REPORT BY H.W.LUCE, Prepared for but not Read at the

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 14,1921

Last spring it was decided that inasmuch as our budget was all entered on the Inter-Church list, the only way for us to work was by co-operating with the Interchurch Movement. From the point of the University finance, the time was largely lost, thought it is quite possible that some few contacts made at that time may result eventually in helpful service in our plans. In the summer Mr.Luce led a class at the Silver Bay Students Conference and also attended a National Conference of Y.M.C.A. student leaders at Lake Forest, both of which enabled us to interest some college leaders which we hope in due time will result in the support of additional members of our Faculty.

The early part of the Fall was used in the preparation and printing of an illustrated booklet which for the first time was made it possible to present the case for Peking University in concrete form. Unfortunately just at that time the whole financial situation, together with the uncertainties of a presidential campaign, made it impossible for most men and women of means to put a new item on their list of benevolences.

And Peking University, while built on the oldest and most solid foundations in China, is practically a new proposition among givers in the United States. In taking up this work our greatest surprise has been to find how far down we had to go in laying foundations for the work. If it were but to secure a few thousand dollars for current expenses and a building or two, these foundations could be laid more quickly. We are confronted with the necessity of securing funds and building an initial plant at a minimum cost of about $600,000 before the University can remove from its temporary, inadequate, barrack-like buildings to its new site.

And yet the urgency to do this work quickly and adequately exceeds that of any point known to us on the Mission field. Peking is not only the political centre of a homogeneous people comprising a quarter of the human race, but it also has become, beyond anything we could have anticipated, the great student centre of China, from which are radiating throughout the whole land formative influences almost measureless in their bearing on national development and even on questions of international scope. Every educational institution on the mission field as at home is needing more funds. But, though this is true, I know of none, save Peking, where it could not play a fairly safe part during the next five years, even if no additional funds were given it beyond what it is normally securing now. That is not true of Peking. We stand to fail at one of the most vital points on the whole far-flung line of Missions, if in the next twelve to fifteen months, we are unable to give the order to proceed with the building of the initial plant. For the only University on the Mission field, so far as I know, that has not at least an initial plant or friends for the same.

A real beginning has been made. An office has been opened, our first literature has been prepared, some few dozens of people in New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit and Pasadena have been brought into friendly contact with the work and opportunity of the University. Mr. H.K.Caskey has become our Executive Secretary, land has been secured (though not paid