the closest possible
manner. My thanks are to you and the other
secretaries for many kindnesses through out this
year.

Train-coach B → N.Y.	5.73
Taxi - N.Y.	.60
Room	7.00
	<u>13.33</u>

Paid 6/12/39
203084 *OK. [Signature]*

Very sincerely
Roy Spooner



West China Trustees' Comm.

29145800

West China



Union University

OK

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENGTU, WEST CHINA

57 Humewood Dr.
Toronto, Ontario
June 22, 1939

ack 6/26/39

*Wrote
Arthur
Thos.
6/28*

Dear Mr. Evans ;

I have been making enquiries about the best way to send the orders for Dr. Kilborn and others to China . I have about decided to have them sent or rather consigned to me in Hongkong to sail on the same steamer as I am due to sail on . In this way , they will arrive at the same time in Hongkong as I do . I can then make arrangements to have them transhipped and forwarded to our agents in Haiphong on the same steamer as I go on from Hongkong . If you have any information bearing on the question of transportation , I should appreciate it . However , for the present the orders can be left with the various firms and at the end of July I can give definite instructions . I trust that all the orders are out and are well under way by now .

I have been awaiting an order from the university allowing me to draw one hundred dollars from your office for purchasing a second-hand typewriter and possibly a duplicating machine . This has not arrived and I am wondering if it would be possible to draw on my instruction or say on my personal account this sum of money . I am hoping that this requisition may come along before long but it may be that Dean Dye has forgotten about it . If that is so , then it may have to wait until I return to the field in the fall . We badly need this typewriter as our present one is a veteran of some twenty years service .

When in New York , Oliver suggested buying through your office as this should be cheaper than buying in Canada . Have you any idea of what a good rebuilt machine , either Remington or Underwood , would cost ? And also a hand-operated duplicating machine ?

News from China continues to be highly exciting and one wonders what the outcome will be . I trust that the situation will be a bit clearer before it is time for us to sail in September . I am taking out in our party several families of newcomers so that we may have to postpone sailing unless the situation clears up .

Very Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner

Roy C. Spooner

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1939
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JUN 24 1939
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I have been thinking about the past few years
the years that I have spent in the
have to return to the United States to
have a career in the United States, they will
to the United States, I can see the
have them participate and help to
some teacher as I can see the
course on the question of
However, the more I think about it, the more I
at the end of July I can give definite instructions. I think that
all the other things out and see what can be done.

I have been thinking about the past few years
draw out the money from the bank
I am thinking about it, the more I
text on the personal account, the more I
repatriation with some other things but it may be that I
forgetter about it, the more I think about it, the more I
return to the United States, the more I think about it, the more I
present one of the reasons of some of the things.

That is how I think about it, the more I
a big amount of money, the more I think about it, the more I
want a good machine, the more I think about it, the more I
the also a good machine, the more I think about it, the more I

That is how I think about it, the more I
what the money will be, the more I think about it, the more I
to see if it is worth it, the more I think about it, the more I
that covers the situation, the more I think about it, the more I
calling upon the situation, the more I think about it, the more I

Very Sincerely,
W. E. Johnson
W. E. Johnson

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June 26, 1939

Mr. Roy C. Spooner
57 Humewood Drive
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Mr. Spooner:

Your letter of the 22nd came to hand promptly and I note your suggestion regarding the transportation of science equipment and material. It probably will be best for us to give these companies some idea of the procedure we have in mind.

A second-hand typewriter will cost in the neighborhood of \$40.00 to procure one that is satisfactory. We have never advocated this as for around \$80.00 a new one can be purchased which will give infinitely greater satisfaction. Duplicating machines are entirely a different matter and my suggestion is that the one with the simplest mechanism possible be purchased. The closed drum type of an A. B. Dick machine which is self-inking contains baffle plates for distributing ink which wear out in time and cause no end of trouble and necessitating a new drum.

If you have any ideas as to what machine you desire, I shall be glad to investigate here in New York and report on prices.

Regarding the appropriation for the equipment -- I am sorry that we do not have anything in our office authorizing this expenditure, but I hope for your sake that same will be coming through before it is necessary to make the purchase.

Yes, China is certainly in the headlines now and each day only adds to the tension. I am inclined to agree with Foreign Minister, George Bonnet, that the United States holds the key to the peace of the world. The trouble is we do not realize it and probably would not make the drastic utterances to make it effective. As the days go by, we shall see what we shall see.

Most cordially yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAR/B
EBC.

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West China



Union University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

57 Humewood Drive
Toronto, Ont.
July 1, 1939

Recd 7/5

Dear Dr. Garside :

If spare copies of the minutes of the meetings of ABCCC and WCUU Board of Governors are available, would you be good enough to send me copies?

I have been speaking to Arnup, Wallace, Best, Endicott and Dr. Lovell Murray regarding the formation of a Toronto group interested in China Colleges. I have made it perfectly clear that the financial angle would not be raised but that the approach might be from the educational point of view. I have met with some interest especially from Wallace and Arnup and hope that the coming of Cressy next fall to Toronto to address a group might offer a suitable occasion for the inauguration of such a group. I have also suggested that possibly some arrangement might be worked out for the loan or use of one of your field secretaries for a limited period to start such a group going. I am reporting this to you just so that if the local group do take the initiative that you might understand the background. I am now preparing a list of possible recruits for such a group and will leave it with Chancellor Wallace.

Sincerely

Ray C. Spooner

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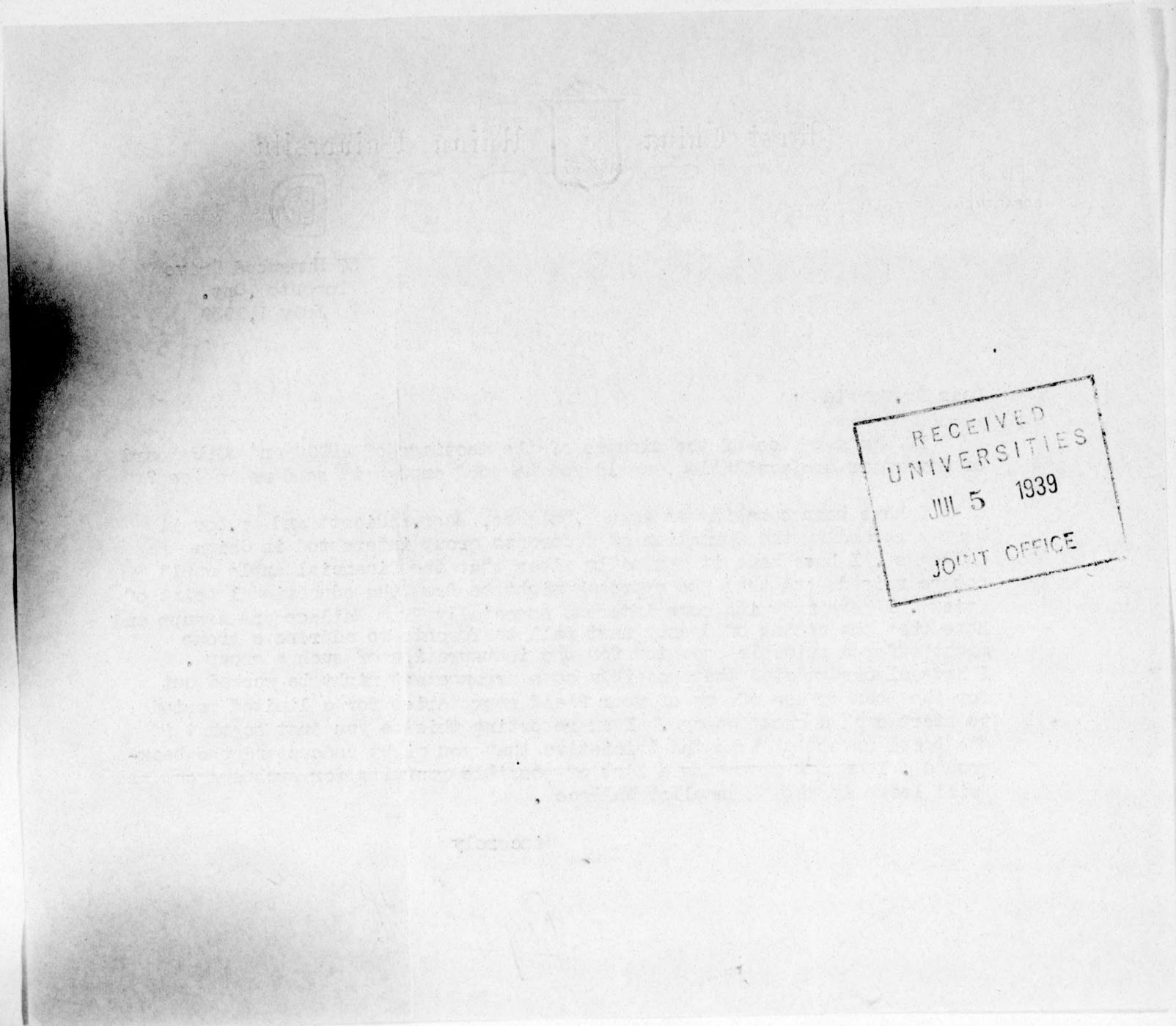
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West China



Union University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

Geneva Park
Lake Couchiching
Ontario .

August 14, 1939

Handwritten: A. N. Thomas 8/16

Handwritten: Note Royal Type. 8/16

Handwritten: ACK 8/16

Handwritten: note 14/8

Dear Mr. Evans ;

I wired to you this morning asking you to hold any further instructing of the companies in regard to shipment of freight to Hongkong . The reason for this was that I wanted to again reiterate what I had ~~sent~~ pointed out before , - that the only reason this freight was ordered at this time was so that it might be personally escorted by me as far as I can take it . This would normally be not necessary and the plan that you suggested regarding the order of Harvard Apparatus Co, be perfectly satisfactory . But these orders must be sent by the same boat that I am sailing on, that is the Empress of Russia , leaving Vancouver Sept. 16th in order that these goods will arrive with me and can then be transhipped at Hongkong to the same boat by which we sail to Haiphong . Otherwise what happens is that freight becomes piled up at either of these two ports and nobody seems able to get it moving .

