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COLLEGE FILES  
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Corres.  
Fischer, R. F. 1926  
Priest, Elsie 1940-1942  
Rape, C. B. 1926-1927  
Reisner, John H. 1926-1927

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**SUINING HIGH SCHOOL**  
**OF THE**  
**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**SUINING, WEST CHINA**

June 12, 1926.

Dear Jim:-

I recently received two special gifts, amounting to \$30.00 altogether, from the First German Church, New York. These came out as yellow slips and we are getting the money over and above our appropriation.

I noticed that on one of the slips that the gifts had been sent through you to the Board. So I am writing to thank you for this help in our work. We are especially glad because they are yellow slips, instead of white slips, and thus mean a real addition to our funds from America.

Whenever in the future, without jeopardizing your University work, you can turn other gifts our way, we will greatly appreciate it. Our great need, of course, is for gifts coming as yellow slips, to help with the running expenses of the Middle School in Suining.

However, if you have opportunity to turn any blue slips this way we will be very glad. Our funds for completing the new school building were sufficient. But we had nothing left over for furniture and scientific apparatus. Some of the rooms are barely furnished because of lack of funds. And a real need now is for several hundred dollars to build a couple of rooms to be used for the boys when they are sick. Sort of sick wards. These would be one story rooms near the Chinese style kitchen, we have erected at the back of the compound.

This summer we are going up to Beh Luh Din. Have rented the Service bungalow. Esther has already gone up to Chengtu, but I will not be able to leave until the first of July. Miss Keister and Miss Desjardins will be with us. Miss Desjardins has just had a serious operation for appendicitis at Chengtu, but is doing nicely now.

Mr. McCurdy has been sick with tumors of the stomach, I believe. He, with Mrs. McCurdy, have gone up to Peking, where he will have an operation. Yang Sen is coming back to Szechuan. His men have driven out Yuen Dsu Min from Chungking and they are now in possession of the city.

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遠南華美中學校

**SUINING HIGH SCHOOL**  
**OF THE**  
**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**SUINING, WEST CHINA**

Mr. Lawrence has gone down to Chungking to meet Mary. He will bring her back to Suining, as the Lawrences will remain in Suining for the summer. The Lawrences have a very nice new house out in the country here. While not large, it is very complete and convenient.

Drop us a line when you have time. We will always be glad to hear from you.

Very sincerely,

*R. E. Pilcher*

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Priest, Elsie

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West China Union University  
Chengtu, Szechuen  
November 20, 1940.  
Mr. C. A. Evans,  
New York City.

*write  
Dr. Beech  
12/28/40*

Dear Mr. Evans:

Will you please share this letter with Dr. Beech as he is familiar with the details concerning this transaction?

Last February Dr. Beech turned over to me invoices amounting to US\$1,738 09 stating this amount was due from National Central University and that Dr. Cheer would clear the bills in due time. Dr. Beech asked that we send a check for US\$433.30 to the Methodist Board to apply on the Peterson loan - but at no time did he mention the loan was US\$1,200.00. The balance from the 1,738 09 was to be sold locally to help meet the deficit in the cost of constructing the O.P.D. unit. Actually this was not sold at that time for Dr. Cheer did not pay us until July 1940.

Under date of September 1st Dr. Beech wrote to me that he was instructing you to pay the \$1,200 00 to the Methodist Board. I feel it has been paid already as follows:

Draft No. 982	US\$ 433 30	(reported cancelled by you)
No. 984	427 48	paid in July 1940
Through China Foundation	318 34	- paid July 1938 - 1.847.63 - 122k
	US\$1,179 12	

The last item to be paid through China Foundation was delayed. Although we asked them to forward the draft in February, through an oversight it was not sent until recently. The Methodist Board should have it by this date, but I have not the formal acknowledgment as yet.

According to the letter and request from Mrs. Peterson, we authorized the payment of the last two items or US\$745.82 on February 17, 1940. Her letter does not state definitely that the loan was US\$1,200 00, and as she presented individual invoices to make up the amount we paid, it was just a few dollars short of US\$1,200 00. If we are talking about the same loan and the payment of the same - it has been fully paid by West China Union University and you should recover the entire \$1,200 00, or else the difference between 1200.00 and 433.30.

It is particularly unfortunate to have this charge made against us at this time for it makes impossible restoring the funds needed for the O.P.D. building. I have a clear note from Dr. Beech that he was giving us this money for this building - and I hope there may be no question about it. We need it for the original appropriation of US\$15,000 00 was insufficient to complete the construction.

Please check this matter over very carefully with the Methodist Board. You will be able to check the draft for 427.48 which you paid in July 1940 and if the China Foundation item has not arrived, please let me know. If the loan is exactly 1,200 00 while our payment is only 1,179 12, perhaps you had better check with Dr. Beech. We paid according to definite authorization. Please find out exactly what is covered in the way of equipment by the first item of 433.30. I shall look for a refund of these items on an early statement - we shall need every dollar of the current appropriation to meet the needs this year.

Sincerely yours,  
*Elsie M. Priest*  
Elsie M. Priest.

