

Timperley

176 Route Dufour, apt. 32,  
Shanghai.

February 4, 1938.

Dear Bates:

Nothing went upriver the other day after all so I have a chance to amplify the rather bald outline of my book project attached hereto.

Presentation: ~~was to be~~ Unsensational yet telling, combining dignity with punch.

Sources: Reliable newspaper accounts (e.g. "The Times", "New York Times", "Chicago Daily News", "North-China Daily News") and private letters and reports. In case of latter names of writers and evidence ~~is to be~~ which might lead to identification to be weeded out. Some prominent personage like Viscount Cecil, in England, and John Dewey, in America, might be shown the unexpurgated material and certify its authenticity, at the same time making a strong plea for world action to prevent repetition.

Editing: Compilation by Timperley in consultation with Mrs. Bates and other "Nanking wives", Boynton and other NCC people. Book to be seen through press by Harry Price & Co. in U.S.A. and John Barr & Co. in England.

It seems to me that, properly handled, the volume might strike a hammer blow against war and its crudities. Would also be a useful document for historians. Would demonstrate the futility of trying to hush up such things-- I would never have had the idea if it had not been for the suppression of my telegrams, at least one of which was subsequently carried by Reuter and thus had a much wider circulation.

please

Will you/chew the matter over with your colleagues and telegraph your reaction to Boynton through the American Embassy? "Tell Timperley go ahead" or "Tell Timperley await letter" would suffice. If you feel I may as well go ahead I should welcome concrete suggestions as to the manner of treatment etc. Please act as quickly as convenient since the time element is of considerable importance.

I've had another brain wave during the past couple of days ~~and that~~ as a result of George Fitch's arrival, combined with a glimpse of Magee's excellent films. I told George I thought he ought to go to the States right away and ~~get in touch with the State Dept~~ tell his story in Washington-- to State Dept. officials, Senators etc. I think it would have a tremendous effect in arousing sympathy for the Chinese people and in demonstrating the importance of the American Government's doing all it can to make it possible for you people, and others in different parts of China, to hang on as long as you can. Nobody who saw Magee's pictures could ~~possibly~~ fail to realise the important role you folk have played. As a YMCA man, Shriner and Rotarian, George's contact possibilities are enormous. I think he would certainly be asked to see Hull and possibly even the President. His visit to Washington well might have an important bearing upon future U.S. policy out here.

I want to emphasise that this was solely my idea-- not George's. He confessed interest when I broached the matter but wondered whether he would be doing the right thing if he ~~diminished~~ diminished still further the small ~~band of~~ group left at Nanking. My own idea is that he

would be serving a still larger end by going to the States and I am pushing the matter as hard as I can with the National Committee of the YMCA, with whom the decision will probably rest. I want you to understand the position so that if George does push off to the States you will all know that ~~it~~ it was my doing and he is not running out on you. If he does go I think it ought to be by clipper and as quickly as possible. I have undertaken to find the necessary funds.

I am sending you down copies of the "North-China Herald" from December 1 up to date and back numbers of the "China Weekly Review" for the same period. The "Reviews" are a gift from Powell, who suggests that you circulate them after perusal.

I enclose herewith some scrappy notes on my Hankow trip. There isn't much to add. I'm out of touch with the military situation but have the impression the Japanese are now trying desperately hard to get the Tientsin-Pukow line under complete control.

In a letter to Mrs. Bates you mentioned having heard over the radio that I had attributed my information from Nanking to "an American missionary." I don't know how that happened, for I never specified where I got the material from. Herewith I enclose a clipping from the "North-China" which reveals what I did say when quizzed by the Japs. Incidentally they have had a pretty good grilling at recent press conferences and I've felt particularly sorry for poor Okamura. Haven't seen Matsumoto for a week or two but ~~xxxxxx~~ had him to lunch shortly after my return and found him very fed up with things. Said he would throw up his job and return to Tokyo were it not for the fact that he would then have to join up as a private soldier. I said I thought it was his duty to stay on here and remind us all that there were some "apanese, anyway, who thought along similar lines to gurselves.

I've been terribly rushed since my return but hope to get straightened out ~~xxxxxx~~ during the next few days, having acquired an office and a stenographer. Will try to keep you posted as opportunity offers.

Personally speaking, am keeping fairly fit. My wife left Shanghai a week ago for the States on a trip to see her parents, who ~~xxxx~~ live in Des Moines. Hubert Freyn, ~~xxxxxx~~ formerly an exchange student at Peking, is staying with me here during her absence.

I cannot conclude without just a word to voice my admiration of the devotion and real heroism you all have ~~shown~~ shown at Nanking. I can imagine what you must have gone through mentally when things were at their worst. Please give my regards to Allison, who seems to be doing a splendid job, and share with him (and any others likely to be interested) my notes on the Hankow trip.

With best wishes to you all,

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. J. P. Perley*

\* Am having these duplicated for circulation to about 100 people in China and abroad, including Humbert & his Alexander Cadogan.