PEKING

TRANSFER

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PEKING UNIVERSITY

May 31st, 1926.

Dr. Henry T. Luce,
c/o Frederick M. Weyerhaeuser,
Merchants National Bank Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Dr. Luce:

You have asked me to write you as to how the Library building is coming on and what its needs are for completion.

As I think you already know the shell of the building is by this time completed in concrete. The last snap shots we had showed the forms for the roof in place for casting.

It is a very great satisfaction to us to have this so well along because the library will be of immediate use as soon as the University moves out to the new site this summer. The completion of the building and its equipment is all the more important because the budget for the next year contains unusually large expenditures for books and the program of the Harvard Yenching Institute will also have a considerable book budget.

We have been giving a good deal of attention to the problem of the materials for the stack which is to be placed under the roof. The first recommendation from the field was that we should make the stack of wood. The expense of this was estimated at approximately $7,400 for the entire stack. Our own judgment here in New York was that the stack should be of steel and in this we are confirmed by the judgment of Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, and one of the most distinguished librarians in America.

Dr. Bostwick has recently been in China at the request of a semi-governmental foundation to investigate the whole situation with reference to library problems in China. He has written to me as follows:

> "You should not put in a wooden stack in your stack room except as a last resort. There are at present only two libraries in China with fire-proof stacks, namely, the Tsing Hua University Library at

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