*See Over page.*

*PTO*

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0456

...less I hear from Dr. Lair by the 25th of this month, I am drawing on  
...for enough money to meet the payroll for Cheeloo University. We  
are now entirely out of funds and I have sent word to Dr. Lair, telegraphed to  
Shanghai etc. but no reply. We cannot run Cheeloo without funds and although  
it is not authorized, I am drawing on you. You can thrash out the legality of  
it with Dr. Lair and incidentally remind him that Cheeloo cannot manage without  
funds these days of high costs.

EMP

Dear Mr. Evans:

Will you please share this letter with Dr. Beech as he is  
familiar with the details concerning the situation?

Last February Dr. Beech turned over to me invoices amounting to \$11,700.00  
...the amount was due from National General University and that Dr.  
Beech would clear the bills in due time. Dr. Beech asked that we read  
- check for \$1,000.00 to the National General University in the amount of  
but at no time did he mention the loan was \$1,000.00. The balance from  
the \$1,700.00 was to be paid locally to help meet the deficit in the cost of  
operating the O.P.D. unit. I actually had not collected \$1,000.00 for  
the loan but did not pay as until July 1940.

Under date of September 1st Dr. Beech wrote to me that he had written  
you to pay the \$1,000.00 to the National Board. I feel it has been paid  
already as follows:

draft to \$22  
No. 384

Through Gains Foundation

The last item to be paid through the Gains Foundation was \$1,000.00  
...to forward the bill to the National General University. The  
not sent until recently. The National Board should have paid by this date,  
and I have not the formal bank statement yet.

According to the letter and records in my possession, we authorized the  
payment of the last two bills on 7/1/40. For letter  
does not state definitely that the loan was \$1,000.00, and as one doc-  
umented individual invoices to make up the amount we paid, it was just a few  
dollars short of \$1,000.00. It was just a few dollars short of the same - it has been fully paid by the National Univer-  
sity and you should recover the entire \$1,000.00, or else the difference  
between \$100.00 and \$27.70.

It is particularly unfortunate to have this charge made against me at this  
time for it makes impossible restoring the funds needed for the O.P.D.  
building. I have a clear note from Dr. Beech that he was giving us this  
money for the building - and I hope there may be no question about it.  
We need it for the original construction of \$1,000.00 for the building  
to complete the construction.

Please check this matter over very carefully with the National Board. You  
will be able to check the draft for \$1,000.00 which you paid in July 1940 and  
if the Gains Foundation item has not arrived, please let me know. If the  
loan is exactly \$1,000.00 while our payment is only \$1,170.00, perhaps you  
had better check with Dr. Beech. He said according to our contract  
please find out exactly what is covered in the way of equipment by the in-  
stallation of \$27.70. I shall look for a return of these funds on an early  
date - we shall have a copy of the current construction to be  
the needs this year.

Sincerely yours,  
Walter E. Priest

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See back page

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290455E

INDEXED

December 4, 1940

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
West China Union University  
Chongtu, Szechwan, CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

I am greatly concerned over your letter of November 20th covering the Equipment Funds for the Hospital.

With the hope of securing a clear understanding, I lunched with Dr. Beech yesterday and took up in detail with him each step of these transactions. Apparently there were two propositions involved with Dr. Cheer. They are as follows:-

- I. (a) The \$1,738.09 represented goods taken by Dr. Cheer from Dr. Beech's Rockefeller Foundation orders. Dr. Cheer took delivery of the goods and paid the money to your office.
- (b) This cash received represented money from equipment. But, as more money was needed by the O. P. D., the Rockefeller Foundation approved the transfer of \$1,738.09 to the O. P. D. building.
- II. (a) A second order was sold and delivered to Dr. Cheer at slightly above \$1,200.00 for ear, eye, nose and throat equipment. In March, in Chungking, Dr. Cheer promised Dr. Beech immediate payment to the University Treasurer for this amount.
- (b) The foregoing E. E. N. T. goods were replaced by purchasing similar equipment from Mrs. Peterson up to the amount of US\$1,200.00.
- (c) We have paid to the M. E. Board the \$1,200.00 at the request of Dr. Beech and charged to the field, which should be offset by Dr. Cheer's payment.
- (d) Since this account has been paid by this office, any payment made by the field to the M. E. Board on this account should be returned to the Treasurer of West China Union University.

It appears that there has been confusion in charging your draft No. 982 for \$433.30 against the above mentioned \$1,738.09 of the Rockefeller Foundation.

In view of the statement in paragraph II - (d), we are approaching the Methodist Board to reclaim the \$427.48 and quite naturally will not make payment of the \$318.34. We will also withhold the canceled authorization No. 982.

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Miss Priest

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12/4/40

From the foregoing you will notice that the \$15,000.00 for the O. P. D. was increased by the transfer of equipment funds of \$1,738.09 on the cabled order of the Rockefeller Foundation.