So the first point is that all freight must go by the Russia . The second point concerns the forwarding agent in Hongkong . I have asked regarding suitable people to do this work for us but had received little satisfaction until Sewell told me of the firm of H.M.Hodges & Co. ; Asia Bank Bldg. and to direct letters to the attention of their manager Mr. Hellwige . Sewell had a talk with this gentleman and seemed to feel that the university could well send all their business to him . I have written to him but so far no letter has come back . However, if Mr. Low of B & W S is satisfactory , I am perfectly willing to use his firm for purposes of transshipment . However, if we use this firm , then the other order from Thomas should also be consigned in his care, as I do not want to have to see several agents about ~~these~~ orders . If the orders can be held for a few days until I see whether this letter from Hellwige comes along , I would prefer waiting . But if it is too late, then consign all the freight shipments to Mr. Low of Butterfield and Swire . However in that case, it will be necessary to mention that the Haiphong agent is Brochard & Co. who has been used by the university almost exclusively .

I trust that the above instructions are clear . There are many details concerning shipment of freight about which I have had no information whatsoever and lacking this it is difficult to know what is the best method .

If you can get a letter back to me ~~at 11/30/~~ before next Sunday , I would greatly appreciate it as I am going down to Toronto next Sunday to arrange final details of our personal baggage and freight . Perhaps a night letter back would be the surest plan . Send it to above address, plus the addition of Longford , after the Lake Couchiching .

I am sorry to cause all this bother about this order but it seems inevitable in view of the present uncertain circumstances . I would suggest that the university appoint one definite agent in Hongkong through whom all business could be transacted so saving confusion . Please let me know cost of the

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new typewriter and I shall ask the Mission Board to remit direct to your office.

I received Mr. Parker's letter regarding an enclosure of photographic supplies and this is satisfactory as it will be put on the same bill of lading and count as part of the order. This will make for trouble at the other end when we try to secure exemption from taxes as each order is a separate item but this can not be avoided.

With best wishes

Very Sincerely

Roy Spooner

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West China



Union University

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

CHENG TU, WEST CHINA

Geneva Park
Lake Couchiching
August 24, 1939

ACK
8/28

Dear Mr. Garside ;

Your last few letters have all come through in better time than did your letters to Boston for in each case they arrived the day following mailing . I wish to thank you for the details which you have given and which will be invaluable in further following up of these orders.

Note
Royal
Co.
Ind.
8/28

I am not sure about the question of insurance on the three orders mentioned in your letter of Aug. 23th . Has it been taken care of and how far ? I presume that since they are consigned to me in Vancouver that it is covered to that port . Then I shall be responsible from there on *—right*

It is too bad that these orders were not shipped direct to Hongkong so enabling insurance and freight to that port to be paid in advance . The university has not forwarded any money to me and hence I am in a quandary as to how I can finance the proposition . I may be able to use mission funds but am not quite sure . This is the first time that I have returned in charge of a mission party and I am not quite sure of all the details . If there is still time , it would be wise to have the Royal typewriter shipped direct to Hongkong only directing that it be sent via the Empress of Russia on second thought , please cancel this request as the typewriter is so small that it would come much under the minimum and so have heavy freight charge . I shall include it in my baggage quota and so get by , paying only .03/ lb. *no change*

Note
Central
Scientific
8/28

I have just received a Clipper letter from Dan Dye . He encloses a letter to the Central Scientific Co . people for me to mail to them . However, in order to give your office a complete file of orders , I am suggesting that it be forwarded by you to them with a covering letter asking that it be mailed or expressed to me , care of the Empress of Russia sailing Sept. 16th . It is a rather chaotic letter but it makes sense if you read it carefully !!

My head is still in a whirl trying to make sense out of the latest European shift in high pressure politics . but we are steadily going on planning for China . I have a feeling that we shall be prevented from sailing and in that case, I shall wire the C.P.R. to store all freight until the situation clarifies .

Yours Sincerely,

Roy C. Spooner
Roy C. Spooner

Note
H.D. Robertson

{ Address after Aug. 31st is c/o United Church Training School
until Sept 8th. Avenue Rd. and St. Clair Ave.
Toronto .

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RECEIVED
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AUG 23 1939
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Royal Ins. Co.
150 William St.

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ROY SPOONER

Empress of Russia
Somewhere in the Pacific
Sept. 26, 1939.

Dear Friends:

We have long wished to have some more effective method of keeping in touch with our friends at home. Writing individual personal letters is, of course, ideal, and we have no intention of giving this up. But to the larger group of friends to whom this may be prevented by limitations of energy and time, we thought that a quarterly letter sent to our church and mimeographed by them and mailed, might accomplish the trick. We hope that you may be interested in receiving it. Please let us have your desires in the way of news so that we may comply.

If the addresses now being used are incorrect, a letter to the following giving the correct address will be in order -

Secretary; Trinity United Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

We have had a most interesting and valuable furlough. We have done most of the things which we had in mind to do when we returned. We have all thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent Canadian weather. Just think, a whole year at home and yet the five of us, although working hard and tired badly at times, have not had one single serious cold. And the summers in Ontario, day after day of sunshine with cool weather at night to make you sleep well. Of all the joys of life in Canada, perhaps we shall miss the weather more than anything else as we return to our humid Szechwan where it is cold and damp in winter and hot and damp in summer.

July was spent in Toronto completing our purchases, visiting the doctor and dentist, and packing trunks. One realizes the vanity of possessions when you are compelled to pack for transport to China. The first of August was welcomed with open arms for we had taken a cottage at the YMCA camp on Lake Couchiching, Geneva Park and we longed to leave the city and soak ourselves in the beauties of lake and woods. We were not disappointed. Our cottage was most comfortable, it did not leak and it possessed a stove. Our neighbors were interesting folk and the weather was ideal. So we ate, swam, slept and relaxed our way through the month.

We gave little thought to whether we would or would not be returning to China this fall. Events in the world were moving so fast and towards such unknown destinations that it seemed ridiculous to waste time worrying about the plans for our return until just before we had to leave. So it was not until three days before we left Toronto that we definitely knew that we were going. With war declared, with a possible tie-up of Russia with the Fascist powers, it seemed hardly the time to be setting off for our home in distant West China. But on closer examination, there seemed to be a better chance of getting there if we left now than if we postponed our departure. Travel on the Pacific was, so far as we knew, safe from the menace of submarines and once we reached Hongkong we were on familiar ground.

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We left Toronto Sept. 10th. We travelled tourist across Canada doing all our own cooking. We found it rather an arduous method of travel although undoubtedly free of much of the mental strain that comes from travelling first class and being overly careful not to give any offence to other travellers. We had an upper and a lower, plus the single occupancy of a section. This was all that we could secure with our amount of tickets. The upper and lower berths were left made up and so were available for the children to sleep in during the day. The Hoffmans had reported to us on the conveniences of the tourist kitchen but we were unprepared for our luck in being the only people to be taking advantage of it. There was a very large ice-box constantly supplied with ice, a coal stove which was put on early in the morning and burnt all day long and hot and cold water available in the sink. Unfortunately our sections were half way down the car, but after Winnipeg the number of passengers decreased and we used one of the vacant sections nearer to the kitchen. However, with the three children, this method of travel left little time to be spent in day-dreaming.

We so thoroughly enjoyed our hour in Winnipeg. My brother and his wife came down to meet us bearing gifts of food and reading matter that we put to good use before reaching Vancouver. Also Mrs. Wheeler whom we had met by correspondence in connection with the buying of books for our Faculty Reading Club was there in person to greet us. We had the pangs of farewell all over again as we left them behind.

That afternoon we travelled through the Qu'Appelle valley and were much entranced by the delicate colorings of tree and shrub. We had expected to have seen autumn foliage as we came across Northern Ontario and were disappointed. We were evidently just ahead of the first frost of the fall. In 1931 we left Toronto in October travelling by CPR and were delighted, especially around the north shore of Lake Superior, by the bright colors of the trees. It made a lovely parting memory.

As we pulled into Melville (or was it Watrous?) we were surprised to see two very familiar figures on the platform. We had only a ten minute stop but we made full use of the time in exchanging news with Dr. and Mrs. Perry. They had driven for three hours from Regina just to spend the ten minutes with us and so give us one more friendly and lovely memory to take away with us.

Jasper was gorgeous... it was clear and nippy weather that took all the laziness out of your bones and made you feel like prancing around just for the sheer joy of living. We felt that it did not equal Banff, but our opinion was very superficial as we had no time to investigate the surrounding country.

Even highly-casual David was thrilled by the mountains encountered before arriving in Jasper. They do not seem to be as high as those seen travelling by the CPR and are certainly not as rugged and sharp. Mount Robson, is of course superb and the brief stop that the train makes, so that all may descend and bow in worship, is much too inadequate.

Vancouver showered her benedictions upon us in the form of rain. Thursday and Friday were both rainy and it was only on Saturday that it cleared up. There was a great deal to be done, to repair some of the ravages of the train trip, check up on baggage and freight, buy a few things and see a few friends. We 'phoned Dorothy Smale Smith and it sounded so very nice to hear her voice again. We were not able to see her and the proud young heir to the throne.

We had rather disturbing war news in Vancouver. There were rumors of subs just off the coast, the Australia - CPR boat - was overdue....etc.etc. But we paid little attention and moved the family down to the boat on the Saturday morning, ready to sail at eleven o'clock. However, on arrival we found that our departure was postponed. Nobody knew anything and they were not going to lose any dignity by confessing it. Finally we were told that the passengers could go ashore but must be back by midnight. So we hired a taxi and spent an hour and a half seeing the sights. The children enjoyed the monkeys and the bears at Stanley Park more than anything else but the adults exclaimed over several views that we had, looking out to sea down the bay.

