

Nanking,
17 Feb. 1938.

Dearest:-

Here are some items that will explain themselves largely. No need to send any of this to New York at this time, I think. Please note the small but interesting additions to page three and four of the report on "Aftermath of Registration".

This letter will go by Ritchie, who returns by car. He hopes to have service here about March first. But that is not assured, and of course there will be severe censorship -- we suppose. Fitch is now trying to get away by train about Monday, or by boat Tuesday -- if the "Wantung" goes then. "Bee" goes Wednesday.

We have yielded a great deal in order to get the beans into the refugees and to avoid a fight that would certainly close the door on future shipments for some time. Jimmy Wang, who is working very closely with Sone and Riggs, will receive and store the beans as Food Commissioner of the Self-Government Committee; and will distribute them according to our order (which the Japs do not know). Japs have answered our request by giving Allison a formal assurance that there would be no restriction of place or manner upon the distribution of the beans by the Self-Gov't Committee. So we have struck the first blow for freedom while losing our own face! Japs seem pleased, but whether the result will ultimately be adjustment or contempt, who knows? Neither British nor American Embassies wanted to scrap, and the British as insisting (Prideaux-Brune's legacy) that we must have cooperation with the Japanese if they are to aid us in any manner whatsoever. We hope to have beans next Monday when the boat returns from salvage work at Wuhu. Rabe will go on the "Wantung". Hope you can see him in Shanghai, a jolly and great fellow, not always wise or discreet, but coming through finely in most of the pinches.

So Bobby is a "cub". The rascal -- I can remember when he was n't big enough for a pup, to say nothing of being a young bear.

Brady will be most welcome. Trimmer has absolutely no imagination or willingness to get outside his walls, and vaccination and all sorts of outside clinic work are desperately needed. Brady and Wilson can split that and the surgery easily enough. Please read the enclosed document addressed to Baker and the C. I. F. R. C., in which Plumer and I supplemented Lewis at various points. For instance, I did the section on further needs.

Don't see any signs of opening up for other people, and Japanese are showing considerable hostility to Fitch's trying another trip as well as telling Rabe that if he wants to come back to Nanking he must not say hostile things.

Gee, Chen Yung, Ku, and Lo (Liu) the former Manager of the Metropolitan - who is doing excellent volunteer work with us - are coming in now to dinner. Ritchie and the British diplomats were here last night. R. told of Curzon on Lloyd-George: "As a friend, Brutus. As an orator, Ananias." I tried that on Dr. Rosen today, and got his account of a heckler in a labor group to whom the democratic Ll-G was speaking back in Asquith's prime. Ll-G wound up with a flourish on the commonplace origins of Jesus' disciples, who might be called a Cabinet. The heckler reminded him that Jesus was not so successful in the choice of his Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Still plugging along in the camps, with lots of minor troubles. I've wasted much time over a serious extortion case managed by Slocums' servant on three families that he let into their basement and kept concealed from Gee for some time. And another more infamous, which I can't report briefly. It's a wonder there have n't been more explosions over matters of this kind.

With appreciative love,

Searle