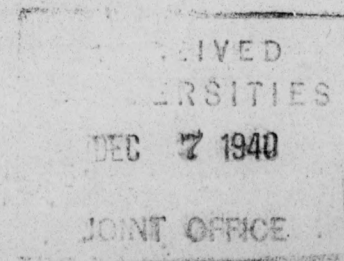
We will let you know later the outcome of our effort to secure payment on these funds.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

Via "China Clipper" - 12/9/40  
c.c. via "President Hayes" - 12/9/40



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Chengtu, Szechuen  
December 4, 1940

Mr. C. A. Evans,  
New York City.  
Dear Mr. Evans:

INDEXED

ack  
1/8/41

Thank you very much for the air mail paper which came a few days ago - it will be a great help. I am writing tonight particularly for West China Union University. You will remember we urged you to open a bank account for them but that the Board refused although it was never very clear to us upon what grounds. Today we are faced with a very serious problem. The orders used by West China to draw funds from your office cannot be used locally - the merchants refuse to accept them, and the few banks who formerly took them are returning them to us. They are not checks, are not payable at any bank, and are a fearful nuisance. Until now we have been able to negotiate them through Shanghai as the A.M.T. would take them without question - that avenue is still open but rather precarious. We have been warned and strongly urged to close all Shanghai bank accounts and not to depend upon them for any banking. We are following this advice and trying to find other channels whereby we may be able to secure sufficient funds to keep the institutions open. The University of Nanking and Ginling College are in a strong position for we have our own New York checks, acceptable and in great demand from merchants and government agencies. West China is helpless and in a very embarrassing position.

Today the University of Nanking loaned them funds as they needed to sell money for a working balance. I am enclosing the drafts which we took in exchange as follows: (Please deposit in Central Hanover B.S.C.)

*Paid 12/26/40  
to 3468*

No. 742 - on current appropriation	US\$	<del>60x00</del>	40 00
766 - " "			60 00
770 - special for Miss Robertson			120 00
771 - Bal. 1939-40 (2,000.) sustaining 1939-1940 (3,000.)			5,000 00
Total advanced from University of Nanking for West China	US\$	5,220 00	✓

Please do not delay in making this deposit for we have no balance at all in the bank and you must make good our checks already issued. We wrote you last week asking you to make deposits immediately on the current appropriation both for University of Nanking and Ginling College.

Will you please take immediate steps to open a bank account for West China - preferably in the Central Hanover Bank and Trust Co. as that is known by the local merchants. If you do not, how will you expect us to finance West China? Remember Shanghai may be completely cut off even before this letter reaches you - the news is rather gloomy just now about the port. Do not let too much red tape tangle you in having this account arranged - otherwise we may starve, for it is not a good policy to continue to advance funds from the University of Nanking. Send us at least ten checks by air mail, and follow with one hundred to be sent by air from Hongkong - regular post is very slow these days. I do not know exactly why the Government refused to allow us to have a bank account two years ago - but may I assure you that as long as I manage the accounts there need be no fear of over running appropriations. I believe you will find from the records that we have always kept within our appropriations, and I have no intention of changing the policy. It is true I have no position as such at the West China office, but you will have to take my word that behind the scenes I manage the funds.

We received your letter calling attention to two drafts that went through with no payee. I am sorry this happened - you know it is very commonly done in China and I failed to see those two drafts. They were perfectly in order and the payee was T.R. Wang, who makes Physics equipment for us. He likes to use the orders to pay for his orders abroad and was to fill in the name of the firm, but it was evidently overlooked. We will try to prevent it happening again.

Sincerely yours,

*Elia M. Rust*

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June 12, 1941

Miss Elsie Priest  
c/o American Express Company  
4 Des Voeux Road, Central  
Hongkong, China

Dear Miss Priest:

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the West China Union University Board of Governors, held in New York on May 7, Mr. Robert Simkin made special mention to the Committee of the very excellent services you had rendered to the University in connection with the work of the Bursar's office. The members of the Committee were heartily in agreement with Mr. Simkin in appreciation of all that you have done, and the following official vote was recorded:

"E-1530 VOTED that the Executive Committee of the West China Board of Governors record its sincere appreciation of the devoted and efficient service of Miss Elsie Priest in the handling of the matters in the Bursar's office and to express to the administration of the University of Nanking sincere thanks for allowing her to give this valuable help."

This vote also express the thanks of the West China Executive Committee to the University of Nanking for allowing you to give this assistance. We are very happy indeed to pass this action on to you.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary

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September 21, 1942

Miss Elsie M. Priest  
Chengtu, Szechwan  
CHINA

Dear Miss Priest:

The United China Relief has made a special appropriation of \$12,000.00 from emergency funds held on hand and to be used in the following manner:

\$ 2,000.00 for the manufacture of X-ray and photographic plates for West China Union University.

\$10,000.00 for Hospital Equipment at West China Union University.

These recommendations were made by Dr. Bachman, the U.C.R. Representative for Medical work in China.

We also included \$2,000.00 from The Rockefeller Foundation which was granted for a public health practice field which Dr. Balfour stated was in Wenkiang. There was also included \$900.00 which the Harvard-Yenching Institute requested to be sent to Cheng Te-k'um in payment of debts incurred by him and which was to be in addition to his regular salary allocation made by West China Union University.