Sunday morning saw us still at the pier but we were not allowed to go ashore. Finally sometime in the morning we sailed and got as far as the middle of the bay. Then the captain became cautious and we stopped. However, later in the afternoon we started and this time kept going on. We passed down the bay and were soon met by a seaplane that escorted us until dark. Later we were met by two destroyers and they also went a way with us. We omitted the Victoria call and took a course that was much south of our regular northern route. Next morning we began to carry life-belts with us wherever we went. And the previous evening we had been told that we were to have a complete blackout every evening. This involved closed portholes, and no deck lights.

We knew that the above precautions were the customary thing on all passenger boats in times of war, but we did not understand the secrecy that was displayed in our ships news about what was happening in Europe. Just the night before we sailed, we had heard by chance about the Russian troops moving into Poland and were curious to know further developments. But all during the sail to Japan, we were limited to a daily paper, with no important news whatsoever. We were suspended between the two continents helpless to do anything save eat, sleep, look after the family and keep on going. However, we are fairly plegmatic and did not allow it to bother us.

The tourist section was almost filled. And a very nice group of people they were, mostly British or Canadian. The deck space available was much superior to that on either the Japan or the President Cleveland and allowed the children to get all the exercise that they wished. Most of the passage was a bit choppy and rough, with one evening of very heavy weather. This, with the coldness forced us all into woolen sweaters.

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At Nagasaki we all went ashore with the Reeds and took a taxi to Mogi, a small fishing hamlet nearby with a good foreign hotel. We enjoyed the drive through small hills, highly cultivated with terraced rice-fields, or fruit trees, up and down the winding slopes and then on arrival found a magnificent bay looking out to sea, dotted with fishing vessels and magnificent promontories to make it quite unique.

We left late at night and the second day out arrived in Shanghai. We had great plans for all the things that we wished to do there. But limitations of time made most of them impossible. George Birtch and I went to the Mission Treasurers to find if the news in the paper that all traffic through French Indo-China was prohibited, was correct or not. They had little news but said that the Vicherts had just left Shanghai enroute for West China.

We went hunting for cooking stoves and finally found them at Melchors, a German company that was still doing business. We were not sorry when we found that buying a stove and taking it out of Shanghai was too arduous and tedious for us to hope to accomplish it that day.. so we did not buy it. There are many restrictions about the movement of any freight out of Shanghai, especially materials made of iron.

Haiphong, Nov. 18/39

Shanghai was one mass of humanity. We were almost wiped out in the rush of rickshaw coolies that tried to get our business. Imagine paying forty cents an hour to the coolie and the dollar changing at eleven to one !! That figures out at about four cents per hour for doing the most arduous of work! Every alley in the settlement has its quota of refugees who sleep there at night. Each lane is wired off at one end to make it into a one way street. This is an attempt by the police to stop the gangsters from using the lane to escape by after a murder on the streets.

Prices were very low and we were sorry that we were not doing all our buying there instead of Hongkong. It was surprising to me to find many of the shopkeepers and sales-clerks able to understand my Western Mandarin. That is a demonstration of the effect of compelling all students, no matter in what part of China, to learn to speak Mandarin instead of just their own local dialect.

I began to "really go to town" late in the afternoon in my search for contacts with the right people. I found that Dr. J. C. Thomson of the Chemistry Dept. of the University of Nanking was in town enroute for Chengtu. So by staying over until the last tender to go to the ship, I met him and had a good opportunity to profit by his experience of travel in French Indo-China.

Two days from Shanghai was Hongkong. The ship was filled up with Chinese who were anxious to get to Hongkong. In fact the boats going south are always crowded with refugees getting away from the possible dangers of Shanghai. We lost at Shanghai a very fine group

of Catholic fathers from Montreal who were called by all the children "the daddies". They spoke English and took an active part in the ships' sports in vivid contrast to those with whom we travelled in 1931.

It is hard now to visualize Hongkong and its' many varied experiences. I am writing from Haiphong and so much has happened that to look back almost a month to October 6th. the day of our arrival in Hongkong is difficult. We came in, late at night. We had warm weather but on arrival in the outside harbour we were allowed to open all portholes and the lights were turned on, on deck. Quite a treat after our blackened-out voyage! The trip into the harbor was one of indescribable beauty. All the lights on the island, up and down the roads leading to the Peak.. and on the other side the lights of Kowloon, searchlights playing across the entrance to the Harbour and the knowledge that we had come to the end of our twenty-one day journey across the troubled waters of the Pacific, combined to fill our hearts with happiness.

Hongkong was a medley of things.. changes in our plans so that the women and children might fly direct from Hongkong to Chungking; buying, buying, and still buying things for other people. seeing officials about this or that difficulty in our plans for sending baggage and freight to Chengtu by way of Indo-China... eating Green spots at the Dairy Farm.... having two tropical suits made by an Indian tailor and trying to convince him that you, as the purchaser and the potential wearer of the suits, had a little bit to say as to how it should fit....getting the two children into a kindergarten for the two weeks' period that they were delayed.. seeing Annie Theston and Helen Lousley on their way home... a Chinese meal in the Szechwan restaurant... beautiful sunsets, night after night seen from our fourth floor balcony...roping trunks and counting the pieces of freight that we had....all these made a busy three weeks for us in Hongkong.

Last year on our way home we were fortunate enough to be able to send our trunks out with Nick Stanway and Henry Irish ahead of us and so we were able to come direct from Chungking to Hongkong by air. Last September (1938) the Japanese shot down one of the planes on this run and we have not advised travel by this route. However, the planes are still flying and have not had another fatality. So rather than take the families down into Indo-China and then fly from K~~un~~ming, we took passage direct from Hongkong. This meant waiting, as there was a long lineup. Further there was no regular service being maintained as planes flew only at the night-time and at irregular intervals.

First, to get away were the Reeds and Miss Holt. We only knew the day before, that they were going and we were instructed to keep the news quiet and be at the air-field by 2:30 a.m. Talk about keeping the news quiet... later in the afternoon I heard David telling the other children out on the street that nobody was to know the Reeds were going because the Japanese might come and bomb the plane. Two days later it was the turn of Kathleen, our children,

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and Mary Birtch. It was an eery feeling packing the 66 lbs. that were allowed as baggage the night before and then lying down to try and sleep until 1:30 a.m. But the children woke up as good as gold, we were dressed by 2 o'clock and off we went by taxi to the air-field. We waited and waited and finally at 3:30 a.m. they said "let's go" and we said good-bye. There is only one thing to be said for one's family leaving you by air and that is... that it is a quick farewell... two minutes and they were off and all that you could see was the tail-light of the plane away up in the air above.

It was five or six days before I had word back about the trip. Air-mail did not come in and the telegrams are also slow. Kathleen and the children had a good trip up, save that when they came down for their first stop at Kweilin, they arrived from the north instead of the south side and so were suspected of being an alien plane under disguise. So they were all held for two hours before they flew off for Chungking. At Chungking, they had fifteen minutes and then left for Chengtu by air. They almost stayed over as the children were hungry and tired but finally went straight through. At Chengtu there was no one to meet them so Kathleen had to look after customs again and then take the slow bus into the city where they finally got rickshaws and went to the campus. But her prospective hostesses, not knowing of her arrival, were away from home and so she had to go looking for a place to stay and something to eat. Bea Mullett was home and took the family in and how glad they were after their rather arduous experience.

Our arrivals in Chengtu have not been lucky. In 1931 we had to wait on the doorstep until our hostess came home.

After the girls' going, George Birtch and I made ready for leaving. What had delayed our departure was waiting for Dr. Thomson so that we might travel with him. But he was delayed and we were impatient to get started for home. So we left on the 30th. just ten days after the girls had left (the 20th) and some twenty-four days after our arrival in Hongkong.

We had finally when we left Hongkong on the Jardine Matheson boat the "Tai Sang", forty-eight pieces of personal baggage not including seven pieces carried by hand, plus 88 pieces of freight. Not a bad collection for two missionaries to take along with them! But the size of our collection involved securing French Consular invoices, Chinese Consular invoices, permission to export from Hongkong, certificates from the French consul regarding certain German goods having been paid for before the War...plus invoices, bills and letters of introduction to all and sundry.

Our entire experience of Hongkong was pleasant. We received every assistance that we could wish for, from those with whom we had dealings. But twenty-four days of rushing about trying to anticipate trouble and head it off, had left us a bit weary and we were glad to go on board and sleep.

However, we had two rather interesting experiences in Hongkong. One Sunday morning, we took a taxi out to Dr. Reichelt's Institute for the training of workers among Buddhists at Dao Fung Shan. The ride out was most entrancing... up and down the steep slopes of the hills behind Kowllon, beautiful vistas out to sea on either hand and finally a steep climb up the Dao Fung Shan. Dr. Reichelt met us and showed us the buildings and chatted a bit before the church service. His buildings might well be part of a Buddhist monastery save for their cleanliness and the type of religious symbolism which is used. His church is similar in shape to the "ba gwa" temple at the Chin Yang Kung in Chengtu, and just a little larger. But inside is much different, for you have the altar, the sanctuary and the cross. The cross is represented as springing from the Lotus, which is the sacred flower of Buddhism and of special significance since it springs out of the dirty water of the pool, stagnant and murky. So the Cross, in its turn springs out of the Lotus.

The church service was a real experience. It combine the rich imagery of the High Church service, with some of the forms of the Buddhists, as striking of a bell, carrying in of incense, and chanting to old Chinese chants, certain responses. Dr. Reichelt, with his rich personality and sense of reality led the service and I was indeed moved.

His audience was made up of about forty of his students, certain pilgrims staying at the Institute for a little while, and several visitors. After the service, we were shown to what must be the central part of the school. This was an underground chapel cut right in the rock so that the one and only window looks right to the west across the valley to the sea. In the window is the cross. The chapel, by its quietness and beauty calls one to pray, to be quiet and listen to the Will of God.