Probably this remittance should have been made to Mr. H. B. Robertson but a cable received recently indicated that he was ill and that William Small had been sent to the mountains to recuperate from an illness. I feel confident, therefore, that you will be able to handle the funds without undue trouble.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B  
cc: Accounting Office

Via China Clipper  
c.c. via next Clipper

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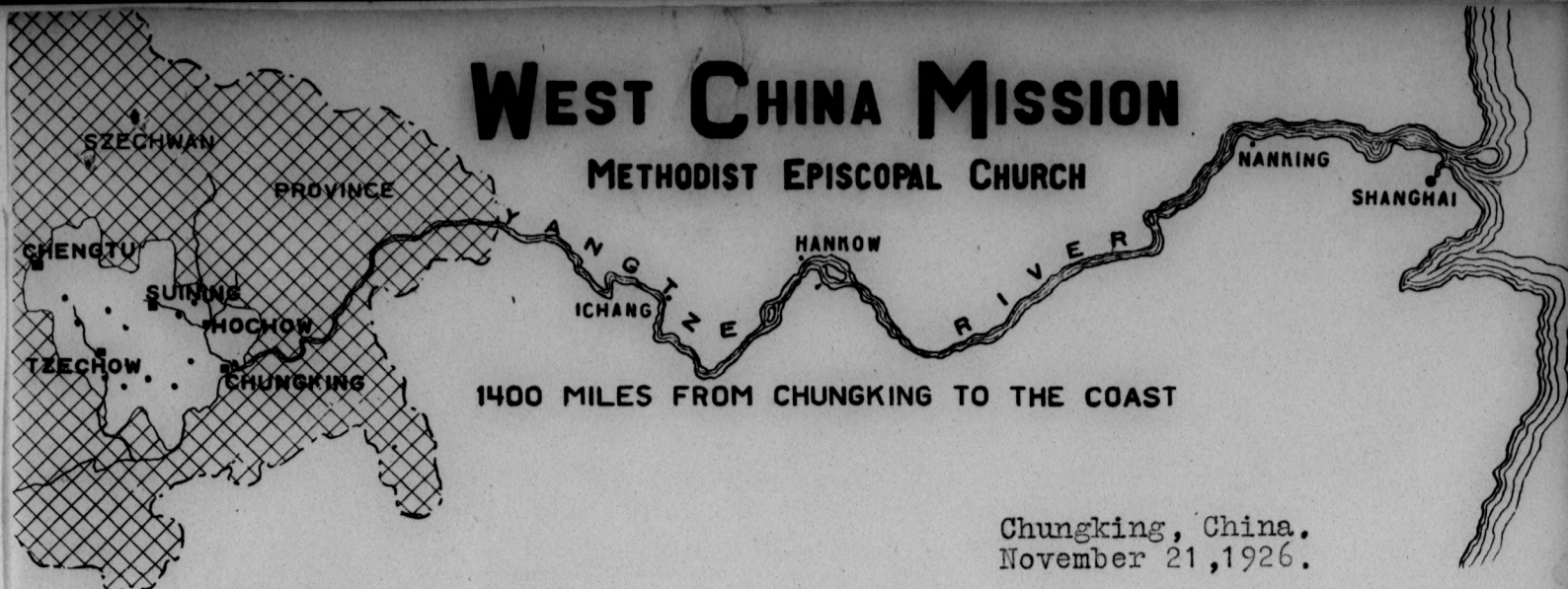
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Rape, C. B.

1926-27

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Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a clipping from the Chungking Chinese Christian daily, and a translation made by Yang Tsong Shi. This article appeared in the issue of November twelveth and was written by the fathers of some of our Chungking High School students who have been attending the Union University. There is a lot of good sound reasoning in it and I thought you might be able to make some use of it at home.

I have talked with a number of the students who left the University and I am satisfied that the whole trouble might have been averted if Carscallen and Robinson had been willing to let the matter of the "Chwan Dan" put out by the students of the University drop. It was offensive to their British pride and they forced Joe to call in the leaders of the student association and the trouble started. Unfortunately there are still a good number of missionaries in China, some Americans too, who are just as easily offended. It would be a good thing for the Church and for better understanding with the Chinese if they could all be shipped home. I have no patience with them. I could get offended nearly every day at the Chinese, but I am glad that I have the good sense not to. I know that I probably offend them just as much if not more than they do me.

There were other things that entered into the Chengtu situation also. Brewer is a fine fellow, but he is new and finds it difficult to get away from our arbitrary American ways of doing things. This has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among University Students, especially among our M. E. M. boys. Then, too, there seems to have been feeling between students coming from the two Conferences. Students from down this way claim that a certain Tzechow student is continually causing trouble. Brewer is partial to this student, they say. I could give you details but there is no use bothering you with them. I have written both Brewer and Joe very frankly and hope that they may be able to do away with any such feeling. Of course, we all know that Brewer is a mighty fine chap and that he is probably not at all aware of these things.

I think on the whole that the recent trouble has resulted probably in more good than harm. Some reforms were needed at the University, and they will, no doubt, soon admit Chinese to the Senate, appoint a Chinese Vice-President and add more Chinese to the faculty.

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All of these will be moves in the right direction.

We have had a good year here at the Chungking High School. When I returned things were in bad condition, but with Warren Dudley's death, and all the troubles of last year this is not to be wondered at. Bill North is a peach of a fellow and did his best, but he did not ~~have~~ have the language or the people. When we returned I tried to get a Chinese appointed principal but they all said "No." Shiao said that if a Chinese were appointed principal we would have to find two of three good men to act as go-betweens between the students and principal, that such is the attitude among students now that a school principal hardly dares show his face, but must keep in hiding. This has been the case in a number of schools here, where in one case a school principal was beaten by the students, and in Kiangpeh where both principal and teachers were kept locked up in a room for two days and nights by the students. They finally escaped by digging a hole through the wall one night.

Shiao said that students would be far more respectful to a Westerner as principal than to a Chinese, and that discipline would be much easier, so that in the end I had to take the job. We compromised by making Shiao Vice-Principal and it has proved to be a good move. We divided responsibilities and both students and teachers like the new arrangement and Shiao has done better work than ever before. We have only 150 Boys, but could have had over 200. We changed to the new system entirely and this makes the work a little harder until we get adjusted. This with the anti-foreign feeling made us very careful about admitting students. Of course, it is only a question of a short time until we will turn the whole management over to the Chinese. We will be mighty glad to work under them and are satisfied that we will have far more influence for good than we do now.

I enclose a copy ~~wiz~~ of our new plan for the management of our district schools. I put this into effect last spring and it has been most successful. The schools are now theirs and they are getting under the burden in a splendid way. Formerly we found it almost impossible to raise funds locally. At the close of the last term Chi Min School here in Chungking was in debt \$ 137.00. When the Board met just before the close of the spring term to ~~consider~~ consider school matters this came up among other things. One member of the School Board got up and said that the school was theirs and the responsibility would have to be shouldered by them. They ~~raised~~ raised the \$ 137.00 among themselves within fifteen minutes. This plan is now in effect throughout the Chungking and Yungchwan Districts and we never had better schools. They ~~elect~~ elect their own principal and teachers and shoulder the financial responsibility. The Church grants aid but they divide the funds themselves. Hereafter I expect to give my attention to the holding of teachers' institutes, ~~and~~ and to teacher-training.

You can get most any kind of news from West China these days. It all depends upon who is writing. For ourselves we feel that there was never a better time to be in China. Best of ~~all~~ all is the fact that the Chinese (those who understand us) never wanted us more. There are a lot of pessimists, a good many in our own Mission, who would tell you that conditions are growing worse all the time, but we feel that there has been great improvement since we arrived in January. The people are far more respectful and more inclined to reason.

0467

Even in the recent Wanhsien affair, the wrong was not all on Yang Sen's side by any means. We cannot even say that he is anti-foreign, for he sent soldiers to protect the C. I. M. missionaries living in Wanhsien and provided them with food. We must not forget either that those missionaries were British. I feel sorry for the Canadian and English missionaries who have had to leave Chungking twice within a little over a year, but I have absolutely no sympathy with the British method of dealing with such cases. I for one am mighty glad that the time has come when the Chinese are not afraid to oppose a foreign power when they feel that that power has wronged them. If we are to have peace and progress here foreign diplomatists will have to realize that there is a new spirit in China.

Some of our people are very much exercised that the Southern Army has made such progress withing the last three months. They feel that this means that China is being given over to Bolshivism. The actions of the Southerners so far do not justify this feeling. I feel that the Southerners at least have a program, and a pretty good one at that. It may be that they can succeed in uniting the country.

The Mc Curdy's arrived about two weeks ago. Mac is feeling fine again and is so optimistic that it is fine to have him back. Earl Cranston is in Nanking waiting for Dr. Liu who has been very ill there. The following ladies have just returned: Ellison, Harger, Allen, Proctor and Carris. All of these went overland to Chengtu and apparently had no trouble. This gives the lie to reports that are sent out about what a dangerous place Szechuen is.

Our Chungking Conference is to convene on December 4th in Suining. We are expecting Bishop Grose this week. Most of us will be leaving within a week for Suining.

You will be glad to hear that Yang Tsong Shi is doing excellent work. America made a different man of him. I have never seen such a change in a man before. All of us, Chinese and Americans alike, are delighted with him. For the present he is teaching here in the school. He knew how hard up the school was financially and only asked for a salary of seventy dollars.

We have the strongest teaching staff that we have ever had here. We have added Mr. Yang, Dsang Wen Shuen who took his degree from the Union University last June and Mr. Fu Yu Gwang. Mr. Fu is the Principal of the Chungking Commercial Middle School. He is a graduate of our school, of the Junior Division of the Union University and of Peking University. Bill and I both teach in the Commercial School for him and he teaches Economics for us. I thoroughly enjoy my work in his school and would not ask anyone to treat me with greater respect than the students do. I am satisfied that if we missionaries will only show the Chinese where we stand and act Christlike towards them we shall have no difficulty in making friends.

Chester, Harold and Miriam are all attending the Shanghai American School. They seem to enjoy it and are getting along well. Best wishes to all the family. We shall be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Best.

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Jan. 3, 1927.

Mr. C. B. Rape,  
Chungking, West China.

Dear Bert:-

Many thanks for yours of November 21st. It sound really a little bit too rosy, but it did me good to get such an optimistic word from West China.

I am going up to see Dr. Hume in a few minutes to talk about the situation at Chang Sha. He says they are having a very bad time there and the papers report increasing excesses at Hankow. I am still hoping for the best, but would not be at all surprised to see the new government in China when it gets itself established, drive out all foreigners just as the Soviets did in Russia. That is not a prophecy because I have hope that our friends amongst the Chinese will be able to handle the situation and control the most radical officials, but from this end it looks as though the situation were getting out of control of the more conservative group pretty rapidly.

Of course, as you know by this time, it will be only a question of months before you will have to resign and a Chinese will have to take your place as Principal. Who will take Joe's place at Chengtu? I presume it will be Lincoln Dsang. He can do it.