One other evening we were invited to go up to Matilda's Hospital to have dinner with Dr. Lou Little and Dr. Bob McClure. Dr. Little had also been a passenger on the Japan in 1931 and since his withdrawal from mission work in Formosa due to Jap pressure, has been locum tenens at Matilda. It has a magnificent location, right on the top of the Hongkong island with vistas to four sides towards the sea and into the harbour. We went over for tea, then went down to church and returned for dinner featured by an interesting discussion as to the powers of mind over matter, and the responsibility of the true Christian to be any other than the Gandhi type of pacifist.

Bob McClure, who is known to many of you from contacts at home, is the story teller par excellence. His life for the last three years has been as exciting as anyone could wish. Before the Sino-Japanese war he was developing an interesting type of practice in North China utilising his hospital as the base and center for extensive rural

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work. He made use of graduate men nurses and old-time Chinese physicians to set up a circle of stations which he visited on his motor-bike once or twice a fortnight. On the day of his visit, he would look over and treat all the serious cases, sending those that needed hospitalisation to the base hospital, leaving the others to the care of the local representative. He insisted on cleanliness and continued his instructions to this group. So that a much wider group than he could reach personally, were receiving some medical care, not of 100% standard but at any rate of a standard many times higher than they would otherwise have received.

He did Air Raid work for the Red Cross for sometime, travelling to cities expecting air-raids and there training the corps of medical workers. When the air-raid came they used it to put on a practical demonstration of how future air-raid work was to be conducted. Then he moved to the next place.

He came home to England and Canada a year ago and had a grand time raising money for Red Cross in England. He made a most effective speaker with his personal knowledge of every phase of what was happening in North China, and his record of dangers experienced and work accomplished. Then he returned, not to North China for here the Japanese did not welcome his return to his hospital as it was now in the occupied territory but to be the Director of Transportation for the International Red Cross in their stupendous task of moving in ton after ton of medical supplies to the base hospitals situated all over Western and Southern China. So for this last period he has been living on trucks, travelling here and there pushing his convoys through, making a trip to Rangoon or another to Hongkong to push things along.

He has a keen mechanical sense and a ready enthusiasm for the things which he is doing. He is now interested in his new fleet of seven charcoal-burning five ton trucks for the Red Cross which are just now on the way to China. If they work, they will liberate the Red Cross from the dependence on gasoline, that foreign commodity, every drop of which has to be imported over long and dangerous lines of communication. It sells for about twenty-three cents gold on the sea-coast at Haiphong, but by the time you go into Chungking, some one thousand miles distant, the price has quadrupled and is almost non-existent. France can always cut off the stream of this precious fluid by forbidding its export through French Indo-China... so you see how questionable the China supply is.

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We finally set October 30th. as the date of our departure from Hongkong for Haiphong. Of the difficulties of customs and transport in Haiphong, much has been written. If we had only listened to the stories that we were told on the boat coming down, let alone the stories of previous travellers, we would never have ventured forth. But we set forth, not quite sure of how we would fare.

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Our boat, "Tai Sang" was very comfortable although of course small. It had been owned by the Chinese Navigation Co. but was sold for the duration of the war to the Jardine Matheson Co. It had just come out for drydock after extensive overhauling. We found the officers on board, a most interesting group. They confided in us how easily the Allies were going to win the War. They also told us the story of how the Royal Oak was sunk in Scapa Flow. However, what puzzled them was how the blooming sub got away. We did not believe all the yarns that were told us but they did point to one thing, that the average Britisher abroad is by no means convinced that the day of the British Empire has passed. She may have to pull in her sails a bit during stormy weather but when the storm is past, she will still be "Johnny on the spot". I had a chat with a German business man in Shanghai, the representative in China of Merck Chemical Co. I have had him to dinner in my home in Chengtu and know him fairly well as an efficient business man essentially reasonable in his point of view. He viewed the war as a mistake, especially between England and Germany, the two nations which are so essentially alike. The war had killed his business and left him high and dry in Shanghai. Nevertheless, he was just as confident, not of the Nazi party and their righteousness, but of the ability of Germany the nation to come through with victory, as were the officers on the British boats. As I was talking to him in Shanghai, sitting across a table, it seemed such an illogical thing to fight, or that I should call him an enemy and not buy goods from him.

The war has of course scattered the German business communities out here. In Shanghai they are still existent but are not able to secure supplies while in Hongkong and French Indo-China they have been liquidated. Concentration camps, or better, internment camps, are in both these two places but most of the Germans in Hongkong have been released on parole. The Germans who were keen supporters of Hitler all fled just before the war to Macao, the Portugese port a few miles down the coast from Hongkong and are there trying to carry on business. All this has resulted in new difficulties for the university. Just before the war we placed several orders, some in America, others in Germany for medical supplies. When these orders arrive in Hongkong they are scrutinized to see if any German goods are included, for they are liable to confiscation. However, in Hongkong when I saw the Commissioner he quite gladly released such orders as soon as he knew they were to be used for educational work. As he said, the money has already gone to Germany and confiscating the goods now would only harm a worthy cause. But in Ind-China, so far I have been unable to convince anyone of this point of view. And at present I am faced with the prospect of going through these extensive orders and unpacking and leaving behind those articles marked of German origin.

But to come back to my story of our trip down. We had a nice trip except that the little boat tossed around a lot during the second evening of our trip. George and I managed to come up for supper but did not wait long before we retired. We were met at the dock by the assistant manager of the Hotel du Commerce and we managed to take with us our hand baggage direct to the hotel. Definitely French, very... even to ten courses at lunch and ten courses at dinner. Breakfast is coffee, vile stuff, plus one hard roll. But so far we have stood it alright. It is now what they call cool weather but that means for us, wearing shorts and open shirts and not doing anything strenuous in the sun. What it must be like in the summer is difficult to imagine. I am glad that our work is in West China where the weather has a winter season, cold and damp as this is. The town itself is really very charming. It is laid out on the French fashion, wide boulevards, an opera house, a municipal theatre, parks and squares etc. French is the language spoken everywhere. The French, like the English in Hongkong, use their own language and everyone else has to follow suit. We have found that our schoolbook French is too pure for the local Annamese !!! At least that is our excuse, believe it or not !!

We have tried our French on all and sundry after first checking with each other to see how correct it is. But quite often the answer comes back in English or else a garble of pidgin French of which we can make nothing. When we went up to Hanoi the other day, we were spotted immediately by the police who wished to see our passports. There must be something about the way we walk that gives us away. Or else it is George's new moustache!

Chengtú, Sze.
Jan. 21, 1940

A long interval has passed since I last wrote to you. Actually it seems like a year since I was in Haiphong and had to face the many problems that presented themselves. But the problems resolved themselves one by one, we finally left Haiphong, moving on to Kwenming and from there by truck to Chungking and finally to Chengtu, "home, sweet home".

Perhaps the most annoying part of the whole trip was not the twenty-five days delay in Haiphong or the ten days' wait in Kwenming, not even the day that we spent on the road doing only exactly twenty kilometres (some twelve miles) but the disappointment of arriving in Chungking only two days from home, and finding that our mission truck had got tired of waiting for us and had left just twelve hours before we arrived. So we had to wait for it to go up and then come down again. We finally left Chungking two days before Christmas. We should really have been wearing white whiskers, red jackets and knee-high boots for we were playing the part of Santa in bringing presents to most of the Chengtu community. And when we arrived in front of our house at three o'clock on the 24th., we did receive a grand welcome, especially from the three children who rushed out to see their long absent daddy.

Since then, time has flowed very rapidly. We have little by little unpacked the eight trunks, distributed the various presents, tried to write up our complicated accounts with various folk and incidentally to get a grasp on the many changes in the university life that have been taking place since we left. It is to a changed community that we return. We miss especially our warm friends, the Colliers and the Sewells and the Walmesleys. Without them, it seems just a bit barren. But one soon adjusts and in their place come other new friends.

But to go back to Haiphong and our story of how we fared. Haiphong has the world's worst Customs' officials. That is actually true, I believe, especially if you are a Chinese traveller passing through and have not the right letters or contacts. I did not see this but many Chinese have told me that the standard procedure is to take bag, empty it on the customs' table, go through it, perhaps helping themselves to something, then sweep the contents unto the floor and examine another bag. This does not happen to a foreigner for he might report things. On the other hand, there has been a lot of smuggling through the port done by Chinese, in addition the staff of officials speak nothing but French and are badly over-worked. I heard of one case where some twenty-nine suitcases were being passed through without examination on the strength of an official letter from Chinese officials. The Customs' officer opened just one of the bags and found it loaded with watches to be sold. He opened the other twenty-eight and they also were full of watches. The result being that the next day every bag belonging to Chinese was carefully examined.

The port is not a large one and when due to the loss of Canton, practically the entire import trade of China began to use the port, they were literally swamped with cargo. Goods were piled in all directions. They built more customs' sheds and they were filled in a few days. The ships brought in more goods in a day than the railway could take away in ten days. Naturally there were goods lost, stolen or just misplaced. For instance our hospital in Chungking sent sixteen cases of drugs to Haiphong in December 1938. They were consigned to a customs broker who was to clear customs and send the goods on to our agent in Kwenming. They left Hongkong and then nothing further was heard. When I arrived last November, one of my commissions was to find these goods. After three weeks of daily enquiry, the customs brokers found exactly twelve of these cases. The other four were gone or misplaced. Yet the broker and the customs will charge storage on the entire sixteen cases. As a result of this condition, there is much thieving. When our cases arrived in Chengtu, several, we found, had been opened, either at the time of customs' examination or at other times, and some of the contents were missing. There is nothing you can do about it... it is just part of the procedure, like catching the measles or the mumps which David now has got.

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However, our eighty-eight cases of freight and forty-seven pieces of personal baggage finally managed to get clear of all entanglements. It was ready to be moved forward. This result had been achieved not without some difficulty necessitating five trips to Hanoi, the capital of French Indo-China to see the highest government officials that we could reach. As my French was close to non-existent, each trip meant finding an interpreter and here I was very fortunate in finding friends who helped me out. The officials, that is the higher-ups, were kindness itself, once they understood the situation. But the men in Haiphong were only allowed to carry out orders and so had to be petty in their actions.