I know how glad you must be to have Mac back in Chengtu. He always gets along well and sees the bright side. I am delighted to hear your word about Yang.

I do not see where my job is coming out. With things going from bad to worse in China, it will be impossible, I think, to get much money for China for the next two or three years. Under the best circumstances I do not see how the Cantonese can pull things together much under f

0469

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Jan. 3, 1927.

Believe that in the end China will be stabilized and religious liberty will be granted and great progress will be made along all lines.

We have just had a wonderful Christmas. Elizabeth is home from College and it was quite exciting for her to have her first holiday. She has enjoyed Swarthmore very much. You must be glad that three of your children are in Shanghai, for in spite of your optimism, I know that the situation in China must be trying enough.

With greetings to all,

Sincerely yours,

JMY:EN

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Reisner, John H.

1926 - 27

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0471

May 5, 1926

Mr. John H. Raisner, Dean  
School of Agriculture  
Nanking University  
Nanking, China.

Dear Raisner:

As you may know I am now working on the job of getting a few millions for West China Union University. One of the things I hope to do within the next few years is to establish a Department of Agriculture. So long as I have anything to do with it you will be my great example, and I shall try to spur the folks up to follow your successful methods as nearly as possible.

May I trouble you to take a few minutes to tell me how you would start off in such a place as Chengtu, which is in the center of a great plateau, ninety by forty miles, with a well-nigh perfect irrigation system. West China is one of the great silk centers, as you know, and also produces much excellent fruit. Our citrus fruits are especially fine. How would you start the thing off if, say you had \$500,000 gold?

Sincerely yours,

James M. Yard

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
NANKING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June 1, 1926.

Mr. James M. Yard,  
West China Union University,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Yard:

Your letter of May 5th has interested me tremendously and it is refreshing to find someone in the U.S.A. who is definitely interested in securing the wherewithal to promote agricultural education in China.

I am in no position to answer your question because I heartily disapprove of a college of agriculture being attempted under the auspices and circumstances you propose. What is needed in connection with Christian education in West China is not a College of agriculture, but a system of lower schools stressing rural normal and agricultural education. The longer I am in China and the closer I get to the situation and the more deeply I study modern currents in China that are bound to profoundly influence the whole missionary system of education, the more convinced I am that one college of agriculture and forestry is quite sufficient for all China. What is needed and needed more than any other educational organization in China at the present time is a system of rural training centers with well developed experiment stations working along practical lines and extension services that would bring to the agricultural population the means for a more 'abundant life'. The Christian educational system in China has no more business with three agricultural colleges, and now this fourth one proposed by yourself, than it has for the twenty odd Christian colleges and universities. What is needed is four or five universities with outstanding merits and one college of agriculture. By suggesting one college of agriculture, I do not mean to limit Christian agricultural work, but I am of the very, very strong opinion that such interests in agriculture on the part of the missionary body ought to be localized in training centers for rural workers, with experiment stations and extension services connected with them and in a series of secondary schools where agriculture should be taught either as a means of self-support or as a vocation and then below that, our primary schools that are in the country ought to be more strictly ruralized. This last point, you will recall, was very thoroughly discussed at our Agricultural Committee meeting held here in Nanking in January or February 1924, which you attended.

*Dr. Brown &  
Pickens*

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Now because I am opposed to the development of an agricultural department of college grade in the West China Union University, do not assume, please, that I am opposed to their getting under an agricultural program. I venture to say that the educational situation in West China is very much like the one at Shantung Christian University. Your constituency is largely rural and yet the atmosphere of the University and all the educational opportunities offered by the institution lead the boys away from the country and into white collared jobs of the larger social and economic groups. What you have in mind, I feel sure, in proposing a college of agriculture for West China is that the University may contribute to the life of the rural people and you want it to be an expression through education of Christianity and you are absolutely correct in this, but I feel very, very strongly that the method of approach in the attempt to bring help to the rural people through a department of agriculture of college grade is unwise and will prove a rather fruitless move.

If you will just think for a moment of your situation at West China, or the whole province, of the local situation of the mission stations, of the sources of the students, of the rural character of the work and of the wonderful Christian school system that has been built up, you will be impressed by this fact, that our education is not lending itself to the greatest needs of the social and economic life of West China. The place to begin new agricultural work, I am convinced, is in secondary centers, where the Christian organization is preparing teachers and preachers to go out into the villages to evangelize every aspect of rural life.

Through talking with Dr. Wallace and others from West China whom I have met, a number of whom have recently stopped off here at Nanking to visit our work here, I know you have a mighty fine department of education in the University. I would like to see some agricultural work developed there, but only as it would relate directly to the training and large usefulness of the students of the Department of Education. Then for the rest of the agricultural work, that is to be done under Christian auspices in China, I would go directly to secondary schools where there are opportunities for training men to be of direct service to country people. When are we going to get away from the idea that you don't educate a man unless it leads to a life of relative comforts and ~~needs~~ and away from real hard work, such as is necessary if any fundamental progress is to be made in social, economic and religious life of the mass of Chinese people who are farmers and who will be farmers for many generations to come? You see it, although your hands are practically tied by previous developments and commitments, that the great evangelistic and educational opportunity in China is not in training men for government positions as clerks, but in training men who will be able to bring redemption to the rural masses of China.



In order that I may<sup>be</sup> clearly understood I would say I have no objection whatsoever to West China Union University undertaking some agricultural work, but I think it would be the height of folly to project such work on the policy of building up a college department of agriculture. Rather let whatever agricultural work is attempted be done in connection with the Department of Education. Of course, I am assuming that the graduates of your Department of Education usually go back into the country. If they don't, then I would want to withdraw or at least reconsider this suggestion.

Another suggestion - and it is only a suggestion because I am not in sufficiently intimate touch with conditions in West China and all the factors that are concerned, is the development of agriculture as an extension part of the University, possibly with a small group of experts at the University and with a related system of rural schools for rural training, and secondary schools of agriculture, which would look forward to ruralizing the rural school system and to developing the schools and churches as centers of helpful extension work direct among the farmers in the community.

I have written you quite frankly because I feel the situation calls only for frankness. I am not worried about any influence that the development of a college or department of agriculture at West China University might have here on our work. As a matter of fact, it wouldn't have any influence, but I am fed up on the lack of Christian grace, magnanimity and other virtues that are supposed to relate themselves more particularly to those imbued with the spirit of Christianity, to say nothing of the lack of Christian statesmanship, as expressed in the present Christian educational development in China. Christian education in China is top-heavy and it is not meeting the educational needs of the great mass of those who are enrolled in our system of schools.

If I can be of any service to you in working out a system of agricultural education and rural extension service for West China as a whole, please let me know what it is and I shall do all I can, but don't ask me to help develop plans for another college of agriculture or department of agriculture of college grade in connection with the present Christian educational system, until we have developed in China at least one school that deserves a high ranking as an agricultural institution, of which as yet there are none. We are doing our best here at Nanking to deserve the confidence of the Christian movement in China so that they will take us and make us what we ought to be, but our needs are many and the interest on the part of the rank and file of missionaries and Christian leaders is still negligible quantity. One might have thought that the experience of the last thirty years in Arts education, in medical education, in theological education, and in the development of normal schools would have given us a background on which to base a wise policy for the development of education in agriculture. It hasn't done anything of the kind and sometimes I feel our situation is absolutely hopeless. I hope it isn't in your case, and that you will withhold your plans for collegiate agricultural development

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until some wiser mode of procedure for the use of whatever funds may become available can be worked out.

With kind regards and best wishes and assuring you of my interest and willingness to help wherever possible, I am

Yours very sincerely,

*John H. Reisner*  
John H. Reisner.

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July 7th, 1926.

Dean John H. Reisner,  
University of Nanking,  
Nanking, China.

Dear Reisner:

Many, many thanks for your letter of June 1st in which you go so fully into the matter of rural education in West China. I am sure that you and I understand one another and agree pretty thoroughly in what we want to accomplish, that is, the enrichment of rural life. The only question that remains is the method.

I regret, as you do, the duplication of effort in so many parts of China and wish that Eastern China had only the excellent school which you have developed in Nanking, but it seems to me that West China is so very far away and so inaccessible and her problems so distinctly rural that she ought to have a department of agriculture, larger or smaller, as wisdom might determine and primarily for the training of teachers and other rural workers who would go directly back to the country. How can they be trained except in some such school at Chengtu? Surely no one can hope that more than one in ten thousand would ever be able to go to Nanking. It is the same problem we have with training doctors. They have a better outfit at Peking than we can hope to have for many years but we are perfectly sure that we must have the medical school in Chengtu if the whole matter of modern medicine ever begins to even touch the problem through any Christian auspices.

I have often thought that in some respects West China was unfortunate in being considered a part of China at all. Of course it is a part of China, in fact one quarter of the whole country and the folks back there all speak the same language, namely, mandarin; but in a good many senses it is and ought to be considered a separate nation. If it were called Tiboom or some such name, no question would be raised as to whether or not it ought to have a full-fledged university with all departments. Our distances are vast, our cities are inaccessible, very few of our people will ever get out of the Province during the next 30 or 40 years. When you look at it from that point of view, does your judgment in the matter change at all?

Please do not think that I am taking issue with you too sharply; I am arguing the case in my own mind and

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Dean John H. Reisner

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July 7th, 1926.

stating the case, perhaps a bit bluntly, merely to get one more reaction from you. I do not want to bother you with the matter but I have admired your work so much and value your judgment on the whole matter so highly, that I take the liberty of bothering you this once more.

What would you say to the proposition if, during the next five years, say 15 million dollars could be secured for Christian education in China to be divided largely between Nanking, Peking, Shantung, Fukien and West China. I think that can be done; in such an event would you think a department of agriculture in West China justified?

Sincerely yours,

James M. Yard

JMY/RT

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UNIVERSITY OF NANKING  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
NANKING, CHINA

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

August 10, 1926.