I was much impressed by two things, first the beauty and lovely carriage and costume of the better-class Annamese women, and second the really magnificent silver work that they produce in Hanoi. I remember one visit to Hanoi. I took the auto-rail, a one car coach and engine combined that runs on rubber wheels, which left Haiphong at seven o'clock in the morning. On arrival I saw the officials and found myself at one o'clock with nothing to do until six, at which time the auto-rail returned to Haiphong. So I visited the street of the silversmiths and found a shop which sold their produce directly to Tiffanys, New York. They had a complete set of various kinds of silver and I could easily have spent several hundred dollars there to good advantage. I bought a few things for Kathleen and then returned to the shopping centre where by luck I stumbled on a small tea-shop where they spoke English and served tea and French pastry. As one sat there drinking tea, you could look out across the boulevard to the small lake and watch the people passing by. The Annamese women all walk with an erect stride that is grace itself. There has evidently been no tradition of foot-binding to overcome and this, plus the carrying of goods on the head by many farm women produces the lovely carriage. The men by contrast are tame and uninteresting.

However, these ports, such as Hongkong and Haiphong are not without their misery and degradation. Both places have more than their share of street-walkers, only in Haiphong they ride in rickshaws and speed up their professional encounters.

Another great disappointment in our long dull stay in Haiphong was to go to a show to see a good American Western Movie and then find that they had ruined it for us by translating the entire thing into French! Only the Mickey Mouse cartoons were left for us to fully enjoy.

We were much interested in the food that was served to us in the hotel. Breakfast was served out on the wide porch overlooking the street. To George Birtch and me, accustomed to the liberal meals on the boat, it seemed pitifully inadequate. A banana, a small orange, toast hard as a rock, and a cup of tea or chocolate. We tried the coffee the first day and found it to be nothing but chicory boiled until it was black. How the French ever continued drinking it day after day, without doing injury to their stomachs is more than we could understand. We finally went and bought some

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imported S & W coffee. on the street and then used it. But lunch and dinner more than made up for this lack of nourishment. They were excellent meals if one did not mind the emphasis on meat or fowl instead of vegetables. Course after course, of meat alone with a very slim dessert served only at dinner. But after each meal we had our tea out on the veranda and watched the passers-by as we leisurely drank.

Our plan was to secure trucks and go straight from Haiphong to the French border and then continue directly to Kweiyang, the capital of Kweichow without passing through Kwenming. This road was not very safe as the Japs were bombing it incessantly every day. But by travelling at night for several days and then hiding up during the day, it was possible to get through. Bob. McClure left by this route with his two charcoal-burning trucks the day after we arrived in Haiphong. So did another party of Swedish American missionaries who were going all the way to Hsingan by means of their own cars and truck. They had fourteen people in the party and were depending on their two used cars, plus trailers, plus one truck which had seen noble service with the Red Cross in Spain helping the Nationalist Government. The outlook for a good trip was not any too hopeful for the road over which they had to go had taken its toll of many a new truck. But they had started off and now after arriving in Chengtu ourselves, we hear that they finally reached their destination. However, due to our delay over Customs' formalities, we were held up and while waiting, the Japanese landed troops at Pakhoi and started on their drive inland to cut the very road over which we proposed to travel. We knew of this, but thought that we still had time to slip by. So we hunted for trucks until we found a man who had three trucks waiting at the French-Chinese border for cargo. We argued over the price and then on a Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock signed the contract with him and paid over one third of the price. At 4 o'clock that afternoon, we saw him again and broke the contract, our reason for doing so being that we had been tipped off that the Japs had marched straight ahead without meeting any effective resistance and would occupy the road in a day or so. And next morning the word came through that this had been done. So we were l-u-c-k-y.

The alternative route was to secure a freight wagon and ship our goods to Kwenming. But here the trouble was to secure a wagon. There was so much cargo waiting to be shipped that no private individual could obtain a wagon save by waiting an indefinite period or .. by shipping somebody a couple of hundred dollars. I had a long talk with a Professor Liu, of Chin Hwa University who was acting as their Haiphong agent about the devious methods of securing freight cars in Haiphong. Private business people were desperate for with the long delay, they were continually losing money on their invested capital and so were ready to pay anything in order to get away. But I made a trip to the head office of the railway company in Hanoi and there was told to make my request directly to the Haiphong station-master. So next morning I made an appointment with my customs broker to go with me to the station. I went to my appointment on time, but found that my partner was still in bed. So

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for a solid hour and a half I waited for him to turn up. However, when we did go I felt pretty discouraged and was resigned to another month of waiting. At the station, we had to go and hunt for the station-master. Finally we found him out in the yard and to my astonishment he said "tomorrow", meaning a car available. I could not believe the news but the next day, along came a car and then we hustled the coolies into loading it pronto. When it was finally cleared by the customs, George and I felt like young Napoleons.

So the next day we were off by train to Kwenming bidding a very fond goodbye to Haiphong, parting with no regrets, I daresay, on either side.

Chengtu, Jan. 27/40.

Our departure from Haiphong had several incidents connected with it, which have definitely stuck in my memory. Our train left at the unholy hour of 5 o'clock in the morning. That meant an early rising. We planned for that alright but somehow the bite of breakfast that the boy brought us before we left failed to suffice. They say that one should never do business with a Frenchman before lunch or after lunch. In one case, the scantiness of the breakfast, in the other the over abundance of the lunch. But we got away from the hotel and then found that the rickshaw coolies were trying to hold us up for a fancy price to go the short distance to the station. The few minutes ride to the station revealed quite a new view of Haiphong, the streets were quiet, a bit of fog cloaked most of the buildings and left in all the world only our two rickshaws following each other along to the station, to the tune of the steady "pat, pat, pat" of our rickshaw boys' feet.

We knew that we had too much baggage with us to go on an ordinary ticket allowance. But as the second-class coach was empty save for ourselves since we had not sufficient French to really understand what was demanded of us, we politely told the conductor "je ne parle pas francais" and after saying it several times, he understood. But the station porters were made of sterner stuff. Their price for carrying several bags a few feet was one piastre a bag. That amount to anyone who has lived in China is close to heresy. We estimated about one dollar for the whole business and gave it to the porter. But he and his cronies got quite nasty and what they said to each other about us in Annamese was plenty. But we stuck and finally after a half hour's delay in getting started they left just as the train pulled out.

We were due in Chia Lan about 9 o'clock in order to connect with the through Kwenming "express" that started from Hanoi. Our train was only a local one running from Haiphong to Hanoi and connecting at Chia Lan with this express. We were glastly late, about an hour or so and were a bit concerned as to making connection. Both of us were very sleepy and I envied the nonchalance with which George curled up and went off to sleep.

At Whia Lan, the other train was waiting, We called for several boys and hustled our baggage out of the one train into the other. I went into the second-class compartment and opened the window so as to receive the baggage more expeditiously than by carrying it up the steps and through the crowded third-class into the second-class section. I noticed that the conductor seemed very effusive in his welcome, much more so than missionaries are accustomed to. But I was so busy pulling in the luggage that I paid no heed. Also George was very busy on the platform talking, rather being talked to by a group of officials. And when we pulled out of the station the officials all bowed to us and we returned their bows, and the local porters did not even appear to receive their tips !!! I began to think that this was a traveller's paradise! As we sat down, we noticed over our head a large sign marked "Reserved for the British Military Mission" and we understood. The mission had been delayed in Haiphong and so we were to take their places! We did our best but the conductor soon came and asked direct if we were the mission and when we replied "no"...there was an immediate cooling of his enthusiasm.

We were happy to be off. Both of us relaxed more completely than we had since we arrived in Haiphong. One job was done and for the time being we were free to enjoy a fascinating trip from the rice-plains of the Hanoi-Haiphong area up through the interior jungles of Indochina, finally emerging after a stiff climb through tunnels and bridges into the five thousand foot plateau of central Yunnan with its lakes and rolling fields. So we relaxed.

For most of the first day we climbed very slowly, our engine pulling us along at a fair rate of speed through a farming country. We became acquainted with two Chinese business men who were travelling to Kwenming. Both had direct connections with our university, either through knowing some of the foreigners there as Dr. Sparling or Dick or by having sent sons or daughters to school there. In the later part of the afternoon we climbed more slowly through heavy jungles and noticed many wild bananas growing beside the tracks. Late in the evening we arrived at the border and stayed for the night in a Chinese hotel on this side of the border. Our beds were clean and we used their "pugais" or padded blankets.

The next morning we walked across the bridge which separates China from Indochina at this place, and waited for the train to catch up with us. It seemed quite a symbolic moment, this actually arriving in China after our weeks of travel but due to the slight chillish rain that was falling, we did not give vent in any audible way to our feelings. But we were thrilled to be back in Free China which had put up such a remarkable fight to preserve her freedom and which, just as much as England and France, was trying to preserve some element of democracy.

The Chinese Customs were very decent to us and did not bother to open any of our luggage. Actually due to the lowering of the tariff the amount of duty is now very small. Of course many things are absolutely prohibited, unless you are a foreigner taking them in for your own use and with a letter from the consul to prove

this. Things like food luxuries, tea, foreign woollens, cottons, etc. are all prohibited.

The second day of our trip was noteworthy for the new acquaintances that we made. One was George Ts'ai an American-trained engineer who was taking a group of fifty workmen out to build steel bridges on the Burma road, west of Kwenming. He was a very engaging fellow, giving us a lot of information about the engineering difficulties of building the French railroad twenty-five years ago, and telling us about his troubles with the French customs and immigration people in Haiphong. He had been working for sometime near Canton and had met Dr. Jack Lind and had some very nice things to say about his work and personality. When I told him that we had lived next to the Linds while on Furlough, he looked upon me as a bosom friend. He had a pack of cards with him and after demonstrating several card tricks, he taught us how to play casino. It helped to put in a very interesting day.