Mr. James M. Yard,  
West China Union University,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Yard:

Your letter of July 7th came a few days ago and I was very glad, indeed, to have it. After I wrote my letter of June 1st, I took the liberty of sending a copy of it to Dr. E. W. Wallace, who I suppose is closer in touch with educational developments and needs in West China than any other man. I was quite surprised at the response which I got from him and he asked me to prepare an article for the Educational Review including all the material that was contained in my letter to you. I have just finished re-editing that letter with a few corrections, one or two additions, eliminating all of the names and places and I am sure that in its present form very few people will know what institution is being discussed. I was rather surprised that Dr. Wallace felt as he did toward the statements that were made. Then about two weeks ago I had an opportunity to show it to Dr. J. L. Stuart of Yenching, and he suggested preparing it for publication practically as it stood. In connection with President Stuart's reaction you will be interested in the enclosed joint letter which is being sent by President Bowen and Stuart to the N.C.C. and the C.C.E.A., asking these two bodies to call a conference to take up once and for some time to come the matter of agricultural education in relation to the Christian Movement in China. The University of Nanking and Yenching University are perfectly willing to abide by whatever decision may be arrived at at such a conference and will be guided not only by the experience of those present, but also actions that have been taken by various bodies in the past.

To get back now to the question raised in your letter of July 7th, desire to say that I have now exactly the same opinion as expressed in my letter to you of June 1st. If anything, I feel more strongly about the matter than I did then, and since that letter, I have given the matter a great deal of thought and have discussed it with a number of people. West China, I believe, should emphasize rural education, should undertake a program for ruralizing their country primary schools, should develop some of their middle schools into vocational agricultural schools and there might well be at Chengtu, in connection with the University, an experiment station with a small group of

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expert workers and an agricultural extension service. There should also be a strong man specializing in rural education in connection with the department of education. This would mean then, so far as the University was concerned, that its department of education would be giving some consideration to, if not stressing, rural education and that there would be an experiment station that would be in cooperative relationship with vocational agricultural schools, rural normal schools, and in some cases, country schools, scattered among the various missions in the province and extension work which would also serve to work out and correlate extension projects for the same field as covered by the experiment station. What I have just suggested would be an infinitely wiser development than to go ahead and try to build up a department of agriculture of collegiate grade. Such an organization would serve the people of the province and the church much more effectively than could be accomplished by the same investment in faculty, equipment and running expenses invested in collegiate agricultural education.

I must take issue with you on the suggestion that West China is unfortunate in being considered a part of China at all. It is true that West China is cut off from parts of China by lack of communications, but for how long? Twenty years ago the same thing could be said for many other parts of China and in twenty years I have no doubt but what West China will be linked up with railroad trunk lines and that her present condition of isolation will no longer exist. Even now we have a number of students in the College of Agriculture from Szechuen. Yenching, which also has many millions of people to draw from, notwithstanding there is really no good agricultural college in North China, after a history of five years, has but eight students enrolled in the College course of Agriculture. Even though ~~you~~ could enroll a class of 25% of the college now enrolled in the University for courses in arts, science and education, which would be a large percentage for such a professional course, the numbers would not be large and in view of the developments in communication, etc. that are bound to take place in West China in the next twenty years, I do not believe that a collegiate development would be wise either for the present or for the future after twenty years.

Throw your energy and your resources as directly into that wonderful West China system of Christian schools, <sup>churches</sup> as possible, develop a good rural normal school or two, turn some of your present academic middle schools into vocational schools, emphasize agriculture, develop a good experiment station, either at the University or somewhere else under the auspices of the University, develop a good department of agricultural extension, emphasize rural education in the department of education and be content to consider your whole agricultural development as a piece of extension work and

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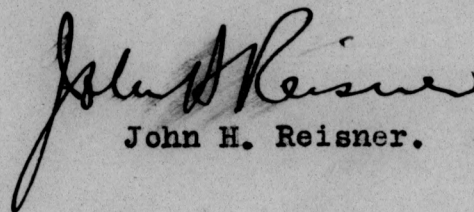
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one of the biggest contributions which West China Union University is to make to the people of the province and to the church outside of its class room walls and beyond the confines of the University campus.

Now if I have given reason for more argument and have now answered fully your letter of July 7th, please feel free to come back at me again. In the meantime, I trust that these suggestions will more and more appeal to you and that you will find them wise and help to do away with the feeling on your part of the necessity for developing a department of agriculture of collegiate grade as an intramural part of the University.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,



John H. Reisner.

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Sept. 14th, 1926.

Professor John H. Reisner, Dean,  
University of Nanking,  
Nanking, China.

Dear Reisner:

Your letter of August 10th has come in and I am very happy indeed to have it. It has done a great deal to clarify my thinking on the whole matter of service for the rural people in West China. I think that such a scheme as you outline can be managed very well. Of course, my thought in the whole matter has been as to how such a thing could be financed. The whole scheme will have to be linked up with the University I think in order to get adequate support for it.

My idea all along I see now was not any great desire to build up a large department in the University, but on the other hand, to make the whole thing as direct a service as possible to the actual farmers of West China. We can link your suggestion up to the educational department of the University and quite properly put it in the budget under that department.

I hope your rosy dream of railroad trunk lines in West China within 20 years will come true. It ought to, but it is pretty hard for me to have that much faith. Air lines will probably be in operation before that time but such transportation will be too expensive for the use of students and so I do not imagine that very many students in the department of agriculture will ever get to Nanking. Perhaps a few each year, but no great number. However, if we adopt some such plan as you suggest it will be necessary of course for us to see to it that some of our students are sent to Nanking for their necessary preparation.

Please let me assure you of my great appreciation of the attention you have given to this correspondence and the excellent suggestions you have sent me.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

James M. Yard

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