Our other new friend was Jacques Liao, a Chinese who has lived in France for over ten years. His family are Catholics and one of his sisters is a nun, living in France. He was just the opposite type from Ts'ai, retiring, cultured, poised, with a delightful sense of courtesy and calm enjoyment. He had been trained in agriculture and was now directing an experimental farm near Memg Ts. Through him, we found rooms that night in the French Bungalow Hotel at KaiYuan which were very nice. I remember Mr. Liao very vividly due largely to his contrast with Ts'ai. Ts'ai was travelling fourth-class with his workmen for as he said what was good enough for his men was good enough for him. He had on a pair of sort-of-a-white color short trousers, no socks save short ones, a shirt and a windbreaker. Jacques was dressed immaculately and to top everything, had a beautiful heavy cloak patterned after the style that the Generalissimo had made fashionable. But both men were very definitely typical of the group of Chinese who are now controlling China and providing its technical leadership.

The scenery the second day was remarkable. Our train only averaged about 8 - 10 miles an hour so that we had excellent views of the surrounding country. We climbed up the sides of streams and river, occasionally becoming tired of one stream and deciding to cross over a water-shed to another. Tunnels were too frequent and no light was provided in the coach, we were thrust into pitch-black darkness. After every tunnel, we immediately counted the number of our baggage to make sure that none had been stolen. Ts'ai lost over a thousand piastres due to somebody reaching in from one end of the car and lifting out his handbag while they were going through a tunnel.

Our bridge was remarkable because it spanned the space across a river between two upright cliffs of sheer rock. On either side a tunnel was cut so that you emerged from the one tunnel directly unto the bridge and then went into the second tunnel on the other side emerging some distance back the valley this time going in the direction you had just come. It is this bridge that the Japanese are reputed to have damaged recently by their bombing.

The railroad is of very light construction, and this explains its inability to speed up and carry all the traffic that it could. There has been such a regrettable lack of teamwork between the Chinese and the French. The latter actually seemed to favour the Japanese for sometime. The occupation of Hainan should have opened their eyes, but it has not made much difference. What they fear is that some of the love of independence which the Chinese are now showing may creep across the border and infect the Annamese who are at present very docile.

The third day was longer than either of the first two. We still had abundance of tunnels but the country itself was much more open and rolling. I had thought of Yunnan as somewhat barren but what we saw was very fruitful, with many rice fields close to the tracks. I have heard that many sections could support more people if only malaria and some other endemic diseases were stamped out, and that it is really very fertile.

We saw several large lakes and they made us think of Ontario and its north country. The sun also came out and gave us a rather vivid sunset when we were still some two hours away from Kwenming.

But finally we arrived and were glad to meet Dr. Knights who had preceded us by some three weeks and was still waiting to get away to Chengtu by air. He had made reservations for us at a Chinese hotel and we went there immediately to eat our dinner and park our luggage. It was a new hotel, just erected and managed by Shanghai Chinese who had lost their hotel in Shanghai by Japanese occupation. Our rooms were nice, the beds were comfortable and clean and we did not wait long to turn in.

Kwenming was such a contrast to Hanoi and Haiphong. Gone were the lovely paved streets and in their place were dusty streets paved with large uneven stone boulders so that when the wind blew, which was most of the time, the dust was quite choking. Gone was the heat of the lower regions and in its place was the clear, chilly weather of five thousand feet of altitude, with the sun struggling out each morning to bring warmth into our bones. The slow pace of the passersby, the acceptance of life as it was, the distinction between the French and the natives, all these were missing, replaced by the activity that was almost feverish in trying to handle the many problems which the war had thrust upon them. The students were there in their thousands, many of them not knowing just where their next meal was coming from, but anxious to push on and study and graduate so that they could work in and for Free China. The business man from other parts had arrived with the small residue of his capital that he had managed to bring with him and was busy trying to work up new business so that he could live in the way he was accustomed to. There were many rich refugees who had fled wisely and in time and so could enjoy to the full the pleasures of the town. All these and more were crammed into an age-old city which had changed more in the last five years than it had in its entire previous history.

The political situation in Yunan was interesting. The Central Government has assumed real control of all parts of Free China except for the province of Yunnan, the land south of the clouds as its name states. Here there is still the old-fashioned military governor, who by force of arms has banished or defeated all his rivals and has taken over the entire control. This state of affairs is the heritage from the days following the Revolution in 1911 when the revolutionary movement to drive out the Manchus and Establish the Republic enabled the military war-lords to get their start. In Szechwan, when we arrived in 1931 the province was divided into spheres of influence with a different military general collecting the revenues in each section. If they disagreed about the division of the spoils they went and had a fight in which they conscripted farmers and coolies to do the fighting and exchanged many polite telegrams back and forth. Now, Szechwan is clear of these gentry and so will Yunnan be some day.

One other interesting thing about the present governor of Yunnan is that he is not of Chinese stock. His province has both Chinese and other races, with the Chinese being in the minority. As the Chinese pushed down from the north, they drove the people of the Yangtze Valley and other sections back into the southern mountains and so there they still are, retaining their own distinctive language, customs and dress. However, these marks of distinction are little by little vanishing except in the more remote districts. From an anthropological point of view these western provinces of China represent one of the most fascinating regions of the world.

We arrived in Kwenming ahead of our freight and luggage, all of which was coming as slow freight, and would we thought take at least ten days. So we leisurely made our contacts with the British Consul, Mr. Evans, who advised us on procedure, and other friends. We found that the theatre in Kwenming which was most interesting was the movie house located in the old Confucian temple. We went one night and saw Jack Holt in a good sea-story. They actually had another Mickey Mouse short reel feature and we noted that the Chinese enjoyed this just as much as had the French and Annamese. For some time the movies had been under the ban of some students who thought that in wartime such frivolity should be forbidden. But this ban was soon forgotten. Also while we were there, some enterprising young gentleman from Shanghai opened up a roller-skating rink. This was too much for the student groups and in the paper, while we were there, appeared a letter saying that unless the rink was closed, they would throw a bomb. The owner took the threat seriously and, I heard, closed the rink.

We were all set one day to go out and see the famous Kwenming Lake with its beautiful temples nearby, when by chance walking down to enquire about our luggage, we found that it had just arrived and that unless we got it unloaded that afternoon there would be a heavy demurrage charge. So we called coolies and by 5 o'clock that afternoon it was unloaded into the customs shed. Next day we spent clearing it through customs. I had carefully subdivided the various items into their classifications and

thought that by so doing I would help. But the inspector laughed at me and said that I had only made it more difficult. So he called everything "household stores", added up the total value, estimated the duty and when I had paid .. we took the stuff away.

I could write reams about the hard-hearted way in which the Kwenming coolie handles freight. But don't get me started!

We arrived in Kwenming on a Monday. By Saturday of that week our freight was all through customs and stored in godowns waiting until it could be loaded on to trucks to take it to Chungking. But our forty-seven pieces of personal luggage were nowhere in sight. We inquired every day but to no avail. By Wednesday, we were about ready to conclude that it had been held by the French officials at the border and that I would have to go down the two days by slow train and secure it's release. All this time, Christmas was getting nearer and nearer. If I had to do this it would be impossible for me to arrive in Chengtu on time. Kathleen wrote saying that Christmas would be celebrated in the Sponner family when I arrived and not before. That was fine but I still wanted to be home by the twenty-fifth.

We had seen the station master about this luggage and he had been kindness itself in wiring down the line to trace it, but without success. However, on Wednesday I again inquired and after waiting some time, he announced that the car would be there in half an hour on the next freight train. Great was the jubilation with which I went back to the hotel to tell George the good news. And sure enough by the afternoon of the next day, we had passed customs on the baggage and had loaded it into the trucks ready to start out.

We found officials in Haiphong and Kwenming most friendly and helpful. The Chinese Customs Service and the Postal Administration are two of the world's wonders. Both have faced tremendous difficulties and yet they carry on. In the Hongkong office of the Customs, they have a little collection of war souvenirs connected with their customs service. Bits of shell that were fired at their launches or bombs that hit but did not explode near their stations. They take quite a pride in it. And in Shanghai, they have the easiest inspection in the world for the Chinese customs do not want to collect revenue only to turn it over to the Japanese!

Just one more word about Kwenming. And that is the.... prices... Rice is just about twice as high there as in Chungking or Chengtu, largely due, it is said, to speculation on the part of the local government... Hence prices have soared. When we arrived, we found that one piastre changed for three dollars fifty Chinese currency and so at the time, after Haiphong prices, things seemed not so bad. But now as we look back, we realise how very expensive it was.

Chengtú, Feb. 10/40

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I still remember vividly the happy feeling with which Dr. Struthers and I set out on a bright sunshiny morning in December, to come by truck the twelve hundred kilometres to Chungking. Dr. Struthers, one of the members of the United Church mission in Honan had been driven away from his hospital there by the Japanese who did not wish to have foreign missionaries remaining in the territory under their control. The Japanese had been very polite about it.... just the casual hint of several hand grenades thrown into the compound in the direction where the occupants were likely to be at the time! However, they were not in the place that they should have been. After several more attempts of this kind, including the burning of their gate ... they decided that they would have to leave. They were escorted to the station by a large group of local ruffians paid by the Japanese and received a very enthusiastic send-off. Later, he was asked to come up to Chengtu and help out with our scarcity of doctors in internal medicine.

We had been able to only secure two tickets on our four trucks which were conveying our belongings so that George stayed in Kwenming and left the day after our departure, by air, for Changtu. He was not keen on staying as he wished to have the experience of this trip through the two provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow to Chungking. But he was also very glad to be arriving quickly in Chengtu and so be able to get down to language study.

But it was chilly as we got up and called richshaws to take us over to where the trucks were parked out in the street. Kwenming is some five thousand feet or so above sea-level and the mornings in December are chilly. We had not long to wait. We noticed that the trucks were not by any means in perfect condition.. the doors were hanging on the slim support of one or two nails. The catches were gone and the handle had been stolen. The starter was working on two of the cars, the others had to be towed. And we were informed that they had not been able to secure enough gasoline to take us all the way through. As there is not one single gasoline station anywhere along the route, we were a bit concerned over possible breakdown somewhere enroute. But the drivers were ready to go ... and we were, too. And one other thing that at first bothered us, was our overloading for on a three ton truck, about two years old, we were carrying three tons of goods, plus about 60-80 gallons of gas, plus three passengers, a spare driver and a general utility boy who did the hard work of repairs and rode high up on top of the load. But, we did have good brakes and as I look back now, I realise how badly they were to be needed.

We spent two hours going through the customs formalities and registration required. We had to pay fifty dollars per. truck for road fee and protection against robbers. If the foreigners had not been travelling with the trucks, we would likely have been delayed for a tedious inspection. But I went in to explain who the goods were for and after producing my letter from the Szechwan Government, had no trouble.

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Our road was dusty. It ran flat through a semi-arid district that had few signs of cultivation. It was deeply eroded by the torrential rains that come during the rainy season. In many cases, the earth had been washed away, leaving a narrow pinnacle of a rock standing up erect, with its fellow rocks in rows like penguins. We travelled parallel to the new railroad being built to connect with the Yangtze at LuChow. No machinery was being used, save for some light carts which ran on rails and carried earth to be used for filling and building up the roadbed. Thousands of men were working using the most primitive of tools but their very number was producing a first-class roadbed with great speed.

We travelled steadily all day long, with only a brief stop at a small hamlet for our noon-meal. I remember that Struthers and I had a mixture of rice, scrambled eggs and a small fish baked in Chinese fashion with grand, peppery sauce. In the afternoon our car developed a leak in the radiator which steadily became worse. We were travelling through country where water was not very plentiful, so that when we came to a well or a pond, we filled all our empty gas tins and went ahead, hoping that this would last us to the next water supply. We went on, until after dark and finally arrived at a rather nondescript town called Chu Djin. The China Travel Service hotel was crowded, so we tried to find a place elsewhere. We finally found a small room in an inn which was being used by an opium smoker. However, the innkeeper kicked him out and we made ready to turn in. After putting up our beds on top of the native bed, we decided to look up a Dr. Lai, about whom we had heard from Dr. Pollitzer of the League of Nations medical service. After an hour of vain searching, we finally found him and he invited us to move to his hospital compound. And then we had a real row with the innkeeper as to how much we should pay. We paid what we knew was more than adequate but he followed us to the doors with curses and salutations, too eloquent to translate.

We had a good night's sleep, no bugs, quiet but just a trifle chilly. In the morning, we thought that we would have an hour to look around town, as it was necessary to repair the leak in the radiator before starting out. But they came after us and demanded that we hurry up. Struthers had just gone for a brief visit to the local military hospital, where they deposited sick soldiers. Three hundred in each camp and not enough money for rice or for bedding. The night before, nine had died of cold or malnutrition. Dr. Lai beseeched us to do all we could to help. He had given over half of his own salary, his staff had done likewise. The merchants of the town were giving some rice. But what he needed was assurance of steady support. We brought him word from Pollitzer that they, the League of Nations, would give him money for blankets. But what was needed was going to the Governor of the province and telling him that he had to look after his own soldiers who he had conscripted and so had to take responsibility for! The plight of the common soldier in China is sad beyond measure. He is still without definite place in Chinese society. The tradition is that only the worthless go to be soldiers. The poor, the ignorant, the friendless are taken and the wonder is that they are able to fight at all.

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Much of the lack of care of the soldier is due to the inability of the Government to begin to cope with the task, much is due to the natural insensitivity of the Chinese to sufferings of others.

We left at 9 o'clock and arrived that night at 6 o'clock at Pan Hsien. All day the country had steadily become more mountainous and we had crossed several divides, climbing up one side in curve after curve built into the side of the mountain, then once over, cutting off the engine to save gas, and coasting down around the curves on the other side depending only on our brakes, until we reached the level or started to climb again. But the country was still barren and good for little else save possible grazing of animals.

In the afternoon our radiator had begun to leak again. This time the water poured like a small Niagara Falls, so that we made very slow time. Finally we arrived at our destination. Strathers had arrived ahead of me and had gone to find if we could stay the night at the home of the CIM missionaries living in the place. Bob McClure had told us of their generous hospitality and we were warmly welcomed. How nice it was to be received into a HOME with children and to feel that you were welcome. The three children, Marie, Chuck and Bruce had gone to bed, but they demanded that they see the guests before going to sleep. So we walked upstairs and said "hello" and "goodnight". The foreign meal that we had, after two days of eating Chinese food was especially appreciated. And we slept that night in their study where we relaxed perfectly until it was time to get up and move off. The entire family went down to the trucks to say good-bye to us. I have forgotten the name of the family, I think it was Grapachette. He was a French Canadian and she was from Seattle. They had opened that station some five years previous and had gone through some dangerous experiences due to the invasion of the Red armies in 1935. Just recently the motor road had been opened through Pan Hsien and they reported a great change in the local attitude due to the constant influx of down-river Chinese. It was now possible for a husband and wife to walk together on the street, which five years ago, would have been unthinkable. The country district around was still dangerous due to robbers but they both continued their district visiting without any thought of peril.

The last word of our host had been, that this next day we would have some real mountains to go through, and he was right. They were real man-sized mountains. Places where we climbed in low gear for thirty minutes were common and one place, it was for close to an hour. I shuddered to think of the strain that we must be putting on the engines, and hoped that the brakes would not slip in any crucial place. I remember going down one slope with numerous hair-pin turns and thinking that I had better have the door unlocked so that if necessary I could get out in a hurry. But the door was locked, there was no handle, either inside or outside and so there I sat. Another time we went up and around sharp hair-pins, our truck would just about lose its steering-way and as we turned sharply on the corners, behind us was nothing but an abyss and we

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were a few feet from the edge. Once when the truck stalled and we had to start it right on the corner, I pulled the emergency thinking that I would be helpful. But after we had got around the corner the driver leaned over and mentioned that the emergency brake had been broken shortly after the car was bought and had never been repaired!

There was the famous climb up a mountain which had twenty-four sharp hair-pin turns cut right into the side of a precipice. We went up in sensational style for the risk was so great that the drivers took special precautions. We were fortunate not to meet anything coming down as we went up. If we had, I do not know how we could have made it. And right in the middle of the climb we had to steer wide to avoid a truck which had fallen over several cliffs unto the road far below.

After each climb, there was the fun of going downhill again. On one occasion we sailed downhill for close to an hour, going around some fifty-five loops in the process. I did not count them, for I was afraid that I might get dizzy. But from above they looked like the great windings and curving of a python.

This day, we again had engine trouble.... and went very slowly. Luckily we met a friend of one of the drivers who was driving a truck back to Kwenming. He stopped his truck and came over and repaired our trouble.

The scenery was magnificent. I question if there is anything finer in the world of its kind. Tremendous mountain peaks showing up in the distance, but ever on and upwards our puny little road led among these mountain giants. For most of the day we ran into a slight fog and mist and this gave an additional air of beauty to the surroundings. Someday, this drive will be a scenic masterpiece and people will travel specially to take the trip we were taking ending up at Chungking where they could then take the boat back to Shanghai and so to the Pacific steamers.

Feb. 19, 1940.

It has been an unusual week-end. I had hoped to have spent the time in Chungking but the mission truck has not left and so I am still waiting. Yesterday afternoon, Kathleen and I went to the wedding of Delia Sung, one of her students in English. She graduated two years ago and had fallen in love with a Cheeloo medical graduate of last year. We went through the bombed section of Chengtu on our way to the church. It was a beautiful wedding, a semi-foreign, semi-Chinese with the high lights of both combined together. The bride was lovely to look at in a white satin gown. Then to the reception at a restaurant where there were over two hundred people seated to enjoy the wedding meal. We arrived late, as we had first to go and buy our tickets for the movie show "The Prisoner of Zenda" with Ronald Coleman, so we were shown to the only two seats left, at the head table. We listened to an 83 years old gentleman give the speech of honour, and then left just as they began to serve dinner. It was foreign food, much to our

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disappointment for we prefer good Chinese food to imitation foreign. We arrived at the large movie-house and found it crowded, perhaps over a thousand people in this one place (there are about five in town) The show was enjoyed by both of us.. Kathleen had not seen a movie since leaving the Empress of Russia, and my last had been in Kwenming. At the halfway interval there was flashed on the screen news that the Chinese had recaptured Nanming. Whereupon there were wild cheers and shortly afterwards the streets resounded to the noise of firecrackers. Then we rode home in state in the private car that somebody had loaned Nan Dickinson.

Today has seen us also in jovial mood. This morning I attended the 9 o'clock Service at Hart. The small chapel was jammed to the doors with students. The preacher was earnest but too long. This afternoon we both attended the English Service in at the Baptist Church. It is a lovely place decorated in regular Chinese fashion, far more lovely than the horrid imitation of home churches that we Canadians put up for our church in Chengtu. The audience was largely Chinese. Katherine Hocken spoke on Canadian students and it took us back to college days to hear her mention student groups and conferences. Then over to the Cunninghams for tea with the Birtches and Harold Robertson and finally a bicycle ride in the falling dusk back through the crowded streets to our home on the campus.

Tomorrow is registration for the spring term and on Wednesday lectures begin. Our nice weather is beginning and with clearer weather we are wondering just how long it will be, before the Japs visit us again. They have been bombing extensively in South West China, perhaps it will be our turn next. It may be, that due to their wish not to antagonise the States, they may spare us on the campus a visit as American missions are so predominately interested in the various universities now assembled here. Let us hope so, and if not, we have our dugouts.

But to come back to our trip... it was a weird ride that we had for an hour and a half in the dark, around curves, above precipices, almost but not quite, hitting a car on the turns, until we reached a dirty little hamlet which was to be our destination for the night. No rooms anywhere, for the town was lousy, in more than one way, with soldiers, conscripts on their way to the front to fight. We finally located a tea house, and persuaded the owner to let us put our beds down on the ground near the front door. We did not sleep...there was too much hawking and spitting all night long, but we rested and were ready to go, early the next morning.

This fourth day on the road, we hoped would see us arriving in Kweiyang. But no such luck. We started at 7 o'clock without breakfast and then ran for only a half an hour and then stopped. Something was wrong with the gasoline supply. So we stopped in a beautiful spot, half way up one side of a large river with the view of the mountains peaks across the river just in front of us. The clouds blew down the valley leaving us cold and thoroughly chilled. We waited there, walking around and eating a bit of chocolate until

about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The boys, several times thought that they had the car going but did not succeed. Finally they got it started but it could go only at a walking pace. So we walked ahead.

We climbed up and down and then struck a high plateau which was remarkable for its fantastic small hills and large rocks of limestone nature. They were carved by the action of the elements into the fantastic shapes that you see in the old Chinese landscapes. Quite lovely in the mists.

Later, as we were getting tired, we suddenly came across the noise of a water-fall and then saw the Niagara of China, Hwang Go Shu Falls. There is a small lake, which finds its outlet over the edge, and falls straight down in a double fall, some one hundred feet. There was a large volume of water going over, and its beauty coming after the futility of the day's trip greatly cheered us up. We reached the little town located just beside the falls and immediately called for food. It was our first meal of the day, and as it was now almost dark, we decided to stay there overnight. The understanding was that the boys were to work until they repaired the trouble and then in the morning we would push on and make Kweiyang early in the afternoon. And after an hour's work, they reported the truck was in shape to go. So we slept with a happy mind knowing that tomorrow we would reach the half-way place.

I remember the Falls vividly by connection with two folk. One was Mr. Li one of the passengers in our truck. He was large in size and took up more than his share of the drivers seat. That night, we slept all in the China Travel Restaurant. He did some Chinese boxing before going to sleep. It was amazing to see this large, placid Chinese gentleman of years over fifty, doing these complicated movements, carefully and vigorously. He moved like a ballet dancer. He was a firm Buddhist and would eat no meat.

The other was a local soldier who came from Chungking and seemed to be overjoyed to talk to another Szechwanese when he was so far away from home. He was carrying water when I met him.

The next day we did reach Kweiyang. During the day, we had one breakdown, we abandoned one car and came on ahead. We met a Toronto medical graduate, Dr. Fish and had him offer us assistance; we had some of the doughnuts which his wife had had made that morning; we finally pushed on with our spare driver holding on to the side and pouring gasoline into the engine from a small can, as the feed-line was blocked; running down a mule belonging to a military personage and so being afraid that our driver would be arrested on arrival in Kweiyang; being held up by part of the army with demands for lifts and foiling them by telling them to get in the back and then putting on the gas.. a quite crowded day, but we arrived late in the afternoon at our destination, Kweiyang.

We found a Chinese hotel to stay in. It was featured by the excessive number of rats which ran over us, under us, and around us all night long. We seemed to be right in the middle of all the rat runways. Dr. Struthers declared that he had never slept in any place with so many rats. And he, after his years in China, should know! We went to the International Red Cross office and met the two secretaries, Spencer and Miao. Spencer was charming. He was employed by the Salt Gabelle but added the IRC work to his other duties. He incidentally is a PH.D. in Geography, and was leaving to return to California to teach. We had a long chat and then went to the IRC house for dinner.. it was a real treat after our road meals. Pie and Pickles were the standouts. The IRC were all clothed by faith in the Lord .. that is the Lord Mayor of London's fund which had sent out some wonderful old clothes for distribution. As the IRC people themselves were refugees, they thought themselves justified in diverting a bit to their own use. We were shown a book "We go to a War" by two Englishmen with a weird description of Bob McClure. Quite typical it was, but so very lopsided. However, we recently saw a review by Pearl Buck in Asia of this same book. She classified it as the work of two very young, clever men. Her praise was damning.

Kweiyang was typically Chinese. One section was in ruins due to a recent raid. Outside the east gate were hundreds of motor cars, normally running to the French border but now prevented by the Japanese capture of Nanming.

We were waiting at the car ready to go by 6:45 but no sign of the driver. He finally arrived and we departed at 10:45... Were we mad ??? We had waited all the day previous so that the engine trouble could be fixed. But rather than go to a garage and pay to have it fixed they had tinkered with it, themselves. We went one li and then found the same trouble. This time we forced them into a garage and inside of one hour, the cause had been found and cured. We finally left at 12 o'clock ... but half an hour later, the second gear of the other car broke. This looked bad, but the one spare part that they carried was precisely this second gear. So they took off several hours and repaired it. All this while, we had had nothing to eat. When it was fixed, we went. By 5 o'clock we had only gone 70 li or 42 miles. But we kept on going in the dark, hoping to get across the Wu River ford by nightfall. We were stopped at a little hamlet and forced to stay there by the soldiers. I went up and interviewed them, but to no avail. So we had to look for rooms. We found a private family's front hall a good place to put our beds and roll off to sleep. It was quiet and clean, even if it was a trifle drafty and public.

Next morning we started early to make up lost time. We crossed over the Wu River and then began to go faster on the better roads that we encountered. The scenery was again most spectacular, as we followed various streams high up their sides until we crossed over a divide into another river valley and then repeated the process. We met Bob McClure with a convoy of three trucks. One of his trucks had gone into a paddy field the day before, but Bob seemed none the worse for the accident. Such incidents are the price of training new drivers.

That day was famous for our going down the Snake. Here the road drops over 1,500 feet in 10 kilometres and there are more than seventy hairpin bends in the narrow pass. We went down depending, as usual on our brake alone. Our radiator began to leak a bit and so before each climb, we would refill the water tank. As we climbed the temperature would climb to 212 and then stay there until we reached the crest and then could cut off the engine and coast down.

That night we slept in Sung Kan, which was close to the Szechwan border. All border regions are apt to be unsafe. We were warned not to go on that night because of this. So we stayed there on the third floor of a Chinese hotel which was crowded to the roof with passengers. By standing the Chinese beds on their end, we could just manage to put down our own camp cots.

March 13, 1940.

I still remember how crowded that small town was with soldiers, bus-drivers and trucks everywhere. Our hotel was a real fire-trap, but we managed to sleep well and survived to the next morning.

We were off the next day, early, for we all wanted to try and make Chungking before nightfall. There was a rule that you had to be past the road station before 5 o'clock or else wait until the next day. But we had to wait to buy gasoline so lost three quarters of an hour. After starting we climbed a very long slope, and then came down the other side in the mist and rain. The road was very slippery and as we climbed slowly around hair-bends in the road, we never knew when we would meet other trucks coming up. Remember that we were free-wheeling down this slope with only our brakes between us and the possibility of rolling down the side. We passed many Szechwan conscripts moving to the front, but all well-clothed and in good spirits. They were the best looking army on the march that I had ever seen in China. Dr. Struthers shared my opinion, so indicating that the Central Government is handling some things in quite different fashion from the manner of previous provincial governments.

After lunch enroute, my car again began to leak copiously. So we had to retrace our steps to where we had eaten and spend two hours waiting for the radiator to be repaired. That is, I spent two hours waiting, for the truck with Dr. Struthers, had gone to wait at Chi Chiang for us, as we intended to spend the night there. We were forlorn at the idea of another night on the road. I remembered that there were only six shopping days before Christmas and wondered if I would make Chengtu in time. But after repairing the radiator we struck a fine road on which we made the best time of the trip. We soon arrived at Chi Cian and then continued. When it became dark we stopped but found no place to stay for the night so on we went. About 7 o'clock we arrived at the roadstation. We expected to be turned back but as they checked over our passports, we found that the man in charge was from Shantung and that his brother had studied under Dr. Struthers. It made us feel very much at home to find a mutual friend. And so for the sake of friendship, we were allowed

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through. So after nine days enroute we arrived at the end of the road, just across the river from Chungking.

We still had to find our lodgings for the night. We were staying on the same side of the river with the Allans and Endicott, only further down stream. We found a boy to lead us and off we started. We found Allans without too great difficulty and Dr. Struthers left us there, but then we got lost and it was not until half past twelve that we arrived at Endicotts. I pounded on the outside door for half an hour and then in response to the servants' warnings that there was a Chinese robber at the door who said he was a foreigner, Jim came down and opened up. They fed me on buns and honey, about ten of them... and so to bed. It was nice and wonderful to be with friends again.

Chungking was full of adventure. We had just missed the Chengtu trucks and so were stuck for five days until they returned. We had two air-raid warnings and one raid, not serious. The first air-raid warnings went just as I had the trucks unloaded and the stuff piled on the roadside waiting for the Customs to again check it over. Inside of one minute the coolies went.. and I was left to look after myself. But the police said that they would look after it during the period of air-raid, so we covered it with straw and old matting and left it there on the road. I expected to see several pieces missing when I returned after an hour's stay in the dugout but not so. All was there.

Chungking was an inspiration. Bombings can not destroy the life of a city. Right in the midst of the ruins were the merchants doing business. Crowds were on the street but usually in the afternoon and early evening when the danger was less. When an air-raid alarm sounds, everyone moves. There is no delay. Experience has taught them this.

I met several interesting folk, among them Durdin of the New York Times, Col. J. L. Hwang of the New Life Movement; Bill Hsu the organiser of the Friends of the Wounded Soldier Movement; Bill Zhang who is organising the Christian, government-subsidised work among the Border Tribes people, Dr. Sun of the Christian Farmer and many others.

Finally on Saturday morning we started off for Chengtu by mission truck. We had two good days on the road and about 3 o'clock on the day before Christmas, we arrived at the campus, home, sweet, home. It was a wonderful feeling after these long months on the road. I felt like leaving the car and telling everybody whom I met just who I was and how glad I was to be back. But most of the faces were new to me and so I did not.

Finally away across the front campus I spotted Norah and David at the gate and when they saw the truck they went in for Kathleen. They all looked so well and healthy and clean that it made one very proud.

That night, we unpacked trunks to find the Christmas presents for the children. In the morning Santa Claus had arrived and well had he treated all our family.

Yours sincerely,

ROY SPOONER

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